

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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LESSONS OF A TRIAL

THE trial against the Gestapo Official Baab in Frankfurt, which is reported in this issue, would be of minor importance if it only referred to an individual case. In fact, however, an entire system was under trial. There were hundreds of Baabs in the offices of the Gestapo and in the guardrooms of the concentration camps. Each of them is responsible for the death and sufferings of innocent people; some of these criminals have been caught, others are still free and may perhaps never be tried because their crimes have been forgotten or because no witnesses are alive.

Unfortunately, the trial cannot be considered as the concluding chapter of past history. Various German papers recall the fact that the ground for the unspeakable atrocities was laid under the Weimar Republic which did not take energetic action against its opponents and encouraged them by her leniency. There is, they say, a similarity between "harmless" incidents before 1933 which ultimately led to the erection of gas chambers, and events in present-day Germany, such as the Hedler speech or the recent disturbances during the Harlan trial where the mob shouted "Judensau" at a half-Jewish witness. Such happenings would be unthinkable had not those who provoked them the feeling that they did not take much risk.

For the sake of world peace, let us learn from past mistakes!

HELP BEYOND THE CHANNEL

THE Jewish Relief Unit from Great Britain recently terminated its activities in Germany. Trained in this country at a time when the end of the war was not yet in sight, Jewish volunteers left for the Continent and established Relief Centres in the Western Zone of Occupation and in Berlin after the end of hostilities. Their teams consisted of social workers, lawyers, doctors and nurses, all of whom accomplished their difficult work with enthusiasm and efficiency.

The staff, which at the peaktime in 1946 consisted of 100 volunteers, included a very high proportion of Jews from Germany and Austria, who considered it their duty to help those who had not had the good fortune of leaving the Continent in time.

Whilst at the beginning, the work for the D.Ps in Belsen and other camps stood in the foreground, assistance and encouragement was also extended to the German Jews in the towns who gradually built up new Communities. The achievement of the Jewish Relief Unit may fill with pride the Jews in England who, through the Central British Fund, laid the financial foundations of the work, and all those who had the privilege of serving as relief workers.

One can fix dates for the termination of organisations, but not for the solution of problems, and the problems of Jews in Germany are manifold indeed. It is the duty of Jews from the Continent to make them feel that they will not be left in isolation.

TAKING STOCK

The General Meeting of the AJR, which took place a few days ago, marks the beginning of the tenth year of AJR activities. A long road lies behind us, and whilst many questions which in 1941 led to the establishment of a central representation of the Jews from Germany and Austria, have been solved meanwhile, other tasks of which we could not be aware in those days have come into the foreground. The objectives of the work have often changed, but never its importance nor substance. Removal of restrictions against "enemy aliens" and naturalisation were the first goals to be reached. At the same time, contacts with Jews from Germany in other countries were gradually established and the "Council of Jews from Germany," under the presidency of Dr. Leo Baeck, was founded with its Secretariat at AJR Headquarters. The most vital problem to be taken up under the auspices of the "Council" and the AJR was that of restitution. The organisational result was the creation of the United Restitution Office with its Central Office at AJR Headquarters.

All these achievements in the past are the foundations of the present work which is centred around three basic problems: Representation and Advice, Social Services and Employment Exchange, Restitution and Compensation.

There is no need to emphasise that, under various aspects, the position of a foreign born citizen is different from that of a British born subject. Only a short while ago the echo of the Fuchs case served as an unpleasant reminder. Whilst fortunately there were in the recent past no incidents which directly affected our Community as a whole, individual acts of discrimination called for the assistance of the AJR. There passes hardly a day at which the AJR does not receive an "SOS," be it for advice regarding the admission of relatives and friends, or journeys to and from Germany; travel papers or certification of documents; gift parcel regulations or permit questions. Enquiries come from all sections of the Community, rich and poor, employers, and employees, naturalised Britishers and post-war immigrants who are still aliens and therefore subject to special rules. All these advisory activities may be less conspicuous than public political actions, but they are indispensable.

Expansion of Social Services

The second field of activities, Social Services and Employment Exchange, is in a process of constant expansion. Mutual aid becomes increasingly urgent. Many of the unemployed have to be placed with refugee firms and must rely on the understanding and solidarity of our friends in business life. The help given by the local Labour Exchanges can only be a limited one. Therefore, the AJR Employment Agency (annually licensed by the L.C.C.) is not just an agency which registers vacancies and employees. A lot of initiative and imagination is necessary to adapt employees to the type of vacancies available and to persuade firms to employ those who are desperately looking for work. Two courses for adaptation of German to English shorthand have been opened free of charge by the AJR. Every firm renders constructive help by informing the AJR Employment Agency of any vacancy.

At the Consulting Hours of the AJR Social Services Department, day after day people ask for help, advice and encouragement. Many of them are exhausted, physically and mentally, after more than ten years' life in an environment to which they were too old to adapt themselves. Much more could be done in this field, if the necessary funds were available. There are also the sick and the

lonely ones, who have to be cared for, and there are others for whom it creates unsurmountable difficulties to fill in a form or to attend to the simplest correspondence.

The United Restitution Office which deals with the third central task owes its existence to the initiative of the AJR. It started as a Department of the AJR and was for about two years entirely financed by the AJR. Even now, after the large Jewish Relief Organisations have made possible the establishment of URO on a wider international basis, the AJR contributes to the maintenance of the Headquarters. Every month, hundreds of claimants obtain advice at Fairfax Mansions. The AJR will also have to act in the interest of the Jews from Germany as soon as the distribution of the heirless, communal and unclaimed property becomes possible. These assets are meant to be used for charitable purposes, and the AJR, together with its sister organisations in other countries, has to safeguard the interests of the emigrated Jews who are in urgent need of old age homes and similar institutions.

It is not intended to give a full catalogue of all the other AJR activities. Only one further task deserves special mention—the co-operation with the Jews in Germany. Those Jews in Germany, who, for one reason or another, do not intend to emigrate, feel cut off from the outside Jewish World. They consider us as their outpost and expect from us advice and assistance in the manifold questions they have to face in post-war Germany.

Bond of Solidarity

The AJR has never been a bureaucratic organisation. It keeps contacts with members not only by giving them individual advice, but also by the publication of its monthly "AJR Information" and by the arrangement of meetings. The AJR has never aimed at competing with clubs and other organisations for which regular meetings are the main feature. Nonetheless, meetings in monthly intervals were held during the winter, with expert speakers on various topical subjects.

It is gratifying to state that the membership has not changed in substance. This is a fine expression of solidarity so often experienced throughout the history of Continental Jewry. As far as there were losses, they were mostly due to emigration or death. There are, however, also cases in which members feel unable to keep up their payments or to pay even a nominal fee. Here we face a problem whose solution should not be too difficult. Whilst usually economic difficulties affect equally all sections of the population, the position is somehow different amongst the Jewish immigrants from the Continent. On the one side we have to expect an increasing pauperisation of the older ones whose only capital consisted of their working capacity. On the other side, if many business and professional men would slightly adjust their contributions to the increased needs in the interest of the less fortunate members of the community, the AJR could concentrate still more on practical help without being hampered by financial problems.

No organisation is a purpose in itself, and the tasks for whose accomplishment the machinery of the AJR has been built up may change in the future as they have changed in the past. Unchanged, however, is the need for an organisation which acts on behalf of the Community, wherever and whenever our common fate has to unite us for common action.

W. R.

RESTITUTION NEWS

TIME LIMITS

The following time limits should be carefully noted:

Restitution Laws for British Zone of Germany and for Western Sectors of Berlin: June 30, 1950. Forms to be sent to "Zentralamt fuer Vermoegensverwaltung" Bad Nenndorf, Land Niedersachsen, British Zone, resp. (for Western Berlin) to the "Treuhaender der amerikanischen, britischen und franzoesischen Militaerregierung fuer zwangsuebertragene Vermoegen," Berlin, W.30, Nuernbergerstr. 53-55.

Conversion of Bank Accounts ("Uraltkonten") in Berlin: June 30, 1950. Alternative arrangements for Soviet Sector of Berlin and for Soviet zone: December 31, 1950. (See below note on "Conversion").

Compensation Laws in American Zone (not including American Sector of Berlin): The time limit expired on March 31, 1950. The "Laender" are, however, under certain circumstances prepared to accept applications until June 30, 1950. Claimants who so far only submitted emergency registrations, have to send in the final applications with all the particulars until September 30, 1950; they should therefore immediately take the necessary steps for collecting the details.

RESTITUTION AND JUSTICE

In answer to an article by a Wuerttemberg Deputy, who describes restitution legislation as highly unjust, Rechtsanwalt Kuester, the State Commissar for Restitution in Wuerttemberg-Baden, writes in the *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*: "The Restitution Law does not imply that the purchaser of Jewish property, who acted in good faith, had obtained possession by immoral means. The law only assumes that a Jew who sold property after the date of the Nuremberg Laws, has acted under threat. Does anybody doubt that Hitler's programme was a threat? Does anybody really believe that the Jew sold the property according to his free will?"

FROM GERMANY

DR. SCHLANGE-SCHOENINGEN

The intended appointment of Dr. Schlange-Schoeningen as first German General Consul in the United States led to a strong protest by the "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland," Duesseldorf. The paper quotes from an address by Dr. Schlange-Schoeningen in 1924, almost ten years before the Nazis came to power, when the proposed first General Consul appealed for the boycott of Jewish stores and described the Jews as the main culprits of the first world war.

In a letter to the Editor of the "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung," Dr. Schlange-Schoeningen states that after the first world war he held views which he later on condemned. His positive attitude to the Weimar Republic, had made him leave the German National People Party in 1928 and he joined the government under Dr. Bruening. Dr. Schlange-Schoeningen also points out that under the Nazis he had assisted persecuted Jews.

It is now intended that Dr. Schlange-Schoeningen be appointed first Consul-General in London.

LEGAL STATUS OF COMMUNITIES

The law concerning the legal status of the Jewish Communities in Northern Rhine-Westphalia was not approved upon by the Regional Commissioner, Major-General Bishop. It is understood that the objections refer to one clause which describes the newly established Jewish Communities as the legal successors of the former Communities in the district. Such a conception might, in the view of the occupation authorities, impair the interests of those German Jews, who are now living outside Germany. The Regional Commissioner expressed his readiness to consider a new draft in which these objections are taken into consideration.

Berlin.—The election for the Berlin "Repräsentantenversammlung" on March 26 had to be declared invalid, because, according to a statement by the Jewish Community, the polling boxes of one district were forcibly seized by a gang of 8 to 10 Jewish men and carried away by taxi.

Ansbach.—The Jewish Community was re-established recently. The Board consists of Mr. Hans Schnog, Mr. Adam Kostecki, and Mrs. Rosenstein.

PENSIONS IN AUSTRIA

The Austrian "Angestelltenversicherungsanstalt" has ceased since the beginning of 1950 to pay any pensions to persons living abroad while up to that date in individual cases such pensions had been paid into blocked accounts, if the person concerned had retained his Austrian nationality. This new practice affects adversely in particular Jewish claimants living abroad who are not willing to return to Austria in order to obtain pensions which are insufficient to secure even a very modest existence.

Steps will now be undertaken on behalf of all claimants, whether they are still of Austrian nationality or not, to safeguard their pension rights. All such persons are therefore requested to submit at once to the World Jewish Congress (Legal Department) 55, New Cavendish Street, London, W.1, their names and addresses, nationality and details concerning their pensions' claims.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS

According to a statement by the Custodians of the property of the "Reichsversicherungsanstalt fuer Angestellte" pensions for Allied Nationals which are due on the strength of the Insurance Law for Employees may on application be transferred to a blocked account.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS

According to a report by the American High Commissioner, a number of important restitution claims have been settled by amicable arrangements. They include Hertie G.m.b.H., consisting of a number of Department Stores with a total value of 40 million Deutsche Mark with main branches in Berlin, Munich and Stuttgart, which were restituted to Mr. Georg Tietz in U.S.A. and Mr. Martin Tietz in Cuba; the shares of the German Magnesit A.G., Munich; the German Tafelglass A.G. (16 million D.M.) and 51 per cent of the shares of the Merkur A.G. (8 million D.M.) in Nuremberg.

CONFISCATED PROPERTY

According to the 11th Order of the Reichsbuergergesetz, the estate of emigrated Jews was confiscated. The Authorities took the view that restitution claims had to be filed with the Zentralmeldeamt, Bad Nenndorf, also in such cases in which a real estate still stood in the name of the original Jewish owner. According to a recent order of the High Commissioner for the British Zone, the Zentralmeldeamt itself may restitute such property to the original Jewish owner without passing on the restitution claim to the Restitution Agencies.

250,000 CLAIMS IN U.S. ZONE

About a quarter of a million restitution claims have been submitted in the American Zone. So far about 10,000 cases were settled. The Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (IRSO) has lodged more than 163,000 claims, 50,000 of which were withdrawn because the claimants, respectively their heirs had submitted the claims as well.

The number of claims based on the West Berlin Restitution Law amounts to about 20,000.

CONVERSION OF BANK ACCOUNTS

According to an announcement of the Foreign Office (Board of Trade Journal of 25th February, 1950), balances eligible for conversion are those which were maintained in a bank in any of the four sectors of Berlin by account holders who on October 2, 1949, were United Nations Nationals or Nationals of a State not having been at war at any time since September 1, 1939, with any of the United Nations. The conversion will be at the rate of 1 Deutsche Mark for every 20 Reichsmark and will be made in three equal annual instalments. For the present, the balances so converted will remain subject to the usual blocking provisions applicable to accounts of non-residents. Forms for the application of conversions may be obtained from the Western Sector Branch of the Bank in which the account is held. Applications must be submitted by June 30, 1950.

Alternatively, holders of accounts in the Soviet Sector of Berlin or in the Soviet zone of Germany may apply for the conversion at the rate of 1 East-mark to every 10 Reichsmark. These applications have to be submitted to the Banken-Kommission Berlin, W.8, Taubenstr. 26, by December 31, 1950.

IN PARLIAMENT

NATURALISATION

From March 1, 1949, to February 28, 1950, 9,689 persons were naturalised, said the Home Secretary. (During the calendar year 1948 15,108 certificates of naturalisation had been granted.—The Ed.)

In answer to a question by Sir W. Smithers whether, in view of the increasing menace to this country of Communist infiltration the Home Secretary would tighten up procedure of naturalisation, Mr. Ede said that he did not accept the premise outlined in that question. He also mentioned that now the procedure of naturalisation did not take long and that most applications could be dealt with within 6 months of being received.

ADMISSION OF ALIENS

On March 31 the Home Secretary stated that in the years 1945 to 1949 100,857 Aliens had been admitted on compassionate grounds, as European Volunteer Workers and in certain other circumstances (e.g. marriage to British subjects). Most of them had come in 1947 and 1948 (45,000 respectively 46,000). The majority had come from Eastern European countries, and about 9,300 from Germany. In addition, 121,172 former members of the Polish Armed Forces and their dependants remain in this country and approximately 15,000 German, 8,000 Ukrainian and 1,000 Italian former Prisoners of War have also been allowed to stay.

Finally, about 101,000 permits to Aliens to come to the United Kingdom for temporary employment have been granted. Some of them may remain, but the great majority have returned or will return to their own countries.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

The Minister of Labour stated that there are at present 74 unemployed medical practitioners on the Appointments Register. This number includes 36 foreign doctors, most of whom are Polish.

AUSTRIAN PEACE TREATY

The Minister of State, Mr. Younger, said that since November, 1949, the conclusion of a Peace Treaty had been prevented by the refusal of the Soviet Representative to discuss the wording of some unsettled clauses. The Foreign Office will continue its efforts to secure at the earliest possible moment an agreement which will lead to the restoration of the independence of Austria.

ARRESTS IN AUSTRIA

Asked by Professor Savory whether the Foreign Secretary was aware that 750 Austrian subjects had been kidnapped and carried off by the Russian Authorities in Vienna, the Minister of State, Mr. Younger, replied: "I am aware that since 1945 considerable numbers of Austrian citizens have been arrested by the Soviet Authorities in Vienna and in the Soviet Zone. Many have been summarily sentenced and deported to the Soviet Union." Protests, he went on, had so far been rejected but will be made also in future as the occasion demands.

MILITARY FORMATIONS IN SOVIET ZONE

Mr. Blackburn asked the Foreign Secretary what information he had received as to the establishment of para-military formations in the Soviet Zone, in particular as to the "Freie Deutsche Jugend."

Mr. Younger replied that the latest reports on the expansion, equipment and training of para-military forces in the Soviet Zone were being carefully considered by the Western Powers.

AJR Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 16th, 8.15 p.m.

"BLUE DANUBE CLUB,"

153 FINCHLEY ROAD, N.W.3.

(between Finchley Road and Swiss Cottage Underground Station)

ERNST PERL, Ph.D.

"How to Improve your English"

Further details may be seen from the note on page 6 of this issue.

AJR Members and their friends are cordially invited to the Meeting which will not take place at 1 Broadhurst Gardens, but at 153 Finchley Road.

Else Dormitzer :

THERESIENSTADT FIVE YEARS AGO

For years, we had been condemned to a timeless, hopeless life. We were cut off from the outside world: no newspapers, no radio, no communications from relatives and friends. An epidemic of paratyphus, which could not be fought for lack of doctors, nurses and medicaments, spread all over the camp, the food was at starvation level.

There was spring time, but how could we, with our broken souls and bodies, enjoy the beauty of nature. Still, there were two rays of hope: the Danish Jews, who, thanks to the generous attitude

EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

Haifa, April, 1950.

The educational system in Israel is one of the few complexes which remained unaltered when the State was set up. The main parties forming the Government block, Labour and Orthodoxy, were and are reluctant to attack this sore problem; the one desires a unified school, based on socialist thought, the other wants to submit school education, as life generally, to traditional religious law. The smaller parties of the middle, favour a neutral unified school system with certain supplementary classes.

Thus, there are still, as in Mandatory days, four kinds of schools in the "network" subsidised and supervised, but not owned by Government: General, Histadruth (socialist), Misrachi, and Aguda schools. Children are thus, from a tender age, imbued with party thoughts, and an undesirable separation is maintained. A first breach in this system has recently been made, after a lengthy debate in the Knesseth, by the setting up of state-owned schools in some immigrants' camps, Labour schools in one, orthodox in others. This is a very small beginning, and the violent discussion preceding it proved that an effective school reform can only be attained after a kind of "Kulturkampf," which under present circumstances no party is willing to start, but which eventually can hardly be avoided.

The very discrepant state of culture among the various classes of immigrants, partly with proper school education, partly with a very primitive way of thinking and no, or very little, school education, has prompted the military authorities to suggest the nomination of officer-teachers whose work will aim at a common minimum level of elementary knowledge among the recruits, thus fulfilling the difficult task of cultural amalgamation, at least to a certain degree. A practical system of educating young people willing to go to sea has been introduced by admitting boys, especially of the "Gadna," the youth battalions, to learn and work on board of ships, thus promoting interest in seafare, acquainting them with the kind of work demanded of sailors, and gradually producing a generation for the service in navy and marine.

Lastly, an important problem is the education to citizenship of large parts of the population. Many of the new immigrants, but also large numbers of people settled in the country for long, have still to learn what it means to have a state and a government of their own, and that its laws and regulations are not to be disregarded in the interest of the individual. Many of the older generation have experienced, during their whole life in the Golah, persecution and disdainful treatment, causing them to see in the state and government hostile institutions. During the Mandate, the more or less clandestine fight against the authorities was often more or less considered justified. The sudden change, the setting up of a Jewish state, has not yet been sufficiently understood, nor the position of the citizen with regard to the authorities properly realised.

The paedagogic influence of kibbutz life may be emphasized in this connection. There, individual interest is voluntarily submitted to the general interest of the community, and the setting up of communal and collective settlements thus contributes to the formation of a really democratic society.

HANS MOSBACHER.

of their King and countrymen, had always been in a somewhat privileged position, were fetched home with the help of the Swedish Red Cross. Furthermore, the representative of the Swiss Red Cross, Paul Dunant, a descendant of the founder of the Red Cross, had taken charge of the hospitals. Nevertheless, after all the disappointments we had gone through, we could not believe that the hour of our liberation was near.

Then, on May 8, at about 10 o'clock in the morning, machine-gun bullets were fired into the streets of the Ghetto, and everyone took cover. Nobody knew where the fire came from, and only later we learned that it was a farewell salvo of the S.S. guard, who, before leaving the Camp, took pleasure in shooting at its inmates. In the course of the day, we heard detonations in the distance. We spent the following night undressed on our beds. Water and light were not available any more. There was a horrible feeling—what will happen next? In spite of the curfew after 9 p.m. some dared to go out. Russian tanks were passing the township in the Prague direction. Was our area to become a battlefield? New fears, new sorrows, this time, however, fortunately unjustified.

The Nightmare is over

On the following day the Russians occupied Theresienstadt. We were free! It is impossible to describe our feelings. Happy, as we were, we could not forget our dearest ones who had perished here and who were not permitted to see this day of liberation. We were also worried about the fate of those whom we had left behind when we were deported.

Within a few hours, the whole place looked different. All the streets were full of excited people, embracing and kissing each other. The Czechs in particular were overwhelmed by the joy at the liberation of their country and kept on singing their National Hymn. The German posters in front of the public buildings were torn off. Loudspeakers announced the capitulation. Special communiques informed us about the latest war events, and it was only now that we learned about the complete victory of the Allies. We felt as if we were dreaming, but it proved to be a wonderful reality.

The Russians turned out to be masters of the situation. They immediately took the necessary steps to avoid chaos. Medical help was brought in, flour and other food was made available, and for the first time we had sufficient to eat. The Commandant was accessible to everybody. He appealed for calmness, discipline and cleanliness. He also promised to clear the Ghetto as soon as possible and to repatriate the inmates to their home countries.

The Way Back

This gave reason for new worries to those German Jews who had been brought here from Holland and other occupied countries. They were frightened of the idea to be sent back to Germany. Fortunately it was soon decided that everybody was to return into the country from which he had been brought to Theresienstadt.

The transport difficulties caused considerable delay in the dissolution of the Camp. First the Czechs could go home, later on the Slovaks and the Hungarians. Those of us who had come from Holland had to wait for more than four weeks. Then they were assembled at the so-called "Little Fortress," where so many of our fellow-sufferers had been tortured and put to death by the guards. From there coaches, which turned out to be buses from London, brought us to Bamberg. After a very strenuous journey in cattle-trucks we arrived in Holland, where we were first kept interned for more than three weeks.

Only later we learned that by special order of Himmler a gas chamber had already been built in Theresienstadt and that the Nazis had intended to kill us before the arrival of the Allies. Only the speedy approach of the Russians prevented them from carrying out their plan. Thus, after a narrow escape, we were free human beings again.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Votes for Women

From time to time, the generally and pleasantly orthodox stream of Anglo-Jewish life throws up an anomaly of almost revolutionary calibre. Convention is not even then entirely overlooked, and a drastic effort, for example, to abolish the chronic deficits which afflict nearly all the communal organisations, would not be good form. But such events as the fierce controversy not long ago 'twixt Orthodox and Liberal, conducted in the time-honoured fashion of a medieval disputation, certainly was a memorable sight, and now history has been made by the not otherwise unduly modernising Sefardim who elected as one of their Elders a lady.

No such thing has ever happened in the synagogues of England. The reason does not seem as plain as perhaps it might be. It is of course understood that women take no part in the synagogue services; Miss Lily Montagu remains a lonely pioneer. But if women are to be barred from the management of synagogues too, then it seems time to resurrect the ghost of the Suffragettes, though as yet no militant Jewess has troubled to make life a little uncomfortable for the powerful Parnassim. At present, a vote on "Votes for Women" would split the United Synagogue from top to bottom, said its Vice-President, Mr. E. Montagu, K.C. Apparently it is felt that no lesson can be drawn from the fact that even the tradition-laden House of Lords is now prepared to admit women peers.

Should Girls be "Consecrated"?

Another matter affecting our females and gravely exercising our males, are the suggested "Consecration Services" for girls. The Chief Rabbi thinks that such services may be held. They had already been authorised by his predecessor in 1924, but during the interregnum from 1946 to 1948, the stern justices of the Beth Din frowned upon the practice and their disapproval persists. The champions of an uncompromising orthodoxy feel that the whole idea is an innovation which has no basis in Jewish law, tradition and custom, an "un-Jewish farce" which is really a Chukath haGoi. Still, the authority of the Chief Rabbi is likely to override this opposition, especially since these services are beginning to become popular. A striking precedent was set at Sheffield where in a service of solemn and appropriate ritual, 16 girls were made "Batmitzvah." There is general agreement that though the time is indeed past when a girl had to be content with "a very little reading, less writing, plain work, pudding making and pickling," the importance of a girl's religious education is even now insufficiently appreciated. It is believed that in paying attention to this particular problem, much will be done to stem a certain drift from Judaism.

Wanted—Jewish Nurses

But it is not only their religious education that is causing concern: Jewish girls have come in for some critical comment because of their by and large unhappy choice of trades. The Sabbath Observance Employment Bureau, in its last annual report, points out that girls invariably become clerks, shorthand typists and sales-ladies. Apparently dressmaking, millinery and tailoring is no longer as popular as it used to be. But what has become a seriously noticeable grievance is the lack and almost complete absence of Jewish nurses. Jewish convalescent and children's homes find it almost impossible to obtain Jewish staff; one of the foremost Anglo-Jewish charitable organisations, the Board of Guardians, is constrained to employ 99 per cent non-Jews. A striking opportunity seems to offer here of bringing some order into the disjointed arrangement of trades among Jews. By the time that difficult work is done, however, most girls may be seeking a future overseas, probably in Israel.

"Jewish Women's Week"

Many of them will probably be attracted by the Jewish Women's Week which will be held from May 7 to May 14 for the purpose of helping to rebuild the family life of the thousands of immigrants now arriving in Israel. This "Week" is a joint effort of the principal Anglo-Jewish women's organisations and has been launched by the largest of them, the WIZO, which has a membership of 12,000, no mean proportion of the 400,000 British Jews. The financial target is £50,000. There is no doubt that, in the words of Mrs. Rebecca Sieff, the redoubtable Anglo-Zionist leader, "the Jewish women of Great Britain, conscious of their responsibilities towards their people, will do their share in the colossal task" now before them.

J. Jacobson:

OLD BERLIN FAMILIES

Frederick the Great did not care much for the Jews. Nevertheless during his reign a good many Jewish bankers and entrepreneurs could rise to economic importance. These members of the Jewish upper class became leaders in the fight for emancipation.

Many of them had become sceptics in religious matters and did not consider the ceremonial laws to be of great importance. They wanted to get rid of the idea of Jewish nationhood and of all peculiarities and prejudices that stand between man and man.

Among those who were then baptized was the well-to-do merchant Johann Mathias Magnus. One of his sons was the painter Eduard Magnus, another one was Heinrich Gustav Magnus, the famous physicist and analytical chemist of the Berlin University.

In 1800, shortly after his father had died in Amsterdam, Ephraim Cohen, afterwards named Ernst Gustav Wilhelm Cohen, became a Christian. He was called the "English Cohen" because he had many social and commercial relations to England. One of his sons was Johann Eduard Cohen, later "Medizinalrat" in Posen. He married Ottilie—and after her death her sister Bernhardine—von Beneckendorff and Hindenburg. Thus he is the uncle of the General Fieldmarshal and President of the German Reich Paul von Hindenburg. Attempts to have his name changed to von Hindenburg were unsuccessful. But Dr. Cohen was permitted to adopt the additional name "van Baren."

The last of his sons, a high ranking judge in East Prussia, was permitted to drop the name Cohen and from then on was known as "van Baren" only. And so disappeared the last trace of the Jewish origin of this Dutch-German family.

After the defeat of Jena and Auerstaedt, the Prussian Government introduced fundamental reforms, among them the Municipal Corporation Act (Staedteordnung) of 1808. It opened to the Jews, even before the full emancipation, the way to civic rights and honours. In 1809 approximately 300 Jews were granted citizenship of Berlin. David Friedlaender (1750-1834), silk manufacturer, writer, and collector of coins, became the first Jewish Alderman (Stadtrat) in Berlin. He was the driving force in the endeavours of the Prussian Jews for emancipation and cultural assimilation.

The first Jew to become a City Councillor (Stadtverordneter) in Berlin was the banker Salomon Veit, brother-in-law of Dorothea Mendelssohn. As far as can be ascertained the well known Veit-Simon family traces its origin back to him and his brother Philipp. The other root of this double name can be found in the Simon family which also appears among the ancestors of Bismarck's banker Gerson von Bleichroeder.

Shortly before the beginning of the war of liberation, in the period of the Prussian reforms, the fight for emancipation finally reached its successful conclusion. On March 11, 1812, the famous Emancipation Edict was issued. One of its orders was the adoption of permanent family

names. All the names the Jews of the province "Kurmark" had chosen—2,700—were published in 1814. Frankfurt/Oder comprised 278 and Berlin 1633 of these 2,700 items. No names of the wives and generally none of the children were included in these numbers. Considering that at that time there were no more than 3,000 Jews in Berlin one can see how far the unmarried outnumbered the married. This of course was due to the marriage restrictions of the pre-emancipation law.

After Emancipation

Like the parents of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, those of Giacomo Meyerbeer belonged to the upper class of the Jewish Community of Berlin. His mother, a dignified benefactress, was the daughter of Liepmann Meyer Wulff (Hebrew name Tausk), the "Croesus of Berlin" and one of the leaders of the Jewish Community. He held a private service (Minjan) in his house in the Koenigstrasse. To honour his memory his widow added an institute for Talmudical studies (Beth Hamidrash) and from both origins sprang the strictly orthodox Lippmann Tausk Synagogue in the Gollnowstreet near Meyerbeer Street. Meyerbeer's father, however, the banker Jacob Herz Beer, took a very different view. Together with Israel Jacobson, formerly President of the "Konsistorium" of the Israelites in Kassel, he started the first Jewish service in Berlin along the lines of decided reforms. Young preachers, among them Leopold Zunz, delivered sermons in German, the prayers were shortened and partly in German. There were hymns whose melodies were composed by Zelter, the friend of Goethe and Director of the "Singakademie," and they had organ accompaniment. This liturgical reformation, not to say revolution, was of course vigorously opposed by the traditionalists. They, headed by the Chief Rabbi Meyer Simon Weyl—an ancestor of Professor Gotthold Weyl—were successful in their resistance. By order of the Government the Beer-Jacobson Temple had to be closed in 1823. But it was one of the ironies of history that the composer Meyerbeer, whose daughter became a Baroness Korff, was bound by the last will of his grandparents to maintain the orthodox Lippmann Tausk Synagogue. Even his heirs fulfilled this duty.

An interesting personality was Meno Burg (1789-1853). During the war of liberation, refused as a Jew by the Prussian Guards, he volunteered for the artillery. He won the favour of the Prince August of Prussia and therefore was allowed to continue his career as an officer in the Prussian Army, and became a teacher at the Military Academy in Berlin. His career was full of temptations and humiliations and though it made slow progress, he finally became a Major, the "Juden-major" of Berlin. This surely is "an exception to the rule" too. For some time, Meno Burg was one of the Elders of the Jewish Community.

Prominence in quite a different field was achieved by the Israel family. With Israel Jacob (1709-1786) begins the story of this family in Berlin. He had come from Pila (Schneidemuehl), went first to Potsdam and from there to Berlin. Therefore the Jews of Berlin called him Isserl Potsdam. Like his son Jacob Israel (Koppel Potsdam) he dealt in clothes. Jacob's son Nathan Israel (1782-1852) started in 1815 the flourishing business which, as one of Berlin's leading department stores, remained a family concern for nearly 125 years. Nathan's son Jacob Israel was the son-in-law of the Chief Rabbi N. M. Adler of London.

In 1812, Bernhard Wolff was born in Berlin. He studied medicine, was joint partner of the Voss book shop, and finally founded the Wolff's News Agency (Wolffsches Telegraphenbuero).

I conclude this brief review with Meyer Magnus, born in Berlin in 1805. He was President of the Elders of the Jewish Community at the time when the antisemitic movement, the so-called "Berliner Bewegung," was at its height. On the occasion of the antisemitic agitations by the Court Preacher Adolf Stoecker, the German Crown Prince Frederick called antisemitism "the disgrace of the century" and later authorised Meyer Magnus to whom he addressed this remark to make it known to the public. Shortly afterwards (1883) Meyer Magnus closed his eyes for ever.

Next to his grave is that of his grandson who at least in his death returned to his forefathers. He died in 1942 a victim of the Hitler era. When the Gestapo called to arrest him he outwitted them by taking the poison, which he, as a botanist, had prepared for himself for such an eventuality. Only three people were present at his burial.

LAW and LIFE

Legal Advice Hours (for persons with limited means only): Sunday 11 a.m.—12 noon.

DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN ENEMY PROPERTY

At the end of last year, a long expected law, the Distribution of German Enemy Property Act, 1949, has been enacted, and as many erroneous views on the meaning of that legislation can be heard, it is as well to make its contents clear.

What "German property" is to be "collected, realized and distributed"? It is property which at the beginning of the war or at a later date belonged to, or was held or managed on behalf of (a) the German State, (b) a German national resident in Germany or other enemy territory (say Italy), (c) a "body of persons" incorporated or constituted in Germany.

These terms show that generally property belonging to Jewish refugees has nothing to do with the Act. There are, however, three groups of cases where the interests of Jewish refugees are involved and where it was hoped, and is still hoped, that their special position will be taken into regard.

There are cases where (a) the refugee owner of the property was able to emigrate from Germany after the outbreak of the war only, (b) the owner perished in Germany or at a place of deportation and his successors-in-title are refugees, (c) the property belonged to a firm in Germany which is now restored to a refugee by way of restitution procedure.

As regards groups (a) and (b) there has been a constant practice of H.M. Government, based on an international agreement and first published by a circular letter to interested parties on May 18th, 1948, to release such assets *ex gratia* to the person entitled under certain conditions. One of these conditions, unfortunately, was apt to work considerable injustice: it was the requirement that the owner had been "deprived of liberty by the Nazis." Quite a few cases have occurred where the owner had been persecuted by the Nazis as every other Jew in Germany, but not just imprisoned, perhaps because he had chosen to live dangerously in hiding and had not been caught.—The time limit for applications for *ex gratia* release has now expired, but from the declarations made by the Government in Parliament it can be taken that the practice, at any rate the limited extent set out in the mentioned circular letter, is to be continued.

On the other hand, it does not look as if the Government were prepared to make a concession in the cases mentioned under (c). It is rather

regrettable that the Government on the one side have rightly enacted a Restitution Law in their Zone of Germany as a matter of justice, but do not apply the same principles in those restitution cases where their own financial interest is at stake.

To whom is the "German Enemy Property" to be distributed? The answer to this question is a very disappointing one for many refugees, now British subjects, who had hoped that they might be able to recoup part of their German losses by claiming against the German property in this country. A claim can be made on account of "German enemy debts," i.e. sums due in respect of an obligation incurred before September 3, 1939, which on that day was an obligation of the German state, a German national resident in Germany or a German "body of persons" to a British subject.

The opinions of lawyers on the interpretation of that clause differ and nobody shall be prevented from pursuing such rights as he thinks he has. But to the present writer it seems quite certain that at any rate the intention of the Government was to restrict the group of claimants to those who had been British nationals on September 3, 1939. Only a few out of our own group were lucky enough to have been British nationals as early as all that, whether by naturalisation or marriage or otherwise.

It is expected that the property available will not make it possible to distribute to claimants a higher quota of their claims than about 12 per cent. Obviously, the "pre-war British" claimants are not keen on having that quota reduced even further by the concurrence of the claims of the recently naturalised and used their influence to that purpose.

There are two possibilities for claimants: they may claim against the German assets in general or against the possible assets in this country of their individual debtor in particular. They have to choose whether the one or the other seems more profitable to them.

Regulations on the manner of making claims and the deadline to be fixed are still expected and will be announced.

Who claims in accordance with the Act is not prevented from making another claim abroad, say under a restitution law, but it can be assumed that his claim will be barred if and in-so-far he gets payment abroad, even if in non-transferable German currency.

Moshe Waldmann:

A JEWISH GESTAPO - SPY

When Hitler came to power in 1933, the Jewish officials in the police headquarters, Berlin—Alexander Platz, were dismissed. Only a very few remained for some little time in their positions after the 1st April, among them Dr. Arian, who now holds a position with the Israel Government, and Dr. Kaiser, who some time ago died in Palestine. The only one who stayed on in office was a little official called Beneber, who acted as Gestapo spy.

Beneber hailed from a good Jewish family in Upper Silesia and in his early years was even a member of a Zionist youth movement. When the Nazis in April, 1933, raided the Jewish centres in Eastern Berlin and found in one house small rolls of parchment with Hebrew characters, they thought these were secret messages which the Jewish would send abroad by pigeon post. The news of the "sensational" find spread throughout police headquarters. When Beneber heard about it he knew, of course, at once that they had found nothing but mezzuzot. He informed his colleagues and his interpretation was later confirmed. In the eyes of Nazis, Beneber rose to the rank of an expert for Jewish affairs.

He was transferred to the department for Jewish affairs, not in a leading position, but more to supervise and report on the activities of the Jewish community. The reasons why he accepted such an assignment are doubtful; he said later that he had stayed on only in the hope of helping his fellow Jews. Whatever the motive, the fact is that Beneber, attached to the office of Kuchmann, and later Eichmann, remained in the employ of the Gestapo, in order to spy out transfers of property and money, and to report on Jewish International Congresses abroad.

In this capacity I met him first at the Preparatory Conference of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva. Beneber was sent there by the Gestapo to spy on the delegates from Germany. These delegates were under heavy pressure as any insult to the representative of the Gestapo would have had serious repercussions at home. Beneber, sometimes, gave

FRANKFURT GESTAPO MAN TRIED

The Frankfurt Gestapo Official Heinrich Baab was sentenced to penal servitude for life for accomplished and attempted murder in 55 resp. 21 cases and for inflicting corporal injuries in 50 cases. The trial which lasted for four weeks, recalled the defendant's unbelievable acts of atrocity and cynicism.

The pleasure he found in torturing his victims was reflected in sentences such as: "When I come, some corpses are due again." Or to a 70 per cent war invalid: "Shut up, otherwise I beat at your war wound." When a partly Jewish girl asked for the whereabouts of her deported mother he told her: "You are still wearing a white blouse, though your mother has gone through the chimney." Partners of mixed marriages and half Jews were arrested and deported under the slightest pretext, e.g., when they were found smoking in the street or had omitted their enforced Jewish name Israel or Sarah. When a non-Jewish husband, a front soldier, whose wife was deported, asked what crime she had committed, he retorted: "Her crime is that she was born." Baab's victims were tortured in the most brutal way, and when his secretary told him that she could not stand their agonies, he just remarked: "You will get used to it." The Chief Prosecutor, Dr. H. Kosterlitz, pointed out in his concluding speech: "As a man, I feel that the defendant should suffer the tortures of the Middle Ages, nay, of the Gestapo. As a lawyer, I have, however, to base my judgment on the Penal Code." He pleaded for lifelong penal servitude, the highest punishment after the abolition of the death penalty in Germany. In pronouncing the indictment, the President of the Court, Dr. Wirtzfeld, said: "We are ashamed that the defendant is a German."

"Baab will now come into a convict house and will have to spend there his future life until its very last minute. He must realise that he is accompanied on his way by the deep contempt of every decent human being."

valuable warnings and information to Jewish organisations, but on the other hand he was directly responsible for some of the "Aktionen" against Jewish institutions and personalities. I used the opportunity in Geneva to get acquainted with this man on whose whims the weal and woe of many Jews in Germany depended.

At Zionist Congress

When, in summer 1935, the Zionist Congress was convened in Lucerne we expected Beneber to accompany the delegation from Germany. In order to prevent undesirable spies from intruding into Congress, instruction was given that visitor and press cards would be issued only on authorisation by the Congress Bureau. One day I was called to the office in order to decide if a certain Dr. Schwarzingger was to receive a visitor's ticket. To my surprise I found that Dr. Schwarzingger was none else but Beneber. I gave him the visitor's card as requested and suggested he should not come to the Congress building too often for, I said, I could not guarantee for his safety if his identity became known. I promised to send all the circulars and literature to his hotel. In addition, I arranged that he received an anonymous letter warning him to leave Lucerne at once. He came very excited to ask for my advice. I pretended to be surprised and counselled him either to remain in his hotel or to make trips to the countryside. Beneber said the Gestapo did not trust him and he had to be very cautious not to arouse suspicion that he made common cause with other Jews. He assured me pathetically that he was a faithful Jew and that he only remained in office for the sake of the Jews.

I pretended to believe him and asked two men to shadow him. One day, one of them reported that Beneber was sitting with a Jew from Germany in the Congress restaurant, and that the conversation was centred around transfer of money. I at once went in and joined them. Beneber's companion was a certain Mr. Meyer from Berlin and he had given Beneber some tips about transfers. I was shocked about his carelessness and when the party broke up I took Beneber aside and told him that this so-called Meyer was no less than an *agent provocateur* who had assumed the name of Meyer and only wanted to lay a trap for him. Afterwards I searched for Mr. Meyer, and when I told him that he had just talked to a Gestapo man, he was frightened out of his wits.

A few days later I was asked over the telephone to come at once to the station restaurant at Lucerne. When I arrived I found Dr. Alfred Klee, in company with Beneber. Dr. Klee had just by chance met with Beneber who had asked him to arrange for him an immigration certificate to Palestine. The situation was rather precarious. I understood very well that Dr. Klee could not bluntly refuse such a request and when I asked Beneber if he really meant to emigrate to Palestine he said, "In heaven there is more joy at one repentant than at a thousand just people." I had the suspicion that the Gestapo might make an attempt to send Beneber to Palestine in order to report from there on immigrants from Germany. I promised to go into the matter but, of course, Beneber has never gone to Palestine and I don't know if it was just one of his "intuitions" or really a proposal of the Gestapo.

A few months later when I was back in Paris a certain Dr. Schwartz came to see me. Again he proved to be none other than Beneber who told me that his position with the Gestapo had become untenable. They did not trust him any more for it had transpired that he had warned two leading Zionists of their impending arrest so that they could leave the country. It was necessary in the Jewish interest, he said, that something was done to strengthen his position. He suggested that I should write about him in the emigrant paper *Pariser Zeitung* and accuse him as the "Enemy No. 1" of all Jewish emigrants from Germany. Beneber even gave me a photograph so that I could illustrate the article which, a short time afterwards, really appeared. If it has helped him I don't know. I always prophesied that he would meet with a tragic end. Some years later I learned that he had been arrested for alleged "Rassenschande" and been murdered in prison.

Old Acquaintances

It's That Man Again:—One year after his acquittal, Veit Harlan stands again for trial in Hamburg. Norbert Wollheim, Vice-Chairman of the Jewish Central Committee, refused to appear as a witness because he lost confidence in new German justice. Harlan is getting active. To prove that nobody could resist the late Dr. Goebbels he asked the court to read a Goebbels biography by Kurt Riess, who is working now as a foreign correspondent in Germany and definitely not pro-Harlan. Not waiting for the verdict, the German press tries to acquit the defendant in advance, printing all cuttings from foreign papers to show how successful Harlan pictures still are.

London News:—Hans May scored successfully "Guilt is my shadow."—Allan Gray finished composing "The Reluctant Widow."—Paul Tabori preparing publication of a new digest, "Man and Woman."—Charles Goldner played successfully the lead in "The Man with the Umbrella."—Elizabeth Bergner, who gave thirty charity recitals in Israel, passed through London.—Erich Kaestner will come to England at the end of August.—Carl Jaffe was in "The Dancing Years," the film version of Novello's stage operetta.—Martin Miller and Nelly Arno played in Kafka's "Trial" at the "Wintergarten."—Lilly Veidt, Conny's widow, expected to arrive here during the summer months.—Lilli Palmer, who still plays in "Cesar and Cleopatra" on Broadway, will come to England to be in a picture, "The Long Dark Hall," together with her husband Rex Harrison.—Fritz Busch, the conductor, and Carl Ebert, the director will work together again when the Glyndebourne season starts this year.

Vienna:—Rudolf Forster was sacked by Dir. Gielen of the "Burg" because he signed a film contract without notifying the management; he will be in "Der Mann, der zweimal leben wollte" at Geiselsberg.—Werner Krauss denied he would play the late Hitler in a picture G. W. Pabst wants to do.—Walter Felsenstein, of Berlin, produced "John Gabriel Borkmann" with Kaethe Dorsch, Helene and Hans Thimig at the "Burg" with decors by Josef Fenneker.—Theo Lingen directed Offenbach's "Banditen" in Gruendgens' adaptation.—Gretl Theimer acted "Fidele Bauer" here.—Berthold Viertel directed "Richard II."

U.S. Report:—Henry Koster is directing "Harvey" with James Stewart in the lead.—Billy Wilder will do for Paramount a newspaper story, "The Human interest story."—Rose Stradner's husband, Joseph L. Mankiewicz got an "Oscar" for his script to "A Letter to Three Wives."—Katrín Holland, who calls herself now Martha Albrand, published her new novel "Wait for the Dawn" with Random Press.—Hans Brahm is trying to get Marlene Dietrich for his picture, "The Marcel Cerdan Story."—Columnist Walter Winchell declared war on Rudolf Bing, new manager of the "Met" for employing singer Flagstad.—Oscar Karlweis and Lilli Darvas were in "Cry of a Peacock," which flopped on Broadway.—Moritz Goldstein, who used to write under the pen-name "Inquit," celebrated his 70th birthday here.

From the Old Country:—Eighty years old Oscar Straus attended the first night of "First Waltz" in Munich.—Lola Kreutzberg opened a cinema near Berlin's Steinplatz.—Sybille Binder will play in "Captain Brassbound's Conversion" in Duesseldorf.—Gruendgens going to Berlin to direct "Death of a Salesman."—Margarete Kupfer celebrated her 50th stage anniversary.—Juergen Fehling produced "Nora" in Munich.—Hauptmann biographer Hans von Huelsen is 60 years old.—Franziska Kinz playing "Daphne Laureola" in Frankfurt.—Sarah Leander's first post-war picture "Gabriela" showed the same old mixture as before; it's the most expensive German film yet.

Obituaries:—Aged 62, actor and recitator Alfred Beierle died in Berlin.—Sculptor and architect Georg Leschnizer, aged 66, died in Israel.—Old-timer Bruno Decarli died during a visit in England.—Eugen Klopfer died in Germany recently.—The composer, Kurt Weill, particularly well known by his "Dreigroschenoper," died in New York. He was only 50 years old.

PEM.

FROM MY DIARY

"Are you a non-Jew or are you learning English?" This wisecrack circulated amongst Jews in Germany during the last two pre-war years.

When, later on, part of them found refuge in this country, they were first quite certain of their perfect command of the English language. Some, to be sure, have not made much progress since and still insist on "speaking Miss X" (in the accusative) and on pronouncing the Home Office address as "High Holl-born." Others, however, and they are fortunately in the majority, have by now considerably broadened their knowledge; they are now much too far advanced as not to realise their shortcomings.

Compared with other newcomers, Jews from Germany and Austria have not done so badly in their linguistic adaptation. On the other hand, nothing is more dangerous than carelessness and complacency. To give some guidance in tackling this problem, this month's AJR Meeting on May 16 at the Blue Danube Club has been arranged, and all of us, especially those who were once pupils at Nutley Terrace, are looking forward to an enjoyable evening in the company of Dr. Ernst Perl.

When Elizabeth Bergner was in Israel and recited "Fraulein Else," a full list of Schnitzler's works was published in the Hebrew programme. People who know something about the Viennese author wondered why they had never heard of his work "Hageshem" ("The Rain"). Only later, it appeared that this was a translation of the title of the famous play "Der Reigen." It seems that a knowledge of Yiddish is not always an advantage for translating from the German.

NARRATOR

THE HYPHEN

Sunday, May 7, 7.30 p.m., at the Universal Restaurant, 169a, Finchley Road, N.W.3. Heymann: "The History of the Theatre."

All further details and particulars of other functions to be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Ilse Leven, 78, Compayne Gardens, N.W.6.

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PERSONALIA

Dr. Lazarus Goldschmidt, who died in London recently at the age of 87, held a unique place in the annals of Jewish scholarship. Over 50 years ago, he began publishing a German translation of the Babylonian Talmud, unaided by any organisation or public funds, and it took 40 years to complete this master work which, by the way, constituted the first complete translation of the Talmud in a European language and gave great stimulus to a subsequent translation into English. Dr. Goldschmidt was born in Lithuania and came to Berlin at the age of 19, where he stayed until 1933. He then made his home in London.

Only recently, he was compelled to sell his unique oriental library, which contained a number of most valuable manuscripts, to the Royal Library in Copenhagen, where it will be known as the Goldschmidt Library. It was much regretted at that time that the Hebrew University of Jerusalem could not compete with the offer.

A few days before his death Dr. Goldschmidt had received an intimation from the Hebrew College of Cincinnati that he had been awarded the honorary degree of D.H.Litt.

Miss Anita Eisner, Rechtsanwalt and Public Notary, one of the first women admitted to the Berlin bar, died in Berlin. During the war, she was in hiding and underwent untold hardships. Miss Eisner co-operated with the "Council of Jews from Germany" and was of special assistance to the United Restitution Office in its efforts to prepare the ground for Restitution in Berlin. Her memory will always be kept alive.

Arnold Zweig, who in autumn 1948 had returned from Israel to Berlin, was elected President of the German Academy of Arts in East Berlin. This office was originally to be conferred on Heinrich Mann, who, however, died in California.

Fritz Wisten, the former chief producer of the Juedische Kulturbund, Berlin, and now Intendant of the Theatre at Schiffbauerdamm, Berlin, was 60 years old last month.

Hugo Hirsch, the well-known composer of operettas, returned to Berlin from Paris after having been away from Germany for 16 years.

IN PRIVATE HOUSE nr. Belsize Park & Swiss Cottage, 2 large comfortably furnished communicating rooms, h. & c.w., garden view, incl. linen and light, £4 10s., or 1 room only £3. Suit quiet business lady or gentleman. Box 884.

ROOM with use of kitchen wanted for single lady. Box 869.

LADY, FLAT in Bournemouth near sea, would like to let double or single bed room for week or week-end. Box 885.

Miscellaneous

ALTERATIONS, Remodels, Dressmaker, Mrs. Cohn, 158 Adelaide Road. PRI 7428.

YOUNG LADY seeks furnished flat, 2 rooms, bath and kitchen; also willing to share. Box 878.

FOR SALE: Particularly fine open Solid Walnut Bookcase, 4 ft. 6 in. by 5 ft. 5 in., in perfect condition. Can be seen Oxford Circus any weekday. £25 or offer. Box 875.

FOR SALE: Morris 12 Saloon Car, 1934, good condition. Box 881.

CHINA Dinner - Coffee - Tea Set, Rosenthal-Sanssouci, twelve persons—108 pieces. Best offer. Box 883.

MISSING PERSONS

Inquiries from AJR

Wertheimer, Alfred, born 30.10.1882 at Munich, last known address: 24, Hornsey Lane, N.6, for Amtsgericht Munich.

Inquiries from HIAS

1, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London, W.1.

Goldberg, Vera, born 1926 in Berlin, also sisters Helga and Eva and mother

Selma, for Margot Stein, New York. Klein, Friedrich, born 1886 in Zwittau, Moravia, formerly of Vienna, engineer, for cousin Gertrude Gyoergy, Roumania.

Letters to the Editor

MATERIAL WANTED

Sir,

I am searching for all kinds of material (printed or unprinted) that might tend to throw light on the fate of Jews in Germany and German Jewry from 1933-1945, including the experiences of those who survived either in Germany or in emigration, as well as those who were deported and perished.

I should be most grateful if documents and manuscripts were sent to the address given below; they will be returned promptly. I require that material for a scientific study.

Yours, etc., Hans Lamm,

Court of Restitution Appeals,
A.P.O. 696A, U.S. Army.

CHANGING NAMES

Sir,

I well understand that you do not wish to take sides in the controversy as to whether or not we Refugees should change our names. I have once for all been cured of any desire to change mine.

During the war I called on a friend who was serving with the Pioneers, and who changed his name from Goldstein to Gordon. His little boy sat on my lap, and the following conversation took place: "What is your name?"—"Jack Leslie Gordon."—"How old are you?"—"I will be four next month—and what is your name?"—"I am Mr. Auerbach."—"And what was your previous name?" With a slight adaptation from Schiller one might say, sensible people will not fail to see what even a child notices.

I am, Sir,

Yours, etc. S. M. Auerbach.

1, Cleve House, Cleve Road, N.W.6.

GIFT PARCELS

Whilst, as reported in the previous issue of "AJR Information," the weight limit for tea has been reduced to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., the weight limit for coffee is unchanged (2 lbs.).

H E I R S

Possibly you have willed your property to your wife and have no other heirs. If you are contemplating that afterwards part of your property should go to a Jewish Organisation or Charity, then a Jewish Trustee Company or Charity, then a Jewish Trustee Company is specially fitted to be the Executor of your wishes. K.K.L. Executor and Trustee Company Ltd. undertakes both Private Family Trusts and Public Charitable Trusts.

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AJR AT WORK

GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the AJR was held on the 27th April at 1 Broadhurst Gardens under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Horowitz. Dr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary, gave a report on current activities, to which we refer on the front page. In his financial report, Mr. M. Pottlitzer, Hon. Treasurer of the AJR, pointed out that, in the past year, the expenditure could be covered by subscriptions, donations and advertisements, but that the increased liabilities, especially in the field of Social Services, and the unavoidable losses in membership by death, emigration and pauperisation called for added efforts by those who were able to lend their support.

The Executive and Board members were re-elected as proposed. The Chairman paid tribute to the untiring efforts of Dr. W. Breslauer who resigned as an Executive Member but will become a Board member and, as before, remain in constant contact with the day by day work of the AJR. He also welcomed as a new Executive Member, Dr. H. J. Feist, who had been serving on the Board for a great number of years.

Before the beginning of the formal proceedings Dr. Leo Baeck spoke on: "Erbe und Aufgabe der Juden aus Deutschland." A detailed report on his illuminating address will be published in the next issue.

AJR London

Tuesday, May 16, 8.15 p.m., "Blue Danube Club," 153 Finchley Road, N.W.3. Dr. ERNST PERL: "How to improve your English" (see special announcement).

AJR Members,
their families and friends

are cordially invited to a

DANCE

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AJR and the "Hyphen"

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at the

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Bookings have to be made in advance. Those who want to attend the Function should write to AJR Headquarters (8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W. 3) early, and whenever possible before May 30. A remittance of 4/- per person should be included.

Admission for Members and their friends only.

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AJR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

The AJR Employment Agency, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3 (new telephone number, MAIDA Vale 4449) will from now on regularly report on the general situation and, in special cases, on enquirers who so far could not be placed in employment.—THE ED.

Men.—We were offered not many vacancies and have still on our records unemployed translators, interpreters, clerks, book-keepers, stock-keepers, packers, artists, unskilled workers and home-workers.

Women.—We were offered a good deal of vacancies, but were unable to recommend sufficient domestics, machinists and younger persons for various types of work.

We still have to find jobs for in- and outdoor workers, esp. typists, shorthand-typists, translators, clerks, dressmakers, finishers, linen-repairers, cooks, companions, sitters-in and unskilled workers.

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