

# AJR

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE  
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

8, FAIRFAX MANSIONS, FINCHLEY ROAD (CORNER FAIRFAX ROAD) LONDON, N.W.3

Office and Consulting Hours: 10 a.m.—1 p.m., 3—6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.—1 p.m.

Telephone: MAIda Vale 9095/7 (General Office)  
MAIda Vale 4449 (Employment Agency)

## QUEEN ELIZABETH CORONATION FOREST

AS readers will know, H.M. the Queen has expressed great appreciation of the wish of her Jewish subjects to commemorate her coronation by the planting of a forest in Israel to be called "The Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest." Under the leadership of Lord Samuel and Lord Nathan prominent representatives of all sections of Anglo-Jewry have joined hands to make the scheme a success. The AJR has wholeheartedly identified itself with this noble venture and a pamphlet explaining the details is attached to this issue of "AJR Information." The AJR is also officially represented by three of its Board members at the Committee for the Hampstead district, where many of its members live, and a great number of former refugees all over the country are actively co-operating with their local committees.

As an expression of their loyalty all our members should respond to this unique effort of the Jews in this country.

## STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

THE "Council of Jews from Germany" welcomes the promulgation of the Federal Indemnification Law. The "Council" acknowledges the efforts of the Federal Government and of the parties to fulfil the commitments of the Hague Agreement and of the Contractual Agreement ("Deutschland-Vertrag"), though a satisfactory result has not been achieved in all points. The "Council" does not overlook the difficulties which hampered the promulgation of such an important and complicated law within a comparatively short time after its submission. In spite of strong objections against various regulations of the Law in its present wording the "Council" regards it as a progress that now, at last, the legal foundations for the indemnification of Nazi victims from the British Zone and from the territories east of the Oder-Neisse-Line have been laid; the "Council" also welcomes the fact that the Law provides indemnification, though unfortunately only to a very limited extent, for stateless persons and political refugees.

The Bundestag and the Bundesrat have described the Law as an emergency measure and have pointed out that amendments and alterations would have to be made at a later stage. Our "Council" which represents the victims of the Nazi regime, many of whom have now been waiting for their indemnification for a period of 20 years, stresses the necessity and urgency of such amendments. It will submit its demands to the appropriate quarters. To-day, only the following particularly conspicuous shortcomings of the Law in its present wording are mentioned:—

(1) Provisions will have to be made by which special levies (Sonderabgaben) and Flight Tax (Reichsfluchtsteuer) are in any case indemnified on the strength of the Federal Indemnification Law. As the Law stands now, the settlement may, under certain circumstances, be held over until a future law ("Rueckerstattungs-Ergaenzungs-Gesetz") has been

## THE FEDERAL INDEMNIFICATION LAW

On July 2, the Bundestag adopted the Federal Indemnification Law and passed it on to the Bundesrat. In its session on July 17, the Bundesrat refused to endorse the Law in its present form. It recommended certain changes of the text the most important of which dealt with the distribution of the costs between the Federal Treasury and the Laender. On July 23 a Conference Committee of both Houses of Parliament (Bundesrat and Bundestag) met in an attempt to work out a compromise. This compromise has been reached and unless unforeseen difficulties arise after this issue has gone to print the Law will be finally adopted by the Bundestag on July 29 and by the Bundesrat on July 31.

The Law is based on the bill of the Federal Government. The Jewish organisations, especially the "Council of Jews from Germany," had raised objections against this bill because, in a number of important points, it does not provide for just indemnification. Among the shortcomings are the provisions regarding indemnification for loss of vocation and for loss of positions with private firms. Indemnification for discriminatory levies (Sonderabgaben) and flight tax (Reichsfluchtsteuer) and the regulations about the order in which the claims are to be settled are not satisfactory either. Nevertheless, the promulgation of the Law is a step forward because it improves the present state of affairs. Indemnification is now granted at last to those former German Jews who had their last German

promulgated which so far has not even been drafted. This would unexcusably delay the fulfilment of a definite obligation.

- (2) The indemnification visualised for members of the liberal professions, for owners of enterprises and for private employees is unsatisfactory. The draft proposals of the Bundesrat for the settlement of these claims were more adequate and should be the minimum of what may be justly expected by people who were deprived of their vocation by the Nazi regime.
- (3) The present regulations about the order in which the claims have to be settled are not just; a great number of victims would not receive any indemnification for a very long time. It is necessary and also possible to make provisions by which all claimants may obtain at least part of their indemnification soon.

The "Council" hopes that the Federal Government and the parties of the new Bundestag will carry out the necessary amendments with the speed which is indispensable if just indemnification is to be secured. The "Council" also hopes that the legislative programme laid down in the Hague Agreement and in the Contractual Agreement will be completed soon by the speedy preparation and promulgation of the promised "Rueckerstattungs-Ergaenzungs-Gesetz."

(The above statement is made on the assumption that the Federal Indemnification Law will be promulgated by the present Bundestag.)

residence in the British Zone, and also to some new categories of persecutees which will be mentioned below.

When defining their policy, the Jewish organisations had to take into account that the present Bundestag was to terminate its session on July 3. This did not leave time for discussing in detail the bill submitted to the Bundestag by the Federal Government. There were therefore two ways open: Either the promulgation of the Law had to be held over until after the German elections in the autumn, or the Government Bill had to be adopted without major amendments. The Bundestag chose the latter alternative. At the same time, it was pointed out by all concerned that the Law as it stands now is to be considered as an emergency measure and that the necessary amendments will have to be made by the new Bundestag after the elections. The Jewish organisations in general and the "Council of Jews from Germany" in particular will press energetically for the speedy promulgation of amendments which are considered indispensable in the interest of the Nazi victims.

The Law is meant to come into force on October 1, 1953.

### Relation to existing Indemnification Laws

The Law is based on the provisions of the Indemnification Laws for the Laender of the American Zone which, according to the Hague Agreement have been improved in a number of points. The improved Laws for the American Zone will now apply to the entire territory of the Federal German Republic (including the British Zone) and to Western Berlin. As far as, however, regulations of the "Laendergesetze" are more favourable, they are not replaced by the new Law; therefore, e.g. the provisions of the Berlin Indemnification Law according to which also former residents of Eastern Berlin may submit claims remain in force.

### Improvements

According to the new Law discriminatory levies (Sonderabgaben) and flight tax (Reichsfluchtsteuer) are not included in the upper limit of 75,000 DM for damage to property; there is, however, an upper limit of 40,000 DM for flight tax.

Persons who suffered damage in their career may now obtain a pension up to 500 DM per month instead of a lump payment; this also applies to private employees. The efforts of Jewish organisations to have the same facilities granted to widows were not successful.

The Law also provides indemnification for damage due to the enforced interruption of vocational or professional training ("Schaden in der Berufsausbildung"). Claimants are entitled to support for the continuation of their training or education. Instead, they may apply for indemnification of 5,000 DM.

### New Groups of Claimants

For former German Jews the significance of the Law lies in the fact that it applies also to those who come from the British Zone of Germany. Furthermore, former German Jews whose residence prior to their emigration was in formerly German territories East of the Oder-Neisse line may, though to a limited extent, also claim indemnification (see below). The new Law does, however, not apply to former German Jews whose last German residence is now situated in the Soviet Zone; the efforts of the Jewish organisations to have them included have unfortunately failed.

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(Continued from front page)

Compensation is also granted to former inmates of DP-Camps in all parts of Western Germany (i.e. also in the British Zone) and in Western Berlin, provided they were in Germany on January 1, 1947.

### "Besondere Verfolgtengruppen"

Limited indemnification is given to three special groups of persecutees ("Besondere Verfolgtengruppen"): 1. Persecutees from "Vertreibungsgebieten," 2. Stateless people and political refugees, 3. "Nationalverfolgte."

Persecutees from "Vertreibungsgebieten," i.e. from territories East of the Oder-Neisse line, may claim indemnification for loss of life, health and freedom to the same extent as victims from Western Germany and from Berlin. Their indemnification claim for loss of career depends, however, on special circumstances and is limited to 150,000 RM to be converted at the rate of 100 to 6.5. Indemnification for special levies (Sonderabgaben) and flight tax (Reichsfluchtsteuer) is also converted at the rate of 100 to 6.5 (as against 100 to 20).

Stateless people and political refugees who are not under the care of any State or Inter-Governmental organisation and who had been deprived of their freedom may obtain indemnification for loss of life, health and freedom. The extent of the indemnification is limited. Persecutees of this category do not lose their claim by having acquired a new nationality after the end of the persecution.

"Nationalverfolgte," i.e. persons who were persecuted under the Nazi regime on account of their nationality and who, on October 1, 1953, are refugees in the meaning of the Geneva Convention, may claim indemnification for loss of health if, at the time of the indemnification, their working capacity is reduced by more than 50 per cent.

A full description of the groups to be considered as "Besondere Verfolgtengruppen" and of their claims will be given in a later issue of "AJR Information."

### Classification of Claims

The Law stipulates the order in which claims are to be settled. It distinguishes between claims which have to be settled at once and others which will be dealt with later. In both categories certain preference is given to persons who are over 60 years of age, or needy, or ill, or whose working capacity is reduced by more than 50 per cent.

### General Provisions

Of the general provisions of the Law, the following regulations are of special interest:

So far, claims could only be submitted if the damage was due to a measure directed expressly against the individual persecutee; this principle has resulted in a very unsatisfactory jurisdiction. In the new Law it is assumed that any measure against a group whose exclusion was intended by the Nazi regime is to be considered as directed against the individual member of this group.

The new Law also stipulates that claims which by their nature are covered by special laws, e.g. by restitution laws, may not be submitted under the Indemnification Law; this applies, e.g., to claims against the former German Reich for auctioned liftvans, confiscated bank accounts and bonds. These claims can only be realised under a special future law, the "Rueckerstattungs-Ergaenzungsgesetz" for whose speedy promulgation the "Council of Jews from Germany" is pressing.

The types of claims covered by the new Law are identical with those covered by the Indemnification Laws in the American Zone, i.e. damage to life, body and health, freedom, property, economic career and insurance. In the case of damage to life, body and health, minimum pensions are fixed by the Law.

Claims which have already been submitted need not be filed again. Only if a claim has been definitely rejected because it was not covered by the existing laws it has to be registered anew. Claims which had not been filed within the time limits laid down in the existing laws may also be submitted by virtue of the new Law.

Claimants outside Germany have to submit their claims within two years, i.e. before October 1, 1955. The claims have to be filed with the Indemnification Authorities of the claimant's last residence or, if this is not possible, i.e. in the case of special groups of persecutees ("Besondere Verfolgtengruppen"), with the Indemnification Authority of Northrhine-Westphalia by claimants in Europe, and of Rhineland-Pfalz by claimants outside Europe.

# RESTITUTION NEWS

## SPERRMARK-TRANSFER IN HAERTEFAELLEN

Das Bulletin des Presse- und Informationsamtes der Bundesregierung vom 1. Juli 1953 veröffentlicht folgende Verlautbarung:

"Die Bank deutscher Laender erteilt zurzeit in Haertefaelle Genehmigungen zum Transfer von originaeren DM-Sperrguthaben in Monatsraten bis zu 300,— DM nach dem gesamten Ausland. Ein Haertefall liegt vor, wenn der Sperrkontoinhaber nachweisbar in seinem Wohnsitzland nicht ueber ausreichende Mittel zur Bestreitung seines Lebensunterhalts verfuegt oder sich infolge von Krankheit oder aus anderen Gruenden in einer akuten Notlage befindet. Der Nachweis ist durch die amtliche Bescheinigung eines Konsulats, einer Gemeinde usw., im Falle der Schweiz durch eine Befuehrwortung der Schweizerischen Verrechnungsstelle zu erbringen. In den Faellen, in denen das Vorliegen eines Haertefalles nach den ganzen Lebensumstaenden des Antragstellers (z.B. bei hohem Lebensalter) oder im Zusammenhang mit dem Entstehungsgrund des Sperrguthabens (z.B. aus Beschaeidigtenrenten, Haftentschaedigungen, Heilkosten usw.) ohne weiteres unterstellt werden kann, genuegt im allgemeinen Glaubhaftmachung. Zustaendig fuer die Entgegennahme etwaiger Antraege sind die Landeszentralbanken, in deren Bereich die Sperrkonten unterhalten werden."

Die noetigen Antraege werden zweckmaessig durch die Bank gestellt, bei der das Sperrkonto gefuehrt wird. Antragsteller, die ihre Beduerftigkeitsbescheinigung durch die AJR ausgestellt zu erhalten wuenschen, koennen bei der AJR-Geschaeftsstelle, 8 Fairfax Mansions, N.W.3, vorsprechen; Unterlagen, aus denen sich die finanziellen Verhaeltnisse ergeben, sind mitzubringen.

## AN IMPORTANT DECISION

### Jews as Persecutees

In a recent decision (Opinion No. 331, Case No. 470), the Court of Restitution Appeals in Nuremberg (Cora), which is the Supreme Court for restitution cases in the U.S.A. Zone of Germany, has confirmed its findings in previous cases that the property of an emigrated Jew and even a Jew of foreign nationality is to be restituted under the Restitution Law also if the claimant or his predecessor was not within the personal persecutory grasp of the Nazis. Boycotts, discriminatory actions, deprivations of property and confiscations had their effect on every Jew who owned property in Germany, no matter whether he resided in Germany or abroad and of what nationality he was at the time of the deprivation.

## INDEMNIFICATION FOR NAZIS?

About 3,000 former Nazis met in the former internment camp for Nazis at Oerpke, where many of the most ardent Nazis had been temporarily interned after the war. They passed a resolution in which they asked for the "adaptation" of the indemnification for former KZ inmates to the needs of their group. The former head of the Foreign Department of the NSDAP in Italy, Dr. Emil Ehrlich, who is now a representative of the Deutsche Partei for Lower Saxony, promised that his party would fight for the rights of the formerly interned Nazis.

## ABOLITION OF VISAS

According to a statement of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, visas are not required by holders of U.K. passports for the following countries:—Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey.

It is stressed that the claims cannot be submitted before the Law has come into force and before the Indemnification Authorities have been set up and the necessary forms issued. Readers are therefore requested to refrain from enquiries at this juncture. Further details about the contents of the Law will be published in this paper as soon as circumstances permit.

## AUSTRIAN LAWS AMENDED

### Extension to former Austrian Nationals

According to the 7th Amending Law to the so-called "Opferfuersorgegesetz," victims of religious, racial or political persecution are to receive compensation for deprivation of liberty during the Nazi regime, amounting at present to 431 Austrian schillings for every month's imprisonment. This law, however, excluded from its benefits victims who had acquired another nationality. Now, the Austrian Parliament has passed an 8th Amending Law according to which victims and, after their death, their dependants are entitled to compensation even if they lost their Austrian nationality after March 13, 1938, and are no longer Austrian nationals.

Another Amending Law by which benefits are extended to victims who are no longer Austrian nationals refers to former public servants. The "Beamtenentschaedigungsgesetz" by which public servants are to be compensated for the damage suffered between March 1938 and December 31, 1945, also excluded persons who had acquired another nationality and who are still abroad. By an Amending Law now passed public servants will also receive compensation if they are no longer Austrians. The amount varies according to the categories and ranks to which they belong, and in the highest class compensation will be about 6,000 Austrian schillings per year.

According to Allied regulations still valid in Austria, laws of this kind must be submitted by the Austrian Government to the Allied Council and come into force if the Allied Council does not unanimously object to them within 30 days. Since the Allied Council will doubtless raise no objections, both laws will come into force at the beginning of September. The decrees for carrying out the laws will contain details as to applications and an extract of their contents will be published in time.

Moreover, the Austrian Government will recognise in an official communiqué the principle of non-discrimination; this means that in all future laws no difference will be made between those Austrians who are living abroad and who have acquired another nationality, and those in Austria. In all laws already in force, such discriminatory clauses will be removed.

As to other claims put forward by the international Jewish organisations through the "Conference of Claims against Austria," no definite result has been achieved so far, and negotiations will be continued early in the autumn.

## PUBLIC SERVANTS OF AUSTRIAN NATIONALITY

### Time Limit August 31, 1953

Austrian public servants who were removed from their offices through Nazi persecution and are now living abroad, but who retained their Austrian nationality, have a claim under the so-called "Beamtenentschaedigungsgesetz." Applications for compensation by such public servants must be made by the end of August 1953 through the Austrian Consulate abroad or by letter to the former Ministry where they were employed. The Administrative Director of the Jewish Community at Vienna I, Schottenring 25, will also be of assistance in passing applications received before August 31, 1953, to the competent Austrian authorities.

## PATENT APPLICATIONS IN AUSTRIA

Under a law just enacted in Austria, British subjects and British companies may apply for patents in Austria before December 31, 1953, claiming priority of their British patents, provided the latter have been applied for after March 12, 1937. This means that developments between the registration in Great Britain and the filing in Austria, such as publications or utilisations of the invention concerned, are not a bar to the granting of a valid patent in Austria, provided they occurred between the dates mentioned above. Persons who wish to avail themselves of this possibility are advised to make arrangements as soon as possible for filing the applications in Austria.

## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### I.G. FARBEN JUDGMENT Courageous British Witnesses

As reported in the last issue of "AJR Information," the Frankfurt Law Court has awarded 10,000 DM to Norbert Wollheim, who had been a slave labourer in the Monowitz "Buna Werke" of the I.G. Farben Combine. The Court came to the conclusion that the I.G. Farben officials who were responsible for the Camp had failed to take the necessary care of the conditions in the Camp. The judgment is subject to an appeal.

The Court was particularly impressed by the statements of two British witnesses, C. Coward and R. Ferris, who had been in the Camp as British prisoners of war. They are described in the judgment as men who dared to do something for the Jewish inmates, who had "civil courage," though they could have taken the attitude that the plight of the Jewish inmates "was not their concern," an excuse made by several I.G. Farben officials who were heard in the course of the proceedings.

The AJR has addressed a letter to Mr. Coward and Mr. Ferris which, *inter alia*, reads as follows:—  
"We know only too well from the reports which have transpired since the end of the war what our people had to endure in the camps. Apart from the physical sufferings the worst for them was certainly the fact that they were helplessly exposed to the cruelty of their persecutors. It will therefore have helped them to retain their belief in humanity if their burden was eased by men like you."

### KZ-DOCTOR SENTENCED

The former SS. Oberfeldarzt in Buchenwald, Dr. Kirchert, was sentenced to 4½ years' penal servitude by the Munich Law Court. He was found guilty of having refused medical attendance in the case of six Jewish inmates and of having carried out sterilizations.

### LETTER FROM JERUSALEM

Two years ago, there was an immigration crisis in Israel because the country could not cope with the incoming tide of newcomers. To-day, there is a different immigration crisis, for immigration, to all practical purposes, has come to a standstill.

Less than 15,000 immigrants are expected this year, according to a Jewish Agency estimate. The past year 1952 brought just over 23,000 newcomers, a bare 10 per cent of the peak figure in 1949. Against this background, emigration figures assume an ever greater significance. Approximately between 1,000 and 1,200 people monthly are leaving Israel for good, two-thirds of whom had come to the country during the past five years. Simultaneously, together with the decline in immigration goes a fall in the natural increase which has dropped from 26.4 per thousand in 1950 to 24.7 in 1952.

There are political as well as other reasons for the decrease in immigration. Of the three potential sources of manpower, Eastern Europe has closed the exit; North Africa has been hardest hit by the principle of selection which the Jewish Agency introduced some time ago; and the West has never supplied more than a trickle. With the Prime Minister's declared aim to raise Israel's population to four million, the question is discussed in the Hebrew press whether the selective immigration policy should be abolished and the doors of Israel flung open again to each and everybody.

There are warning voices who point out that to-day's crisis, to a large extent, is only the consequence of the indiscriminate immigration during the first four years of Statehood, and that a return to such a policy would, in the long run, aggravate the crisis. The opening of Israel's gates for social gain only in numbers and a loss in strength.

Much thought is given to stimulating aliya from the Western countries and plans are worked out to offer prospective newcomers interesting jobs and decent housing conditions. The fact, however, that Israel is still, at least formally, at war with her neighbours, and that not only social but also physical security are somewhat impaired, acts as a great impediment. Furthermore, one should not forget that Jews, like all people, migrate in masses only when forced by economic or political circumstances; against this principle, no offer of Israel, tempting as it may be, will prevail.

HERBERT FREEDEN

### REVIVAL OF GERMAN MILITARISM

On June 30, Mr. E. Fletcher asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps he is taking, in view of the changing international situation, to prevent a recrudescence of German militarism.

Mr. Nutting: As regards the German Federal Republic, what is in prospect is German participation in Western European defence within the European Defence Community. That Community offers the most effective safeguard against the dangers to which the hon. Gentleman refers.

### ANTISEMITIC ATTACK AGAINST SPD LEADER

In Regensburg, posters announcing an SPD rally with the party's chairman Erich Ollenhauer as speaker, were smeared with the word "Jude." When Ollenhauer referred to the incident at the meeting and spoke about the extermination policy of the Nazi regime, one member of the audience said: "The Jews have deserved it. All these criminals should have been hanged." He was forced to leave the hall and the Chairman of the meeting declared that Ollenhauer was no Jew but that the SPD would never object if it had a Jew as its chairman.

### TRIALS AGAINST POLICEMEN

The head of the Cologne Gestapo Franz Sprinz was sentenced to three years penal servitude. He was found responsible for the deportation of 9,500 Cologne Jews to the East. In his defence Sprinz claimed that he had only learned in 1944 that the deportees had been murdered.

The former Police President of Nuremberg, Dr. Benno Martin, who was accused of having been responsible for the deportation of Jews, was acquitted. According to the judgment it had not been possible to prove that Martin had known what was going to happen with the deportees.

### POGROM LEADERS ACQUITTED

Proceedings against three local Nazi leaders, who had helped to organise the pogroms of November 1938 in Wuerzburg, were dropped. Although evidence had been submitted the Court found that the "active participation" of the accused had not been proved and that their "good behaviour" after the war had made them deserving of judicial forgiveness.

### GOETHE PRIZE FOR BUBER

Martin Buber was awarded the Hanseatic Goethe Preis of Hamburg University. In his address, the Rector of the University expressed his admiration of Buber's spiritual achievements and of the courage he displayed as head of the Jewish "Lehrhaus" in Frankfurt during the first years of the Hitler regime. When the Goethe Preis was offered to Buber two years ago, the Rector recalled, the University authorities were anxiously waiting for his reaction; when he accepted they felt ashamed and happy at the same time. In his reply Buber stated: "I consider this act as the expression of an effort to create a new humanitarian spirit, an effort which is now going on in the middle of every nation."

### "JUEDISCHER FRAUENBUND" ORGANISED

At a recent Meeting in Duesseldorf the Jewish Women's Organisations in Western Germany and Western Berlin decided to found a "Juedischer Frauenbund in Deutschland."

### JEWISH OLD AGE HOMES IN GERMANY

According to an article by Dr. E. G. Lowenthal in the "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung" of the Jews in Germany, there are now nine Jewish Homes for the aged in Germany, i.e. in Berlin, Bremen, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Heidelberg, Cologne, Munich, Düsseldorf (Rosenau) and Hanover. The latest home was inaugurated in Hanover (Bischofsholer Damm) on July 1 and a house in Dortmund will be ready soon.

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### No Deficit

A welcome change from the frequent tale of communal deficit was provided by the United Synagogue's general cash account for 1952, which showed a balance of over £51,830, receipts during the year having amounted to £510,497. The twenty-three constituent synagogues have had an income of £260,543, which was £17,987 more than in 1951. Their expenditure, of £251,273, had increased by £11,838, and there are fears that the continuing increase will put up the membership fees. Thirteen of the synagogues showed a surplus of £19,084, while the remainder required assistance to the amount of £8,598.

Among the institutions maintained by the United Synagogue, the Beth Din had a budget of £8,219 and the Jewish Committee for H.M. Forces of £3,848. Towards the upkeep of the Chief Rabbinate the United Synagogue contributed £5,147, i.e. 77 per cent of the Chief Rabbi's total budget.

Gratifying was also the report of the Board of Guardians, which stressed particularly the success of its social welfare work. At a time when statistics relating to juvenile crime are causing national concern, it was found that the number of Jewish offenders at the principal approved schools has steadily decreased. The Board's President, Mr. Justice Karminski, thought the reason was primarily in "the preservation of the unity of our family life and in the responsibility which Jewish parents still feel towards their children."

### Youth Organisation

It is estimated that out of the 280,000 Jews in Greater London, approximately 19,000 are between 13 and 18, but not more than 15,000 are organised.

The Zionist youth movement seems to be losing strength; it appears that enthusiasm is waning after the establishment of the State. Some of the more recent Zionist organisations obtain their leaders from Israel, and it remains to be seen what the impact of this new feature will be.

Anglo-Jewry's interest in Israel was again demonstrated in a variety of ways. £5,500 were raised for Youth Aliyah; over £4,000 for the Hebrew University, and a £20,000 appeal was launched for a great bronze Menorah to be set up in the Knesset.

### Ministers for Africa

A college—the Judith Lady Montefiore College, at Ramsgate—which will train spiritual leaders for the Jewish communities of Morocco and Tunisia, was declared open by the Israeli Ambassador. It is a joint venture of the Jewish Agency Department for Torah Education and Culture in the Diaspora and the Sefardi community of Great Britain. At present the college has 17 students, with the exception of one Indian all from North Africa. The full complement is to be 40, and the plan is that they will return to their countries, as rabbis and teachers, after an average of three years' study.

Mr. Jacob Epstein, the sculptor, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law at Oxford. The gold medal of the Royal Society of British Sculptors he refused because many years ago the society would not admit him as a member.

### GOETTINGEN UNIVERSITY HONOURS JEWS

The University's "honorary citizenship" was awarded to three distinguished Jewish former Goettingen Professors, the Nobel Prize Winner James Franck (now Chicago), Professor Richard Courant (now New York), and Professor Max Born (now Edinburgh).

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ENQUIRIES INVITED

Lutz Weltmann:

## TWO SUPPLEMENTS

## VICTOR GOLLANZ'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

In AJR Information of January 1951, Victor Gollanz's anthology "A Year of Grace" was reviewed. This noble book of wisdom has been followed by the first volume of an autobiography: "My Dear Timothy" (London 1952, 440 pages, Victor Gollanz, 12s. 6d.) Approaching his sixties, the well-known writer and publisher looks back to his formative years, and he does so in a letter which his grandson is to read after attaining a maturer age.

Gollanz's ancestors came from Witkowo, the same place where my great-grandfather had been a rabbi, and having found myself so often in agreement with Gollanz's views, it was particularly interesting for me to follow his development from his orthodox upbringing to his subscribing to the words of Jesus: "Love thine enemies!" There is a touch of exhibitionism in the book, which is not quite to my taste, though I appreciate the intellectual honesty which has sponsored it: the writer is free from any self-righteous hypocrisy. His near conversion to Christianity before World War I is an interesting parallel to the strange path of faith men like Franz Rosenzweig and Ludwig Meidner had to tread to discover the deep roots of their Judaism. When Gollanz grew out of his parents' orthodoxy, he left behind not only its Jewish aspect, but turned to liberalism also in the political field. Yet the elements of the prophet and teacher (even in his activities as a publisher) are essential in him.

In the end Gollanz became a Socialist, but one whose quest for truth and for action is never at rest: the party has not solved its problems. For him, genuine Socialism is a trinity—it must conquer poverty, it must vouchsafe freedom, and it must be based on human kindness. Any other brand of socialism, in theory or in practice, does not deserve the name. In spite of the nonconformity of Gollanz's confession, a great many contemporaries will recognise their own conflicts in it.

## "VERSCHOLLENE UND VERGESSENE"

In the article about Else Lasker-Schüler (AJR Information, VIII, 2), a pamphlet of the "Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur" in Mainz about her was mentioned. Five more little volumes of this series "Verschollene und Vergessene" (Franz Steiner Verlag, Wiesbaden) have been issued, each with an excellent introduction and an attractive

selection. They will stimulate many readers to study those poets whose works, alas, are mostly out of print. The President of the Academy, Alfred Döblin, deals with Arno Holz, doing away with the slogan of consequent naturalism. The Secretary, Hanns Ulbricht, edits Theodor Däubler, who was striving to reconcile Pan and Apollo. This volume and that about Max Hermann-Neisse (by Friedrich Grieger) have a pleasant personal touch. The latter's poems, evoking nostalgia for Berlin's literary Bohème, are the classical expression of a German poet's song in his voluntary London exile. The two other poets of the series are Jews: Alfred Mombert is well analysed by Hans Hennecke; the poems are given in chronological order—a cosmos of its own, a mythology emerging from long forgotten oriental sources, a poetic language with the power of a prophet's invocation. A sympathetic and convincing portrait of Karl Kraus is given by Werner Kraft (Jerusalem); this writer was not like a thought-out book, but a human being with all his contradictions. He was a modern prophet, not only in what he foresaw, but in his attitude towards the word. The word was his world, the word that could create a world, and he was the merciless critic of a world courting disaster by neglectful and irresponsible handling of the word. To be sure: in Jewish contemporary journalism he found much to criticise, but we feel with him a certain pride in his Jewishness when we read the commemorative poems in praise of the actor Sonnenthal and the actress Gabillon who had taught their audiences noblesse from the stage.

## HIMMLER—THE EVIL GENIUS OF THE THIRD REICH

This book by Willi Frischauer, published by Odhams Press (London 1953, 16s.), is an important supplement to the Hitler biography by Allan Bullock recently reviewed here. It does, of course, not deal with the external politics so fateful for the whole world; this book describes the internal power apparatus seen from its central pivot. And how pitifully inferior, how poor and helpless was this seat of power! There was a clear understanding here of only one thing, how to organise terror, and even in this the author gives the greater part of the credit to Heydrich. Again, as in the Hitler biography, the abyss is evident between the intellectual and moral Neanderthal level of these brains and their organisational talent which enabled them to persevere systematically with a course of action which was almost triumphantly recognised as inhuman. Behind all this, as Himmler's friends said of him later, there was "the lust for power, giving him a perverted physical pleasure," probably by way of over-compensation of his inferiority as measured by his own ideal. Himmler, like Hitler, had after all only to look into the mirror.

This over-compensated inferiority also caused in Himmler that trend to brutality which is often wrongly described as romanticism. Frischauer, who has spoken to many surviving servants and friends of this man, describes the medieval fantasies of Himmler; they are related to romanticism rather like a picture postcard drawn by Hitler is related to a painting by Moritz von Schwind: they are clichés, like a child's book of transfers about myths and legends, the well-known confusion between romanticism and trash ("Kitsch"), which is so often allied with brutality.

There are several significant examples of this in the book. There is, for instance, the one thousandth anniversary of Henry I on July 2, 1936, at Quedlinburg, with a speech of the "Reichsfuehrer SS" who paid homage to the founder of the first Reich and ceremoniously deposited in the cathedral a shrine, empty, but symbolically containing the remains, long since disappeared, of that other Heinrich. One of Himmler's favourites, Günther d'Alquen, described the scene when his master, who thought of himself as a re-incarnation of the Saxon emperor, had tears running down his cheeks as he spoke of the death of his hero 1,000 years ago.

There are queer types among his circle of confidants and personal friends. There is, for instance, the masseur Kersten, who had hypnotic powers of

## REFUGEE SCHOLAR HONOURED

The Editorial Board of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Manchester have assisted Dr. Helen Rosenau in her studies of the relationship between projects and their realisation in architecture, the Central Research Fund of the University of London making a grant towards the travelling expenses. The outcome is a book *Boullée's Treatise on Architecture*, published by Alec Tiranti, Ltd., London, in the series of their Tiranti Library (132 pages, 57 plates, £1 1s.). Etienne-Louis Boullée (1728-1799) was a leading French architect, exercising a great influence in the Académie d'Architecture. Breaking away from Louis XV Rococo style, his vision anticipated modern ideas such as were realised by Le Corbusier. It is as interesting as it is surprising that France—in spite of her rationalistic genius—has produced works like Boullée's "Architecture, Essai sur l'Art" and Paul Valéry's Platonic Dialogue "Eupalinos ou l'Architecte," either of them refuting Vitruvius' definition defining architecture as the art of constructing. It has been said once that architecture was frozen music, and in this sense Boullée stated that you must conceive before you put into effect. Boullée's starting point is the purpose of the building, and it is the human aspect of this problem that interests him most. His treatise has been published (in the original) by Helen Rosenau for the first time—from the Boullée papers in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. With her usual acumen and scholarship she edits, introduces and annotates the work which has some appeal to the common reader as well as an illustration of a moderate middle-class artist's life and thought in a revolutionary age.

Dr. L. W.

healing; when Himmler is attacked by cramps of the stomach, this man has to pass his hand over Himmler's naked abdomen, and this immediately soothes him. Then there are occultists and astrologers whose advice he sought. One scene seems to come straight from Chaplin's film "The Great Dictator":—After the fall of Mussolini Himmler tried to find out where Mussolini was being held prisoner with the help of his astrologer Wulff and supported by occultists whom Hitler had sent to concentration camps a few years previously for false prophecies. Himmler has these occultists brought from their camps, has them billeted in a luxurious house by the Wannsee, where they are regaled with good food, wine and cigars, in order that he may find out via the fourth dimension where the Duke is. Naturally the occultists try to make their task last as long as possible, until Himmler is annoyed by their false information which repeatedly misleads Skorzeny in his search, and has them sent back to their camps.

Such was the mental level of the master race which was able to rule Germany for twelve years and to plunge the world into catastrophe. In this bizarre, disgustingly grotesque, fear inspiring—because powerful—underworld, there is one scene which appears like the climax of the symphony, or rather the cacophony, of the devil. This scene was described to Frischauer by SS General Wolff who was present at it. In 1936 Himmler visited the women's section of the Dachau concentration camp. He notices a young blond woman. "Look there, Wolff," he says, "surely that one is Aryan!" He has her brought up; she is a pacifist and was sent to the camp for anti-militarist propaganda. "My dear child," Himmler says to her, "surely you are Aryan; I shall let you out at once if you sign that you have seen the error of your ways and have remembered your Aryan heritage." There is silence. "I hear you have two children, who are probably blond; don't you want to see them again?" The woman quietly turns away, tears are running down her face, but she remains silent. Himmler becomes furious. To hold power is not only a perverted, but also a sadistic pleasure for him. "Do away with her," he orders, "this stubborn woman is particularly dangerous." Two hours later she is executed.

A memorial for the unknown political prisoner? Here it is.

BERNHARD REICHENBACH

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Fritz Ruhemann:

## VORFRUEHLING IN SWISS COTTAGE

"Nice morning, Madam," sagte eine Maennerstimme, aber die alte Dame reagierte nicht auf den ermunternden Gruss. Sie starrte finster zu Boden, als sie langsam auf dem noch etwas feuchten Pflaster des Buckland Crescent in der Richtung Swiss Cottage daherkam. Wer sollte sie wohl gruessen — ein Englaender noch dazu. "Nice morning," dachte sie, 'ja Kuchen! Fast den ganzen Vormittag hat's geregnet. Man beklagt sich ja nicht. Aber "Nice morning," das ist doch ein bisschen dick aufgetragen! "Nice minute" sollte man sagen — wenn man schon unbedingt was sagen muss! Der Gute hatte schon recht, wie immer — Gott hab ihn selig.' Es war recht warm nach den langen Frosttagen. Man fuehlte, wenn man wollte, schon die Sonne auf der Wange. Fast ein Fruhlingsahnen war in der Luft. Die alte Dame bildete eigentlich eine recht stilgerechte Staffage in dieser leiblichen Strasse. Der leicht orangefarbene Dunst verschleierte gnaedig die etwas heruntergekommene Staetlichkeit der eng aneinandergereihten viktorianischen Buerger-Villen, und einige schoene, kahle Baume trugen zu dem fast malerischen Bild bei. Sie blieb vor dem Haus No. 7 stehen, um Atem zu schoepfen. Die Schneegloekchen in dem gepflegten Vorgarten taten ihr Bestes, um wintermuede Herzen aufzuheitern und leuchten so weiss wie nur moeglich auf dem immergruenen Rasen, aber an Frau Oppenheimer war ihre Liebesmuehe heute verschwendet. Sie pustete erschoept aus geblaehten Backen und knoepfte ungeduldig den hochstehenden Kragen ihres Persier-Capes auf, der aussah wie das abgeschnittene Oberteil eines tailor-made Mantels. An ein paar abgetragenen Stellen blitzte es weiss in dem schwarzen Pelz. "Viel zu warm angezogen mal wieder!" sagte sie zu sich selbst. "Dr. Fischel haette mich doch ein paar Tage laenger zuhause halten muessen. Er ist eben zu ueberlastet, besonders jetzt mit dieser schrecklichen Grippe-Epidemie." Sie hustete heftig. "Waer uebrigens ganz schoen, wenn ich einen Rueckfall bekaeme, gehoerige Lungen-Entzaendung und wech mit Schaden! Bitte mich gefaelligst erst zu fragen, ob ich mein Leben mit diesen modernen Zauber-Heilpilzen verlaengern lassen will. Was hab' ich denn noch zu erwarten! Und all das Elend jetzt in der Welt. Und die dauernde Sorge um Fritzen, mitten in den schwersten Kaempfen in Korea. Und ueberhaupt, die Kinder alle so weit fort. Man entfremdet sich so. Als ob der duenne verbindende Faden ueberspannt und gerissen waere. Die Trennung schmerzt sogar kaum mehr. Und weiss ich denn, ob es ihnen wirklich so gut geht, wie es in den Briefen steht? Wahrscheinlich schreibt Erich ueberhaupt nur noch aus Pflichtgefuehl, aus Mitleid. Kein Mensch wuerde mich vermissen, wenn ich abkratze." Die Uhr im Fenster des Postamtes zeigte 12.10. "Was? Schon so spaet? Um 10 bin ich aufgestanden. Schrecklich, wieviel Zeit heutzutage alles wegnimmt. Na ja, wenn man alles selber machen muss und das Badezimmer immer besetzt ist und das Heisswasser nicht funktioniert. Es ist wirklich zum —!" Sie huestelte. Sie hatte nicht bemerkt, dass sie stehen geblieben war und auf dem von einer Baustelle eingeengten Buergersteig den lebhaften Verkehr aufhielt. Die Passanten quetschten sich geduldig an den Bauzaun und nahmen sogar die Schuld auf sich, die guten Englaender, indem sie "sorry" sagten; manche sagten "thank you." Ploetzlich riss sie ein Heimatklang aus ihrer verlegenen Verwirrung: "You, my lady, you hold se whole traffic up." Ja, das verstand sie! Ja, sie war fast angenehm beruehrt von diesem vertraut irdischen Ton und stammelte "Oh, sorry!" Dabei hatte sie sich halb zu ihrem Landsmann umgewandt und trat schnurstracks auf den Damm, um die Strasse zu ueberqueren. Eine Bremse kreischte schrill, dann noch eine. Alles blieb stehen und sah sich um, sogar der Verkehrsschutzmann ueberlegte einen Augenblick, ob er hinlaufen sollte. Doch nichts war geschehen. Sie hatte noch Geistesgegenwart genug, dem Fahrer schuldgebend zuzulaecheln. Der legte eine elegante, ritterliche Armbewegung hin und rief: "After you, Madam." Jemand nahm sie unter'm Arm und fuehrte sie ueber den Damm. Bevor sie sich bedanken konnte, war der hilfreiche Kavalier verschwunden. Jetzt erst schien ihr der Schreck richtig bewusst zu werden. Auf der niedrigen Gartenmauer um den kleinen Rasenplatz sassen

wie Spatzen auf dem Telegraphendraht Arbeiter von der Baustelle gegeneuber, eine ihrer vielen Pausen vom anstrengenden Wenig-tun mit Nichtstun verbindend. "Warum hier keine Baenke stehen! Diese kleine Anlage schreit doch direkt danach!" "Want to sit down, lidy?" fragte einer der Arbeiter mit freundlichem Laecheln und breitete ihr eine Zeitung auf der Mauer aus. Sie bedankte sich ueberschwaenglich und sank mit einem kleinen Schmerzenslaut auf die improvisierte Bank hin, die viel niedriger und haerter war, als sie berechnet hatte. Die andern Handwerker rueckten alle zusammen, obwohl obnehin Platz war. "Noise morning!" stellt der Arbeiter fest und schaut mit fast sentimentalem Laecheln zur Krone eines der vier Baume auf, als koennte er schon die ersten Knospen sehen. "Yes, very nice, morn—ah—mo—ment!" antwortet sie zerstreut. "What did you say?" fragt er, aus der Fassung gebracht von dieser revolutionaeren Abweichung von der Tradition. "Oh, very nice, said I" — und schwapp faellt die kleine Klappe zur Aussenwelt, dieser fremden englischen Welt, wieder zu. "Wie mich das bisschen Gehen angestrengt hat. Jetzt werd ich sicher nicht mehr die Kraft bringen, das arme Frl. Arnheim zur Arbeit zu bringen und abzuholen. Wirklich zu nichts mehr ist man nutze, nicht einmal als Blindenhund!" Da ploetzlich ertoent wie in einem Traum vom vorigen Leben eine zoegernde Maennerstimme: "Ach, Elli Schwarz?" Hatte sie recht gehoert oder narrete sie noch das Fieber? Sie blickte auf: nein, es war kein Traum, da stand leibhaftig ein ansehnlicher Herr und wiederholte: "Naturlich sind Sie Elli Schwarz!" — "Ja, ja, das heisst eigentlich Frau Prof. Oppenheimer" stammelte sie, "ja, ja, ich war Elli Schwarz, aber kennen wir uns denn? Muss mir mal die Brille aufsetzen." "Nein, lassen Sie nur, gnaedige Frau, Sie kennen mich nicht, aber ich war — ah, bin einer Ihrer unzaehlichen Fans — Wie sagt man? — Bewunderer." — "Ja, aber woher wussten Sie denn? Sie koennen mich doch unmoeglich noch erkannt haben." — "Aber naturlich! Sie sind doch garnicht so sehr veraendert. Die schoenen Augen, unverkennbar." Elli Oppenheimer geb. Schwarz strich sich laechelnd wie einst, mit der Rueckseite ihrer ringeschmueckten schmalen, runzligen Hand eine Locke zurueck. "Sie sind sehr liebenswuerdig, junger Mann." — "Junger Mann ist gut!" — "Na ja, ueberlegen Sie doch, wie ich auf der Hoehe meiner Laufbahn war — haben Sie mich z.B. als Braut in "Revolutionshochzeit" gesehehn?" — "Naturlich, im Theater in der Koeniggruetzer Strasse. Unvergesslich!" — "Na sehn Sie, da war ich 30; na jetzt kann ich's ja zugeben, sagen wir hoch in den 35, und Sie waren doch sicherlich kaum aus der Schule, nicht wahr?" — "Na ja, aber jetzt sind wir ziemlich gleichaltrig. nicht wahr? Oh, da kommt mein Dreizehner; also auf Wiedersehen, Elly Schwarz." — "Ach, mein Herr, Sie wissen garnicht, was Sie mir da —" Aber da war er schon auf dem Autobus.

Sie schuettelte laechelnd den Kopf, wuehlte in ihrer Ledertasche, holte eine Puderdose heraus, schaute in den Spiegel, schnitt eine Schminke-Grimasse und schminkte sich den runzligen, aber immer noch schoenen Mund. Es dauerte noch eine lange Minute, bis sie sich, recht befriedigt, von dem Spiegelbild trennte. — "Ach was, ich werde mal ueber die Straenge schlagen und zu "Kosmo" lunched gehen. Ist ja sowieso schon zu spaet zum Einholen. Sieht man wenigstens ein paar Gesichtchen. Und dann koennte ich eigentlich ins Kino gehen; kann ich mir ruhig leisten. War ja seit Monaten nicht. Warte mal, was hat doch der Erich geraten, was ich mir ansehen soll?" Wieder taucht sie in die Handtasche und holt ihre Brille und einen zerknuelten Brief hervor. "Nein, das ist nicht der letzte. Hier, aeh, hier ist er. Ja naturlich. Charlie Chaplin in "Limelight." Das hatte sie gesagt, so laut, dass der freundliche Bauhandwerker es gehoert hatte. "Did you say Loimelought? Yes, that's roight. That's on at the Odeon." Dabei zeigte er, wie es offenbar alle Arbeiter auf der ganzen Welt tun, mit dem Daumen ueber die Schulter. Es heimelte Frau Oppenheimer geradezu an. "Smashing," sagte er. "If I were you." — "Ssank you very much, yes, I will go, ven you also fint it goot. My son writes I shall go sere." Eben ist sie im Begriff, die Brille abzu-

## Old Acquaintances

**Kortner Scandal in Berlin:** — Two years ago Fritz Kortner, who is now an Austrian citizen again, produced "Don Carlos" in Berlin and flopped. When your columnist visited Berlin last month he was in time to see Kortner try it again. He directed O'Casey's "Preispokal" in the "Schiller-Theater" — it was a theatrical event. There was a thunderstorm in the air when the curtain rose, but one did not foresee what happened afterwards. People resented first the appearance of actor Claus Holm, who a few weeks ago was still playing in East-Berlin. Others objected against the anti-war tendency of the Irish play. The brilliant performance was interrupted several times. Some made speeches. Some walked out. There was no excuse to behave like that; it was the worst theatre scandal we can remember. Nobody showed the least respect for the actors who had to wait until the riots died down. In the end, new or old Nazis took over. "Back with Werner Krauss" they shouted, and "Kortner go to Munich." No doubt, the scandal had an antisemitic flavour. Even if it was a mistake to produce that play just now, there was no reason to behave like that. Leonhard Frank, who was present after twenty years in exile, wrote a few lines in favour of his friend Kortner, and nobody risked to publish his opinion about the scandal. On this occasion we met some other old acquaintances, for instance Dr. Kurt Pinthus, who came on the invitation of Professor Knudsen to give some lectures, and Dr. Hans Sahl, who stayed as guest with Dr. Birkenfeld of the "Congress of Cultural Freedom" in Zehlendorf.

**Milestones:** — Harry Kahn, who now lives in Lugano, celebrates his 70th birthday this month. He is best remembered as the dramatic critic of "Weltbuehne," and now translates books into German. — In Tel Aviv Ernst Mandowsky celebrates his 50th birthday. He started as an actor and played in Zuckmayer's "Hauptmann von Koepe-nik"; later on he became a journalist in Berlin. He now writes for "Jerusalem Post." Many happy returns to both of them.

**German Fate:** — Henny Porten signed a contract with the DEFA in East-Berlin to make some pictures for the Communists, and everybody protested against her step. Of course, everybody knows that the ageing film star who behaved rather well under the Nazis and all the time stuck to her Jewish husband, Dr. Kaufmann, could not find a job in the West, and had no other choice. For some time American Jews collected money for Henny Porten, and now she has to accept the offer from East Germany to keep going.

**Obituaries:** — Viktor Schiff, former editor of Berlin's "Vorwaerts" and correspondent of London's "Daily Herald" in Rome, died suddenly. — Aged 71, Dr. Gustav Bock, head of Bote & Bock in Berlin, died in Wiesbaden. — Susanne Dessoir, widow of Max Dessoir, died in Koenigstein, aged 84.

**London News:** — Emmeric Pressburger's remake of Erich Kaestner's "Doppeltes Lottchen" was shown here under the title "Twice Upon a Time." — Vicki Baum's new novel "The Mustard Seed" was published by Michael Joseph. — Mischa Spolianski will score two new British pictures: Marcel Hellman's "Duel in the Jungle," and Maurice Cowan's film with Norman Wisdom in the lead. — Producer Carl Ebert took over the part of the "Pasha" in "Entfuehrung" at Glyndebourne formerly played by Anton Walbrook.

## PEM

nehmen, da faellt ihr Blick nochmals auf den Brief. "Ha, was ist denn das? Hab ich ja garnicht gesehn. Muss denn der dumme Luemmel immer quer an den Rand schreiben. Ist doch wirklich, — Waas? "Wir kommen im Mai!" Das war schon mehr ein Jubelruf, sodass auch die andern Arbeiter herueber schauten und einer sagte: "Blimey. I understand German! Almost the sime language. Come in My. Your boy-friend coming back after all, Granny?" — "No, my children!" — "Ah, that's better still, ain't it?" — "Oh, sat's too loefly, awnly ssree moens." — "Ha" — sie neigt lauschend den Kopf und hebt gluecklich laechelnd eine Hand: — "Eine Amsel" — "Haf you noticed sat se birds haf just started to sing?" — "Just started, my foot. Them birds 'ave been twittering their bloody 'eads off, ever since early morning." — "Reelly?" — "Merkwuerdig, dass ich das die ganze Zeit nicht gehoert hatte."

### A FINE WOMAN In Memory of Mia Fischer

Mia Fischer, to many just—Mia, the former head of the "Jewish Relief Unit" in Germany, passed away in London on July 3. Feelings of sincere sympathy at the loss of this kind-hearted woman and remarkable Jewish social welfare worker go out to her husband, Dr. O. O. Dutch.

The Vienna-born musician and journalist in 1944 or 1945 volunteered for relief work on the Continent. In the autumn of 1946 she was posted to the British Zone of Germany and was the last J.R.U. worker to leave the field of operations when the Unit was wound up in 1950. Mia Fischer not merely administered efficiently the affairs of that mixed group of Jewish welfare people from Britain (for which the C.B.F. was largely responsible). From her Headquarters she almost permanently travelled up and down the country including the U.S. Zone and Berlin, seeing to it that, wherever help, care and advice was required, it was given in the spirit of understanding and friendship. It was this deep-rooted, natural human attitude that gave her the rare gift of making friends amongst both the surviving Jews in Germany and the colleagues serving with the various Jewish and non-Jewish voluntary relief agencies. She was respected and admired.

Mia Fischer, who on her return to England took part in the work of the London Jewish Board of Guardians, for some months past had endured courageously a serious illness. Her early demise will be mourned by many people, old and young, in England, in Germany, and elsewhere.

E. G. L.

### GREAT AIR SUCCESS OF A FORMER REFUGEE

Some time ago, a young Jewish amateur pilot, Peter Gluckmann, created a sensation by crossing the Atlantic Ocean as a pilot of a midget plane, a more than 4-year-old Piper Luscombe. Peter Gluckmann was born in Berlin. He came to London together with his parents, who are now living at Dollis Park, Finchley, London, N.3. His father, Mr. Heinrich Gluckmann, is a member of the AJR.

In England, Peter decided to become a watchmaker. After having finished his apprenticeship he opened a shop in London. Later, he emigrated to San Francisco and established himself as a watchmaker there. In his spare time he takes part in the work of the Jewish Youth Club Emanuelites.

Suddenly he became interested in flying and took lessons in piloting. His first long-distance flight was from San Francisco to New York and back. As it was a success, Peter Gluckmann decided to fly from San Francisco to London, not because he was ambitious but only because—as a good son—he wanted to see his parents.

On his way, the weather conditions became poor over Greenland; he was delayed there and later on in Iceland. He had even difficulties in landing at an English airport.

In spite of his primitive machine he arrived safely at Northolt, and his parents, who had not been informed before, were greatly surprised and very glad to see him. The Press, both in England and in America, was full of reports about this heroic sporting event.

K. S.

### ANOTHER "RHEINSBERG"

"Es lag bei Rheinsberg"—the title of this little book by Herta Zerna (published by Universitas Verlag, Berlin, DM 4.50)—is already an obvious reminder of Kurt Tucholsky's masterpiece. Like in the work of her great colleague, the background of Herta Zerna's book is the countryside near Berlin, though otherwise there are no similarities between the two stories. Attracted by an advertisement in the "Morgenpost" in May 1939, she bought the "little house near the lake with the asparagus beds" and quickly fell in love with the place, the landscape of Brandenburg and its sometimes queer people.

This is, on first appearance, a slight and amusing non-political book, but the author tells also, quite unpretentiously and the more impressive, how she gave asylum to some of her Jewish friends. When, in the spring of 1945, Brandenburg became first a "theatre of war" and then Russian-occupied territory, the idyll came to a close. Like many Berliners who cherished their modest weekend and holiday retreats in the country, Herta Zerna nostalgically hopes that she may be allowed to return soon to her house and garden. Ex-Berliners who left much more behind and had to resettle far away from their old homes, may still sympathetically listen to this friendly and humane voice of a former "compatriot."

F. L. B.

### FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 18th of the month.

#### Births

**Wall.**—A daughter was born to Mrs. Marianne Wall, née Callman, and Mr. Hans I. Wall, of 10 Ashcombe Gardens, Edgware, Middx.

**Lawton.**—On July 11, a son, Peter Walter, was born to Mrs. Hilde Lawton (née Berg) and Dr. Herbert Lawton, of 86 Green Lane, Edgware, Middx.

### CLASSIFIED

#### Situations Vacant

**INTELLIGENT**, well-educated junior Shorthand-typist required by progressive young metal export company in W.C.2. Please apply in own handwriting to Box 264.

#### Situations Wanted

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**CABINET MAKER**, with factory experience, requires job. Box 270.

**MAN WITH MANAGERIAL** experience in Paper Trade seeks position of responsibility. Salary £600-£800. Box 271.

**GENERAL MAINTENANCE ENGINEER**, handyman, driv. licence, 45 years, married, no children, seeks perm. position as Head Porter, Caretaker or similar, in block of Offices, Flats or Factory with unf. flat. Box 265.

#### Women

**CORRESPONDENT CLERK**, exp. in export, German shorth., filing, duplicating, book-keep., invoicing, seeks position. Box 272.

**FUR FINISHER**, exp., wants part-time work. Box 273.

**CLERK**, good at figures, good ref., wants position. Box 274.

**HOME HELP** available for cooking, attending sick people, light house work or as companion. MAI 4449.

**OUTDOOR WORKERS**, skilled and unskilled, available. MAI 4449.

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**AU PAIR**. Young nurse wants accommodation against baby sitting or other light work in orthodox household. Box 275.

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### BRAZIL

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#### Miscellaneous

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**HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENT** for Xmas and Easter holidays wanted for girl aged 15 and boy aged 13 attending English Boarding School, with cultured family. Jewish atmosphere, pref. teacher with children of similar age. Parents live overseas. Box 277.

**PIANO** wanted for student of music. Box 278.

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#### MISSING PERSONS

##### Enquiries from AJR

**Seben, Desiderio**, from Hungary, for Cousin in Haifa.

**Echt, Frieda**, came to England in 1938, for Johannes Hinz, Germany.

**Silbermann, Dr. Fritz**, lawyer from Berlin, for Anna Hoernicke, Berlin.

**Metzger, Meta and Hanni**, from Berlin, for Edith Cohen, Jerusalem.

Information wanted about the following families from Ahrweiler: **Family Baer**, Altschulstr. 43; **Family Gaertner**, Ploetzer Strasse; **Family Levi**, Ploetzer Strasse.

### Personal

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### BELLA HIRSCH

who was born on 26th day of March, 1876, at 27 Kirchenstrasse Altona, Hamburg, Germany (a daughter of Kaufmann Julius Hirsch and Rahel Hirsch) died in Scotland on 14th day of June, 1953, a Spinster Intestate.

Will any person claiming to be entitled to share in the estate of the said Bella Hirsch please communicate with

**Messrs. DAVIDSON & SYME, W.S.**, of 28, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, Scotland.

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# AJR AT WORK

## HAMPSTEAD CORONATION FOREST COMMITTEE

### AJR Represented

Whilst many local and district committees all over the country will include former refugees amongst its members, the AJR is officially represented on the Committee of the Hampstead Division, which works under the chairmanship of the Mayor of Hampstead, Cllr. E. Snowman. Over the signature of the three AJR representatives, Mrs. Gertrude Hambourg, Mr. K. Bernstein and Dr. H. W. Kugelmann, a special letter has been sent out to all AJR members in the district; it is hoped that all our friends will respond as soon as possible.

## REFERENCE TO AJR IN AMERICAN QUARTERLY

In a stimulating article "Portrait of Anglo-Jewry," published in the American quarterly "The Menorah Journal" (New York) the author, Mr. Harold Soref, writes:—

"It is significant that the one other communal periodical (apart from the 'Jewish Chronicle'—The Ed.) to have a general circulation, however modest, is the organ of the Association of Jewish Refugees. The refugees have to an exceptional degree assimilated themselves to the community. No previous wave of immigrants has, under such political disadvantages, become absorbed with such rapidity in the greater whole. Rabbis and scholars of the eminence of Dr. Leo Baeck, Dr. Alexander Altman and Rabbi Ignaz Maybaum have profoundly contributed to Anglo-Jewish learning and spiritual life. Dr. Baeck has inspired the formation of a Society for Jewish Study; it conducts a weekly seminar, public lectures, and courses."

The article also pays tribute to the Wiener Library.

## THE HYPHEN

During the month of August we are having rambles, theatre visits and discussions. For further details please write to Miss L. Metzger, 45a Golders Green Road, London, N.W.11, enclosing s.a.e.

## AJR MANCHESTER BRANCH

At the meeting of the AJR Manchester Branch on July 5 the chairman, Mr. W. Treuherz, reported on the local activities during the past year; he especially dealt with the Home for the elderly people, the Morris Feinmann House, which is run under the auspices of the Group. The committee of the Group was re-elected. It consists of Mr. W. Treuherz (Chairman), Dr. Sonneborn, Dr. Friedlaender (Vice-Chairman), Dr. Kroch, Mr. Streat (Joint Treasurers), Mr. Werner, Mr. Abel (Joint Secretaries), Mr. Glaser, Mr. Simon (Joint Chairmen of the Social Committee).

## DESPATCH OF "AJR INFORMATION"

The despatch of "AJR Information" is not carried out by AJR Headquarters; any irregularities are therefore due to reasons beyond the AJR's control. Readers who do not receive their current issue when it becomes due should report to AJR Headquarters, from where they will receive another copy.

## MORRIS FEINMANN MEMORIAL TRUST

The Trustees of the above Fund invite applications from Students about to start their University course or from those already attending a University who require financial assistance to complete their studies and have not yet obtained a first degree such as B.A., B.Sc., etc.

Applications in the first instance should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. K. Sonneborn, Stamford Lodge, Chesham Place, Bowdon, Nr. Altrincham, Cheshire.

## OUR PARENTS' HOME IN JOHANNESBURG

An impressive brochure issued as a "Barmitzvah issue" reflects the splendid work of former German Jews in South Africa, who in 1940 founded a home for the aged called Our Parents' Home (Johannesburg). The home now accommodates 143 residents coming from all sections of the Jewish community in South Africa. Pictures in the well-made-up brochure reveal the fine design and the comfortable interior of the home.

## PERSONALIA

Professor Moritz J. Bonn, the well-known economist, who now lives in London, was awarded the German "Grand Order of Merit with Star" on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

The art historian Professor Franz Landsberger, was 70 years old recently. Until 1933, he was Professor at Breslau University, afterwards he became Director of the Berlin Jewish Museum. Since 1938, Professor Landsberger has been on the teaching staff of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

On July 25, Dr. Rudolf Geiger (now New York) celebrated his 80th birthday. Dr. Geiger played a prominent part in the work of the Frankfort Jewish Community and of the Jewish Central-Verein.

Dr. Wilhelm Freyhan, formerly Breslau, now Tel Aviv, was 70 years old recently. In Germany, he was an outstanding leader of Orthodox Jewry. He was also one of the initiators of the Jewish High School in Breslau, and a Vice-Chairman of the Breslau Jewish Community.

Rabbi Israel Nobel (formerly Berlin), who now lives in Israel, recently celebrated his 75th birthday.

## DEATHS

The painter Alfred N. Oppenheim (formerly Frankfort/Main) passed away in London, 80 years old. He was the grandson of the famous Jewish portraitist, Professor Moritz Oppenheim, and an artist of the highest reputation.

The painter Leonhard Fries, who was widely known by his outstanding activities in the field of Applied Art, died in London recently. His gift for slogans was appreciated by advertisers in many countries and the greatest firms were among his clients. He was also successful as a pure artist and one of his last works was a portrait of Leo Baeck.

## RATHENAU POSTAGE STAMP

The West Berlin Post Office Department has issued a 6-Pfennig stamp with the portrait of Walter Rathenau.

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