

# AJR

# INFORMATION

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Alfred Joachim Fischer:

## FOCUS ON ARMISTICE COMMISSION

The Chief of the Joint Armistice Commission in Palestine, General Vagn Bennike, has been summoned to Lake Success to report to the UN Security Council on the new Palestine crisis. Four top-level personalities in turn have tried to solve this delicate problem. The Swedish Count Folke Bernadotte and the American Negro Professor Ralph Bunche, whose genuine humanity won him sympathisers amongst Jews and Arabs alike, served as first mediators. Then the Joint Armistice Commission was inaugurated in 1949. Its first chief was the U.S. General William Riley. More diplomat than soldier, he always sensed the line of least resistance, and on principal decided against this party. Doubtless he did much to save the peace. His successor, General Vagn Bennike, has held this post for only a short time. He hails from Denmark, a model humanitarian country, where, in 1943, the rescue of Danish and foreign Jews became the cause of the whole nation. Bennike, formerly Inspector General of the Engineer Corps, wrote outstanding books about military architecture. From 1943 to 1945 he was the leader of the very active resistance movement in Jütland.

### QIBYA

It is some time since Jewish minds have been stirred as they were over the bloodshed in the Jordan village of Qibya. The Presidents of the Board of Deputies and of the Anglo-Jewish Association utterly deplored the outrage but with an emphasis no less great criticised the Foreign Office communiqué for "condemning one of the parties to the dispute . . . in terms which indicate that they ignore the background leading up to the incident at Qibya."

But whereas Dr. Cohen was upheld by the Board, the Hon. E. Montagu, Q.C., encountered considerable opposition among his friends, notably from the Vice-President, Mr. Neville Laski, Q.C., and a former President of the AJA, Mr. Leonard Stein, who thought that in failing to condemn unreservedly the "horrifying disservice to the Jewish nation," the statement was "not worthy of us and did not respond to the requirements of the situation." This was also the opinion of the Jewish Chronicle which denounced the attack on grounds alike of morality and expediency.

Broadly there was agreement that Israel must be held to account. The Zionist Federation's journal confessed the news had "hurt Israel's friends and provided her enemies with another stick with which to belabour her practices." The Government of Israel too declared they "regarded the loss of innocent life at Qibya with profound and unreserved regret." The question was how far the guilty party was entitled to claim extenuating circumstances.

It was said that the attack was merely a "symptom," an "ugly outgrowth," of a greater evil—the absence of peace on the Israeli-Jordan frontier for which the Arab States and their Western supporters were blamed in turn. The Mizrahi Jewish Review refused to convict Israel of "an act of cruel vindictiveness" because she had been forced to strike "by considerations of security and by anxious fears of Arab intentions."

This view was challenged by others broadly agreeing with Sir Gladwyn Jebb, the British delegate in the UN Security Council, who was "sad to think that the Lex Talionis (law of tooth and claw) should apparently find such ready acceptance among a small people, themselves composed for the most part of refugees who have suffered unspeakable hardships and oppressions."

During my half year's stay in Israel, I collected a great deal of material about the permanent difficulties facing the Commission. One must not forget that the one-and-a-half million people of Israel have to guard a hostile 750 mile frontier, which separates her from four neighbours (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt), who are supported by Iraq, Saudi-Arabia, Yemen and the rest of the Arab world. There is hardly a highway from which one cannot look across on to Arab territory. The railway tracks from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and from Tel Aviv to Haifa lie at a distance of only two or three yards from Arab-controlled territory. But the present frontier also runs through villages and towns. Farms have even been separated from their own fields and vice versa. Naturally, the smuggling trade flourishes. In the bazaars of Old Jerusalem, anyone can buy nylons "Made in Israel." Jerusalem and Latrun particularly are strategical Achilles' heels. Barbed wire fences and warning posters in five languages divide the hostile neighbours. If the barbed wire did not serve as a barrier, one could reach the Arab-controlled Old City from the Israeli Main Post Office in two minutes. While a house on the left may be guarded by Israeli soldiers, Jordan Legionaries with their red Tarbush (headkerchiefs) could be looking across from the flat roof on the right. If the two Semitic brothers were not at war they could throw cigarettes to each other. The so-called Arawa road, which is actually no road, but hard sand, runs through the Negev desert. Half of it belongs to Israel and the other to Jordan.

### Ex-territorial Headquarters

No, the armistice commission does not face an easy task. Its seat is ex-territorial, yet every hotel porter from the Old and the New City can dial its telephone number. As I drive up past an Israeli army camp I am stopped by a Jewish policeman, who has been informed about me at H.Q. and compares the name on my passport with his instructions.

Up on the hilltop at the end of the No-Man's Land a UN trooper stands on guard; the one I saw was a Brazilian. He rings through to Headquarters announcing my arrival and, after passing the

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Particularly Professor Norman Bentwich stressed the strictly moral considerations. He recalled that when asking for admission to the United Nations, Israel's Foreign Secretary, Mr. Sharett, had declared in the Knesset: "The State of Israel will not estrange itself from the national heritage of the Jewish people, the fundamental tenets of which are love of man, the pursuit of peace and loyalty to justice." Even now, while explaining the attack on Qibya in its proper political and psychological setting, the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Ben Gurion, affirmed that "like all past Jewish generations, we have faith in the vision of peace of the Prophets of Israel."

These sentiments were in harmony with the message which Professor Ernst Simon, of the Hebrew University, has just delivered, under the auspices of the Jewish Agency, to a large number of Jewish audiences in this country. Of what service would it be, he asked, if we made of Israel "another Uganda"? That form of assimilation, together with the various forms of Diaspora assimilation, would result in the general debility of Jewish life. With great effect he quoted the words of an outspoken political Zionist, the late Berl Kaznelson: "Political independence is a very important thing, but the moral image of our next generation is even more important."

### ABRAHAM HOROVITZ

By the sudden death on November 19 of its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Abraham Horovitz, the AJR has suffered a severe loss. He was one of the founders of the organisation and the only member of the present Executive who had been associated with its work from the very beginning. Throughout the years, he took part in almost every deliberation of this responsible body of the AJR. This continuity in itself indicates his share in the achievements of the AJR. It also testifies to his strong sense of duty, one of the most conspicuous qualities of Abraham Horovitz. It will not be possible to fill adequately the gap caused by his unexpected departure. His counsel will be missed by the AJR as well as by the "Council of Jews from Germany" and by the "United Restitution Office" on whose Committees he also served.

Abraham Horovitz was the scion of a distinguished Frankfurt family. Like his father, Rabbi Marcus Horovitz, he was a staunch protagonist of orthodox Judaism, but, also like his father, he believed in the unity of Jewry and, within the large Frankfurt community, co-operated with those who did not share his conception of Jewish life. He was not easily ready to make concessions if fundamental principles were involved, but he always respected a man's sincerity even if he did not share his views. On the other hand, everybody was bound to sense that his strict observance of the Jewish Law was urged by a deeply rooted, genuine religious outlook which shaped not only the rhythm of his daily life but also his approach to the manifold problems of our times. In Frankfurt, many Jewish efforts focused on this strong personality, and beyond his home community, he was a well-known and widely respected figure in German Jewish life, especially as Deputy to the "Landesverband" of the Jewish communities in Prussia and, later on, to the "Reichsvertretung." At the same time, he was the trusted lawyer and friend of innumerable clients who sought his advice. His personal courage revealed itself on many occasions, especially when he served as an officer during the First World War and, after 1933, when he defended Jews before the Nazi authorities. Even during the last years of his life, when age took its toll, he never spared himself. With undiminished conscientiousness, he devoted himself to the causes which were near to his heart. To the very last hour of his life, he was able to attend to his work. This may have been a blessing for him, yet for those he leaves behind, for his family, his friends and the partners in his work, the abrupt end of this full and noble life makes the loss even more distressing. W. R.

(Further tributes will be published in the next issue.)

## DER LASTENAUSGLEICH BEI VERKAUFEN RUECKERSTATTETER GRUNDSTUECKE

Bei Verkäufen rueckerstatteter Grundstücke spielen die Abreden ueber die Verpflichtungen aufgrund des Lastenausgleichsgesetzes (LAG) eine nicht unwesentliche Rolle. Die Kenntnis der Rechtslage ist wichtig sowohl fuer die Entschliessung ueber die Verkaufsbedingungen als auch fuer die Formulierung der Vereinbarungen ueber den Lastenausgleich in den Kaufverträgen. Hierbei muss zwischen den beiden hier in Frage kommenden Lasten unterschieden werden, (1) der Vermoegensabgabe (in Berlin werden die dort erhobenen Abgaben, die Notabgabe und die Uebergangsabgabe, in die Vermoegensabgabe uebergeleitet) und (2) der Hypothekengewinnabgabe.

### 1. Die Vermoegensabgabe

Die im Ausland Lebenden unterliegen der sogenannten beschränkten Abgabepflicht, die sich nur auf bestimmte im Bewertungsgesetz genannte Vermoegenswerte, insbesondere land- und forstwirtschaftliches Vermoegen, Grundstuecke, Hypotheken und Betriebsvermoegen, erstreckt.

Abgabeschuldner ist derjenige, dem das abgabepflichtige Vermoegen am 21. Juni 1948 (in Berlin am 1. April 1949) gehoert hat. In Rueckerstattungsfaellen gilt die Rueckerstattung als mit dem vorgeannten Zeitpunkt eingetreten (§ 27 LAG).

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warning signal "Sound your horn thrice," I eventually reach the main house. Built by Lord (then Sir Herbert) Samuel, the first High Commissioner and trustee of the British mandatory power, it overlooks the eternal city from a majestic height. A second road leads down to the more romantic Old Jerusalem with its historic reminiscences for all three world religions. The receptionist cum switchboard girl is Greek. She lives in the old city and is a great linguist, speaking fluent Hebrew and Arabic.

Without any more formalities, a French UN officer introduces me to the chief of the Armistice Commission and now I hear from an authentic source how its work is carried out. Separate commissions solve questions pertaining to Israel and Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. The meetings are held alternately on Israeli and Arab territory. After heated discussions, the host usually serves a substantial meal. Israel, Egypt and Syria have dispatched high-ranking officers as leaders and members of the delegations. Lebanon always adds a Police Lieutenant, while Jordan appoints only civilian dignitaries. These are usually refugees from Israel, and for this if for no other reason they remain stubborn and hardheaded. Chairman of the commissions is invariably the UN representative.

Even the more harmless points on the agenda require hours of discussion before they are finally settled. Prisoners are exchanged and Arab infiltrants repatriated. Arabs who live in Israel are reunited with their families. According to a fixed procedure, cattle which have strayed across the borders are returned, and a small fine has to be paid in payment of care and fodder. As far as the flocks of the Maronite Bishop are concerned the fine is waived by the Israelis. Then the question comes up which diplomats and high-ranking clergymen should be allowed to cross the frontier. Israel permits her Christian compatriots to make pilgrimages to Old Jerusalem and Bethlehem at Christmas and Easter, but the Arabs allow no Jew to visit the greatest sanctuary of his religion, the Wailing Wall.

Finally, the more difficult issues on the agenda have to be dealt with: almost daily shootings in Jerusalem, robberies and attacks. (Four Israeli guards who escorted me through the copper mines in the Negev desert were found murdered two days later, probably by a Bedouin band smuggling hashish, other narcotics and arms.) Last, but not least, there are critical conflicts such as the Hule quarrel with Syria, Jordan's attempts to shift the Negev frontier by force, Israel's alleged diversion of the Jordan river, and the new conflict between Israel and Jordan.

The white UN cars move about freely from Israel to Arab-controlled or Arab territory. They also accompany the fortnightly blind convoy to Mount Scopus, where the Hebrew University with its spectacular library and the Hadassa hospital are situated. The vast compound is unused except for some Israeli troops on guard, while below there are too few faculty rooms, books and, of course, not sufficient hospital beds.

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Zugunsten derjenigen, denen Vermoegen entzogen war und zurueckerstattet worden ist, gilt die Verguenstigung, dass dieses Vermoegen bei der Ermittlung des der Abgabe unterliegenden Vermoegens nur insoweit, als sein Wert den Betrag von DM 150.000,— uebersteigt, und darueber hinaus nur mit 90 v.H. seines Wertes anzusetzen ist (§ 26 LAG). Fuer Berlin ist zunaechst nur eine provisorische Regelung vorgesehen, auf Grund deren die Vorauszahlungen auf die Notabgabe und die Uebergangsabgabe auf Antrag vorlaeufig zu stunden sind.

Es gilt das Prinzip der "bleibenden Alleinschuldnerschaft des Abgabeschuldners." Das bedeutet, dass der urspruengliche Abgabeschuldner unveraendert haftbar bleibt, dass also spaetere Veraenderungen des Vermoegens, insbesondere eine Veraeuserung von Vermoegenswerten, ohne Einfluss auf die Abgabeschuld des Stichtag-Eigentuemers sind.

Der Grundsatz der bleibenden Alleinschuldnerschaft des Stichtag-Eigentuemers schliesst aber nicht aus, dass im Falle einer Veraeuserung die Beteiligten eine Vereinbarung dahin treffen, dass der Erwerber eine etwa bestehende Abgabeschuld des Veraeuserers ganz oder teilweise uebernimmt. Eine solche in der Kaufverhandlung festzulegende Vereinbarung hat zunaechst nur interne Wirkung zwischen den Vertragschliessenden. Wenn der Veraeuserer aus dem Abgabeschuldverhaeltnis auch dem Finanzamt gegenueber aus seiner Haftung entlassen werden soll, so haben Veraeuserer und Erwerber einen Antrag auf Genehmigung der Schulduebernahme zu stellen, und das Finanzamt erteilt die Genehmigung, wenn die Aussichten fuer die Verwirklichung des Abgabeanspruchs dadurch nicht wesentlich verschlechtert werden und der Abloesungswert der uebernommenen Schuld die Haelfte des steuerlichen Zeitwertes des erworbenen Vermoegens nicht uebersteigt (§ 60 LAG).

Der gemeinsam an das Finanzamt zu stellende Antrag wird zweckmaessigerweise in die notarielle Kaufverhandlung aufgenommen.

Die Uebernahme der Abgabeschuld bedeutet, sofern fuer den Veraeuserer keine Abgabepflicht besteht, auch fuer den Erwerber keine Belastung, da sich die Hoehe der Abgabeschuld stets nach den Verhaeltnissen desjenigen richtet, in dessen Person die Abgabeschuld am 21. Juni 1948 (in Berlin am 1. April 1949) besteht. Die fuer den Veraeuserer bestehende Verguenstigung kommt also auch dem Erwerber zugute.

### 2. Die Hypothekengewinnabgabe

Diese Abgabe wird auf die Waerungsgewinne erhoben, die sich aus der Umstellung von durch Grundpfandrecht gesicherten Reichsmarkverbindlichkeiten (im Verhaeltnis 10 RM zu 1 DM) am 20. Juni 1948 ergeben haben (§ 91 LAG). Das Lastenausgleichsgesetz sieht in Bezug auf diese Abgabe bisher keine Verguenstigung fuer diejenigen vor, die Grundstuecke im Wege der Rueckerstattung zurueckerhalten haben.

Diese Abgabeschuld ruht als oeffentliche Last auf dem Grundstueck (§ 111 LAG). Das bedeutet, dass sie grundsaezlich mit dem Eigentum am Grundstueck untrennbar verbunden ist. Der den Steuerbehoerden gegenueber zur Abgabe Verpflichtete ist also der jeweilige Eigentuemer des Grundstuecks. Infolgedessen wird im Falle einer Veraeuserung des Grundstuecks der Veraeuserer den Steuerbehoerden gegenueber der Abgabepflichten ledig, und diese gehen auf den Erwerber ueber.

Diese Grundsaeetze gelten jedoch ausschliesslich den Steuerbehoerden gegenueber. Wird das mit der Hypothekengewinnabgabe belastete Grundstueck (nach dem Inkrafttreten des LAG) veraeussert, so ist im Verhaeltnis der Vertragsparteien zueinander nach ausdruerklicher gesetzlicher Vorschrift der Verkaufser verpflichtet, den Kaeufer von der Abgabepflicht zu befreien (§123 LAG). Er ist dem Verkaufser gegenueber verpflichtet, die Abgabeschuld abzuloesen. Nach gesetzlicher Vorschrift sind jedoch abweichende Vereinbarungen zugelassen. Will sich also der Verkaufser, wie es regelmaessig der Fall sein wird, dem Kaeufer gegenueber von der Abloesungsverpflichtung befreien, so muss dies in der Kaufverhandlung ausdruerklich festgelegt werden. Ueber Bestand und Hoehe der Abgabeschuld hat das Finanzamt dem Grundstueckseigentuemer auf Verlangen Auskunft zu erteilen (§ 128 LAG).

F.S.

## MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

### Federal Indemnification Law Criticized

At a recent meeting, the Association of Democratic Lawyers from Germany, London, passed a resolution which, whilst recognizing the Federal Indemnification Law as a further step towards compensation, stressed the necessity for improvements in at least the following respects:

1. The right to receive compensation ought only to depend on the loss having been suffered "in connection with the persecution."

2. Those entitled to receive compensation should include all persons expelled from the territory of the German Reich and all persons expelled from their former German home by German measures of persecution, and their descendants.

3. The provisions in articles 7 and 21(3) of the Law, which will in most cases either prevent or unduly delay compensation for payment of special levies and Reich Flight Tax, ought to be amended on the lines laid down in article 72 of the draft of the Federal Council (Bundesrat).

4. The provision in article 7(2) ought to be extended to those cases where owing to errors concerning the effect of the law restitution claims were either withdrawn or not made at all within the prescribed times.

5. The measure of compensation ought not to be the emoluments of comparable civil servants, but the financial and social conditions of the persecuted person if this justifies a higher compensation.

6. Independently of the priorities laid down in article 78 advance payments ought to be allowed in appropriate cases.

7. Where the persecuted person can choose between a lump sum compensation or an annuity (articles 33 and 36) the same choice ought to be given to the widow.

8. The words "concerning regard to contributory negligence and" in article 3(1) ought to be deleted.

9. The inheritability of all compensation provided for in the Law ought to be determined uniformly on the principles of article 10. In particular, the last sentence of article 66(2) ought to be deleted.

10. The compensation for loss of professional or business income ought to be substantially and appropriately increased beyond the maximum amount of 25,000 DM laid down in article 25(3).

11. All sums received as compensation ought to remain free from tax.

12. The "Law relating to the Financial Obligations of the German Reich under the Restitution Law" ought now be enacted with every possible despatch.

13. A second paragraph ought to be added to article 19, reading as follows:

"The successor organisation shall assign the compensation claim to such persons entitled thereto or their heirs as have omitted to file the claim for compensation in time, and shall similarly pay over any compensation already received, subject to the deduction of a reasonable contribution towards the costs."

14. To article 103 there should be added the following fourth paragraph:

"But the person entitled to the claim may be represented by any advocate formerly admitted in any German court whose admission was terminated for the reasons referred to in article 1(1)."

As readers of "AJR Information" will have seen in previous issues the "Council of Jews from Germany" has also urgently called for amendments of the Law.

## WAERUNGSGUTHABEN UND FORDERUNGEN GEGEN KONVERSIONSKASSE

Auf Grund des Abkommens ueber Deutsche Auslandsschulden vom 27. Februar 1953 und des Bundesgesetzes zur Ausfuhrung dieses Abkommens vom 24. August 1953 werden jetzt Waerungsguthaben gegen Banken im Bundesgebiet oder Westberlin aus Transfargeschaeften, die nach Kriegsausbruch nicht zur Durchfuhrung gelangt sind, durch effektive Waerungszahlung geregelt. Das Abkommen gilt namentlich fuer Glaebiger, die in Grossbritannien ansaessig sind. Es wird den Berechtigten empfohlen, Antraege bei der Bank zu stellen, bei der das Konto besteht.

Soweit fuer Inhaber von Wertpapieren Zinsen und Dividenden oder von Grundbesitz Mietzinsueberschuesse an die Konversionskasse fuer Deutsche Auslandsschulden in Berlin einbezahlt worden sind, wende man sich an die Bank, die die Ueberweisung bewirkt hat.

Marie Sackin :

## HANS A. KREBS

The Nobel Prize Winner from Hildesheim

Hans A. Krebs, 53-years old Professor of Biochemistry at Sheffield University, is sharing this year's Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology with Professor Fritz Albert Lipmann, another German Jewish refugee.

Professor Krebs was born in Hildesheim. He studied medicine in Göttingen, Munich, Berlin and Hamburg where he qualified. From 1926 to 1930 he worked as an assistant at the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute in Berlin. Later he accepted an appointment at Freiburg University. Immediately after Hitler had come to power he emigrated to England. After some years in Cambridge he was appointed lecturer in pharmacology at Sheffield University where in 1945 a chair in Biochemistry was specially created for him.

Professor Krebs has discovered the so-called "Citric-acid-cycle" or "Krebs-Cycle" which explains the process of oxidation in the living cell. His theory which has enormously advanced biochemical research explains the happenings in the living cell, by which fats, carbohydrates and proteins are converted into energy. His work has not only clarified the picture of biochemical processes in the living organism generally but is also of value in the study of certain pathological conditions.

When I first heard the news of his having won the award my mind turned back to April 1, 1933, Boycott Day. On that day two S.A. men were standing outside the surgery of Professor Krebs's father, an eminently efficient surgeon in Hildesheim, our common home-town. The S.A. men were carrying a poster saying "Don't consult this Jewish quack." It was on the same day that the weekly German Zionist paper published a leading article entitled "Tragt ihn mit Stolz, den gelben Fleck" (Wear the Yellow Star with pride). If I then felt proud to have my lot thrown in with Dr. Krebs rather than with the two S.A. men I feel prouder still to-day that the highest award should have been granted to one whom the Nazis disdained.

In Professor Krebs the two factors which might make a man great are combined: genius and a passion for work. He presents an example of the happy marriage between German "Fleiss" and Jewish brilliance of mind.

Professor Krebs' industry is boundless. It is not known at what time he begins work in the morning—nobody has ever arrived in the laboratory before him—but his wife tells me that he continues working at home every night till 11 p.m. His interest in his work makes him immune from noises and it does not disturb him in the least if his own three children as well as a number of their friends play round his desk. When they were smaller he is said to have so completely forgotten their presence that on crossing the room he occasionally stepped on some of them. Now they are obstacles too big to be unnoticeable. Two are at Sheffield grammar schools and the youngest is still at a primary school. The fact that he has not sent them to private schools is one proof of his unpretentiousness; the fact that he is content with a professorship at a comparatively small university, another. His only relaxation is gardening. In an allotment near his small modern "semi" he grows Bavarian "Bierrettich," a vegetable which is hardly eatable but of which he is prouder than of the "Krebs-Cycle."

It is only natural for a man like Professor Krebs not to have to smoke or drink, and like most people for whom their work is their hobby he looks young, well and happy. His assistants treat him as if he were the absent-minded kind of professor and tell him that his tie is not straight or that he forgot to comb his hair. But in reality he always looks very neat and trim and his mind is certainly present with whatever he does. He writes extremely well and can instantly translate the result of his work from English into German. He is always ready to help and advise others, particularly any fellow-refugee who appeals to him.

Although he cannot really afford the time for social gatherings he makes an exception with any refugees whom he had known in Germany. Thanks to this touching attitude of his I see him rather more often in Sheffield than I used to see him in Germany. Sometimes he calls just for my own sake, sometimes because I announce to him the arrival of a visitor who, like myself, lays no claim to distinction save a Hildesheimer origin. Like the Lady of Alface he comes immediately. These evenings are always most pleasant, and it is then difficult to believe that this boyish-looking man who is easily roused to tears of laughter is the originator of an epoch-making theory.

Since that day in November 1938 when Professor Krebs' father was led round the burning Synagogue of Hildesheim many more buildings have been burned down there. One bomb attack in March 1945 completely destroyed the famous market place and beautiful old Churches which had lent Hildesheim distinction. An utterly indifferent town was born out of the rubble. If it has now become newsworthy again it is due to the achievements of one of its sons whom it expelled.

HERBERT FREEDEN

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

The Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh addressed a company of Jewish notables assembled at a banquet in the Guildhall, London, to celebrate the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest in Israel. His Royal Highness warmly praised the loyalty and service of British Jewry: "We in the British Commonwealth and Empire (he said) can count ourselves fortunate that the Jews made this their second home. In science, politics, industry and commerce they have brought us great benefits, and as I saw myself at the Jewish ex-servicemen's parade (last November) they did not shirk fighting for us."

As President of the British Athletic Board, the Duke also honoured the Jewish community when he officially opened the Maccabi Stadium running track at Hendon.

Another member of the Royal Family, the Duchess of Gloucester, visited the West Central Jewish Club to mark the Club's diamond jubilee year and the official opening of its new premises.

Dr. Altmann

A striking statement on "The Task before Anglo-Jewry" was made by Dr. A. Altmann, Communal Rabbi of Manchester, when he spoke to the Anglo-Jewish Association about the need for a synthesis "between Jewish traditions and that great British civilisation and way of life in which we share." The Jewish people, he said, had always had to achieve a synthesis with its environment, and he felt that Anglo-Jewry was in a most fortunate position because here the synthesis would be one between two elements which had very much in common, especially the Biblical tradition.

Dr. Altmann encountered strong orthodox criticism. A demand by an "Action Committee against Reform" that Dr. Altmann be excommunicated, was condemned by the Manchester Association of Rabbis and Ministers.

Education

The classes maintained by the London Board of Jewish Religious Education are now attended by some 13,000 pupils—2,400 more than in 1950. The number of teachers is about 400. During the last three years, twelve new sets of classes have been opened, mainly in the new housing estates of outer London. The Board will probably have a deficit of about £12,000, but its chairman, Mr. Alfred Woolf, J.P., gave a firm assurance that financial considerations would not be allowed to interfere with the expansion of Jewish education or with the principle of providing it entirely free for all Jewish children who desired it.

In an address to the Anglo-Israel Association, the Home Secretary, Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, Q.C., expressed admiration for the manifold and outstanding achievements of the Jews in Israel. He added that their link with the Diaspora gave Israel "a unique position in international affairs."

Freedom from Prejudice

The "British character" was extolled by Alderman A. Moss, a Vice-President of the Board of Deputies. Referring to his own position as Lord Mayor of Manchester, he said many Jews were still a little sensitive about what the reactions of a number of non-Jews might be when a Jew was called upon to occupy a prominent civic position. His experience was that there had been "no reaction other than favourable" to the fact that the Lord Mayor was as conscious of his Jewish duty (religious and national) as he was of his general civic responsibilities. "I can only say that never before has there been in this country so little hostile feeling towards Jews. There is something fundamental in the British national character that will never allow seeds of prejudice to take root."

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## TWO GERMAN POETS

Hans Carossa and Reinhold Schneider

Hans Carossa will be 75 on December 15th. His collected works, poems and prose, comprising two handsomely printed volumes of the Insel-Verlag, are documents of a Goethean existence in our time. The comparison has been drawn almost from Carossa's beginnings. Most of his writings are autobiographical, and there is hardly another contemporary autobiographer so lacking in vanity but able, without overrating the importance of his private affairs, to select seemingly insignificant facts and to treat them within the perspective of a greater universe. His language flows in periods of Goethean harmony and tranquility, without losing the earthy tang of the soil from which Carossa sprung. In spite of his erudition and life-long study of Goethe, it was a certain inborn affinity which made Carossa's imitation so natural. What Wilhelm Meister became at the end of his quest, Hans Carossa was from the start: a physician practising a humanity, akin to that of Albert Schweitzer.

"Ungleiche Welten," his latest book, would be an apt title for Carossa's entire production. We are shown a man who stayed in Hitler's Germany, trying to remain inconspicuous and not asking for trouble. Early recognized abroad for the representative character and the quality of his writings, he was wooed more than any other writer by the Nazis. When offered membership of their Dichterkademie he declined, but when he was later awarded the Goethe Prize (which he would have deserved in those years under any Government) he concluded with a confession of allegiance "to the Order of those to whom all countries and oceans would not suffice, if the realm of the spirit and the heart remained unconquered."

### THE WANDERING SCHOLAR

A few years ago Professor M. J. Bonn—well known to many London refugees for his interesting lectures and his brilliant contributions to debates—brought out a volume of personal memoirs under the well-chosen title "A Wandering Scholar." Now the Paul List Verlag in München publishes a German version (DM.15.80) under the much less adequate title "So macht man Geschichte." For, in fact, Professor Bonn claims to have helped "to make history" only for a very short time—between the Treaty of Versailles and the French occupation of the Ruhr. He was then attached as an expert to the German delegation at the most important international conferences, particularly in Spa (1920); with the help of his excellent English connections, he succeeded in avoiding the catastrophe to which the intransigence and arrogance of Hugo Stinnes, the big industrialist, might have led. Two years later, at Geneva, he had to try and redress the damage caused to Germany's relations with the Western Allies by the sudden conclusion of the Rapallo Treaty, and this time he, of course, failed. What Bonn tells us about these conferences is highly interesting, but it is only a small part of his book, which also introduces the reader to the author's youth in Frankfurt as a scion of a well-to-do Jewish family with numerous international relations, to his academic activity at German universities and to his "wanderings" all over the world—in the United States, South Africa, Italy, Great Britain and Ireland. He has seen very much and known many people of different nationalities, much more than most of the men who make history or write about it. And he has the particular gift of narrating in a graphic and often witty way. The persons he describes come to life. How splendid is, for instance, on the one hand the portrait of Professor Lujo Brentano whom he venerates as his teacher, guide and friend, or, on the other, that of Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, the German Foreign Secretary at Versailles. The student of German history will be interested in Bonn's recollections of the revolutionary period in München (1918/9) and in his experiences as rector of the Berlin Handelshochschule in 1933. Others will enjoy the description of the Jewish family atmosphere in Frankfurt and in the Austrian house of his grandfather. The German reader should ponder over the wise words which the octogenarian author writes in his last chapter "Heimkehr?"

ERICH EYCK

Carossa does not lightly gloss over the part he played in those grievous years, nor does he boast of the assistance he was occasionally able to render to the persecuted. He was, amongst other things, instrumental in the rescue of the Jewish poet Alfred Mombert. It was his dilemma that he was neither a cynic using a long spoon to sup with the devil, nor thought fit to withdraw into seclusion claiming the poet's right to live in a world of his own. On the whole he achieved most nobly the tasks he set himself: not to alienate himself from the people to whom he belonged; to cultivate the development of his own personality by keeping contact with the world outside Germany, even at the expense of reluctantly becoming the President of Goebbel's "League of European Writers"; and to use the fairly "good terms" on which he was with the rulers, whenever possible, to the good. His writing was done in secret, but whereas he did not risk allowing his conscience to speak openly in his works, he was driven by it to act against the military governor of Passau in order to prevent its bombardment. Only the arrival of the Americans saved him from execution.

#### Compassion with Jews

A man of deep religious feeling, he tries to see whether any good has come out of evil: the founding of the State of Israel and a new spiritual urge arising from the persecution of the Churches. But the spirits of the murdered will not be at rest and, in his own words: "No Law Court on earth can atone. . . . A single thought of sincere good would be more valuable than any restitutions. It is not enough to accept and honour Jews of the standing of Martin Buber, Max Liebermann, Ludwig Strauss, Felix Brown, or Regina Ullmann. We must also find a way to live in peace with those who are not famous or not particularly likeable, and even those who are embittered and disillusioned. Some day, perhaps, hatred of the Jews may arise in some other country; then it will be up to the Germans to protect the persecuted. In the immense crisis of mankind our relationship to Judaism may well prove the most important factor."

Among the secret works Carossa wrote in 1943 there was a poem entitled "Abendländische Elegie," voicing hope for the rebirth of Western Civilisation and melancholy over the seemingly endless time of waiting which might shake our belief.

Immediately after the war, Reinhold Schneider, Carossa's junior by a quarter of a century, founded and edited the "Occidental Library." During the war, he had given spiritual comfort through his poems and religious writings, clandestine publications that passed from hand to hand. On the occasion of his fiftieth birthday he was awarded the highest order of the Federal Republic, the Pour le Merite. He holds many opinions in common with Carossa and wrote that "only atonement together with moral and religious rebirth can help the Germans to bring them gradually back into the comity of nations." However modestly, he was conscious of his ethical "resistance" activities, and conscious, too, that many more ought to have done the same. In 1938 he wrote "Las Casas before Charles V," an indictment of the atrocious deeds performed by subjects of the most Christian Emperor against the Aztecs of Mexico, and he added the prophecy that "terrible punishment would follow terrible crime." Slipping through the Censor's meshes at first, eventually the true meaning was realised and the author forbidden to write. However, he continued to do so in secret, and towards the end of the war he faced a charge of defeatism.

Schneider's biographer, Hans Urs von Balthasar (Jakob Hegner Verlag), a reliable expert guide through the author's many, partly no longer available works, shows how in Schneider's historical essays and stories about Portugal (Camoës), Spain (Philip II), Prussia (Die Hohenzollern), England (Das Inselreich) and others the Divine is reflected in its manifestations as Power and Holiness, Guilt and Grace, Atonement and Service. Rulers and Saints are Schneider's favourite heroes, with the idea of the Kingdom of God as a leitmotif. Meditating about the cultural education of the German people after the disaster, he attempted a revaluation of German literature. Without any debunking

### A NOVEL ABOUT US

The eclipse of German Jewry with its effects on the destiny of several hundred thousand human beings seems to provide unlimited raw material for poets and writers. Nevertheless, so far only comparatively few authors of world fame have devoted their genius and craftsmanship to this subject, which offers at least as many artistic opportunities as the plight of another persecuted minority, immortalised in Werfel's "Forty Days of the Musa Dhag." Perhaps it is no accident either that the first Jewish novelist who tried to interpret the impact of the events in 1933, Gerson Stern ("Weg ohne Ende"), took refuge in a past event in our history, the expulsion of the Jews in Prague.

These general observations are not meant to minimise in any way the efforts of Kaethe Werner who, in her recently published novel *Wir sind alle nur Menschen* (Olympia, Tel Aviv, obtainable in this country through Hans Preiss, 15/-) set out to record the fate of a German-Jewish family after 1933. The scene is a small Westfalian town, where the Bergers had been respected citizens. To be sure, their security and that of their fellow-Jews was limited already before the Nazis came to power; anti-Semitism at schools and in social life are vividly described by the author. Yet, on the whole, these Jews in the small townships were integrated into their environment and enjoyed the confidence of their Gentile neighbours with whom they had to do business. The gradual deterioration of the relationship, culminating in open persecution, expulsion and deportation, is the background of the story. One of the most moving scenes is the humiliation of the young Jewish woman whom drunken S.A. men force into the inn where she defies the mockery of her former fellow-citizens. Mrs. Werner's novel helps to keep alive the remembrance of these eventful years. The skilful exposition of the plot and the realistic design of the main characters enhance the value of her book, which deserves to become known not only to the author's fellow-refugees but also to those in whose name this darkest period of our history was enacted.

W. ROSENSTOCK

he had his doubts whether the popularity of Faust and Wallenstein had been altogether beneficial. His essays on Klopstock, Hölderlin, Kleist, Novalis, Arnim, Brentano, Lenau and Droste are on the firm ground of his religious conviction, but they soar into the stratosphere of interpretations which touch the Eternal.

As a poet, Schneider has been moulded by the language of the Jewish prophets, by their simplicity and by their spirit, by their exhortations and by their words of comfort. Other formative influences have been the Mystics and Saints of the Middle Ages and the Baroque, as well as Camoës and Shakespeare.

Reinhold Schneider's beautiful, spiritual style does not lend itself easily to translation into languages whose main concern is the pragmatic and the practical. Thus it may take some time until the foremost German writer of a younger generation, who has emerged since the war, will be recognised as the great European figure that he is. But those who do read German should not miss an opportunity of acquainting themselves with his work. A selection compiled by the author himself has been published in four finely printed volumes by the Jakob Hegner Verlag, Cologne and Olten, which can be purchased separately.

### AN ANTHOLOGY OF JEWISH THOUGHT

Under the heading "God revealed," Miss Lily H. Montagu has compiled an Anthology of Jewish Thought (available from Messrs. Dillon, 33 Store Street, London, W.C.1, or from 51 Palace Court, London, W.2, at 6/-). The book is divided into the twelve months of the year and each month deals with a different revelation of God. The publication has been produced in order to meet in some measure the often-voiced request for a Jewish devotional book for everyday use.

C. C. ARONSFELD:

## GERMAN JEWS IN IRELAND

"Ireland," says Mr. Deasy in James Joyce's *Ulysses*, "has the honour of being the only country which never persecuted the Jews. Do you know why? . . . Because she never let them in." This of course is a gentle overstatement. Ireland did admit Jews—not many, to be sure: even now there are no more than 5,500 in a population of over three million. Not many ever sought admittance either, but among the few quite a number, and a distinguished company, came from Germany.

As early as the 1780s a German Jewish resident of Dublin, Isaac Isaacs, is well known as one of the foremost dulcimer players in Europe, and Lewis Wormser Harris, who arrived from Stuttgart in 1821, was the first Jew to emerge in Irish public life, having been elected Alderman of the Dublin Corporation; he died, in 1876, just before he was to be appointed Lord Mayor. Others came from Posen, like Myer Nerwich, who was Vice-President of the Dublin congregation, whilst A. L. Benmohel, a prominent merchant, was the son of a Hamburg bookseller; his brother Nathan Lazarus was Professor of French and German at Dublin University.

A peculiar career was that of Abraham Gotheimer (born in Dublin in 1830), who under the name of Albert Grant became the pioneer of modern large-scale company promotion.<sup>(1)</sup> By floating several companies, before he was debunked as a swindler, he amassed a great fortune which he used to render at least one public service. He purchased the neglected area of Leicester Fields, London, then occupied mainly by dead cats and other refuse, converted it into a handsome garden called Leicester Square, and sold it (for £13,000) to the Metropolitan Board of Works, for the enjoyment of the public. He was also Member of Parliament for Kidderminster, in 1865 and again in 1874. Many more German names appear in the Jewish history of Dublin, e.g. Ellen Odette Bischoffsheim, the fourth Countess of Desart; the Rev. Julius Sandheim, and of course the present Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits.

### Sir Otto Jaffé

The greatest civic distinction was attained by German Jews not in the Catholic South but in Protestant Ulster. Brilliant was the achievement of Sir Otto Jaffé, a native of Hamburg, who was High Sheriff in 1901 (a year after he was knighted) and twice (1899 and 1904) Lord Mayor of Belfast, as well as hon. life president of the Jewish community and Consul for the German Government.

He came to Ireland as a child, probably in 1851, with his father Daniel Joseph and uncle Isaac. Their firm, Jaffé Bros., with earlier branches elsewhere (e.g. in Dundee, 1845), engaged in an extensive linen and yarn trade, Northern Ireland's staple industry, which they did much to develop. They actually introduced the manufacture of divers makes of linen goods until then only produced abroad, and they were universally acknowledged as having "prospered exceedingly in consequence of their high integrity, indomitable zeal and perseverance."<sup>(2)</sup>

Otto joined the firm and eventually became its head after carrying on business in New York from 1865 to 1877. "In commercial circles (said the *Belfast Telegraph* in its obituary in 1929) Sir Otto was held in high esteem. He crossed the Atlantic more than 50 times in order to dispose of productions of Irish spindles and looms. The erection of the Jaffé mills in Ballymacarett in 1910 was the outcome of Sir Otto's expansive business ideas and great enterprise, and these afforded employment for a long time to many local workers."

He entered public life in 1892 when he was elected City Councillor, and at once showed himself possessed of a wide variety of interests. For several years he served as Harbour Commissioner; like his father, he zealously supported hospital work, and one of his foremost concerns was the advancement of education. The development of Queen's College was largely due to him, and in 1907, at his own cost, he erected the Jaffé National Jewish Schools, described by the authorities at the time as "a splendid example of well-directed generosity."

(1) He is generally believed to have served as a model for that grandiose spiv, Augustus Melmotte, in Trollope's novel "The Way We Live Now" (1875).

(2) Nor did they fail to deal kindly with their city of origin. Like Charles Semon, Mayor of Bradford (in 1864), who endowed a Home for Decayed Tradesmen in his native Danzig, they founded an orphan asylum in Hamburg.

Sir Otto and Lady Jaffé (a daughter of Moritz Hertz of Brunswick) in 1904 also built the Annesley Street synagogue—the second in Belfast (in the charge of the Rev. J. Rosenzweig); the first, 40 years earlier, had been the work of the father, Daniel Joseph, and there the first Minister was the Rev. Joseph Chotzner, later for many years London Correspondent of the "Allgemeine Zeitung des Judenthums."

### Gustav Wilhelm Wolff

Another, very different, Jew from Hamburg who put the stamp of his name on the city of Belfast, was Gustav Wilhelm Wolff, joint founder of Messrs. Harland & Wolff, owners of what is to-day probably the world's largest shipyard, employing more than 20,000. Wolff was "one of a group of men that made Belfast renowned throughout the world as a great shipbuilding and shipping centre," writes the biographer of Viscount Pirrie (another partner), while describing the German Jew as "a master of industry, incomparable organiser, a generous employer, a model citizen."

He came to England in 1848, at the age of 14, to train as an engineer. He met his Yorkshire partner through the good offices of his uncle G. C. Schwabe. This wealthy merchant, director of a Liverpool ship-owning company, obliged Harland with an urgently wanted loan of £5,000 to buy grounds in Belfast; the condition was that a job was found for the nephew. The arrangement worked so well that in 1862 Harland made Wolff his partner, and thenceforward, especially as Schwabe enlarged on the original bargain by securing orders not only from his own company but also from the White Star Line, the firm never ceased to make progress.

As he enquires into the causes of their success, Mr. Herbert Jefferson, the afore-mentioned biographer, says: "They had a good start—Harland and Wolff possessed an unexcelled, minute acquaintanceship with these two arts: ships and engines. From boyhood days each was enthusiastically immersed in them. . . . Neither was himself afraid to work; they, at the top, set the example. They were men of the highest honour and integrity."

Wolff retired from the firm in 1908, at a time of growing international tension which affected no industry more directly than the shipwrights and no one in circumstances more peculiar than Harland & Wolff. The navies of Britain and Germany were racing for supremacy, and the playful hand of Fortune so had loaded the dice that in the waging of the feud two German Jews were concerned, for Harland & Wolff nowhere encountered bolder rivalry than from the Hamburg-America Line under the captaincy of Albert Ballin, though the two men cannot be compared in stature. They never met, either, Ballin's opposite number in commerce being Pirrie and in diplomacy of course Sir Ernest Cassel.

When the great clash developed, i.e., throughout the Edwardian era, Wolff was no longer conspicuous at the helm, for he had in the meantime begun to pursue wider interests. In 1892, when Jaffé joined the City Council, he entered Parliament as a Conservative representing Belfast East. He defeated the titled member of an old local family and was returned unopposed in four subsequent general elections, until he resigned the seat in 1910. He was granted the Freedom of a city grateful for his services as a shipbuilder and a Parliamentarian, "in recognition also of the deep interest he had in the welfare of the city and of his noble benefactions to her charitable institutions."

Unlike Jaffé, he left no record of any interest in Jewish affairs. As a matter of fact he was, like Sir Ernest Cassel, discreetly baptised, though not a Catholic but after the fashion of staunch Ulstermen then, a member of the Church of England. When he spoke in Parliament, it was almost invariably on Irish business. The persecution in Russia drew no public comment from him; neither did the crucial Aliens Bill or the ominous turn of Anglo-German policy. Even so, like Jaffé and indeed the run of Jewish immigrants, both before and after him, he set an example of service faithfully discharged which will be remembered not without respect.

The writer wishes to express his grateful thanks for the generous assistance received from the City Librarian, Belfast, and from Mr. Herbert Jefferson, author of "Viscount Pirrie of Belfast."

## Old Acquaintances

**The Beastly Nazi:**—O. L. Preminger, who directed "For Ever Amber," "Laura," and most recently "The River of no Return," passed through London on his way to Berlin. I first met him when he arrived in Berlin to produce "Essig und Oel" at the Kammerspiele. As he was already bald at the age of twenty, he gave up acting in order to direct. But after his arrival in Hollywood he turned actor again. "Why do I still play in pictures?" he said, "I want to show that not all Germans are good, and I look a typical nasty Nazi. Secondly, I get all the badness out of me by playing that sort of part." Preminger produced "The Moon is Blue," the first Hollywood film in two versions, English and German, which is currently running in the West End, with Hannerl Matz, Hardy Krueger, and Johannes Heesters. His latest part on the screen was in Billy Wilder's "Stalag 17."

**Home News:**—Curt Bernhardt arrived in London to direct "Beau Brummel" for M.G.M.—Robert Jungk's "Tomorrow is already here" will be published here and in the United States; the German edition is a best seller.—Erna Pinner's book "Curious Creatures," now published in French by Stock, became the Book of the Month; she is living in London.—Felix Kent, who used to be known under the name F. Knuepfer, returned for good to Vienna.—Hans May scored "Seagulls over Sorrento."—Walter Rilla will star in "Twist of Fate."—Else Heims will be in "The True and the Brave," the picture her son Gottfried Reinhardt is producing here and in Holland.—Elisabeth Bergner has taken a flat in London; her husband Dr. P. Czinner will produce opera pictures.—Rudolph Cartier-Katscher will direct F. Hochwaeelder's "Heiliges Experiment" on English T.V.

**Twins with difference:**—When Hitler occupied Austria a Jewish mother sent one of her twin daughters, Helga, to Britain; the other, Ilse, stayed with her in Vienna. The two are children of a mixed marriage, and the mother hoped to survive with the help of her half-Jewish daughter, Helga married in London and has a child. She works in a bookshop. Ilse Aichinger, the other, became a writer after the war. S. Fischer published her novel "Die grossere Hoffnung." The book deals with her personal problem and fate, and Ilse is one of the few promising authors in post-war Germany. Now she has come to London on a visit, and the two sisters have met again for the first time. Although they look alike they are very different in spirit and outlook. The mother fortunately survived the war, and Ilse married the young German poet G. Eich a few months ago.

**Obituary:**—Two well-known composers of light music died last month: 71 year old Emmeric Kalmann and 68 year old Eduard Kuennecke. Only a few months ago I visited Kalmann near Munich where he was trying to recuperate from a stroke. The Hungarian musician whose operettas "Countess Mariza" and "Gipsy Princess" are still favourites, could no longer speak. Kalmann's life is a success story from "Herbstmanoever" to his last work "Arizona Lady," which will shortly be produced in Switzerland. He died in Paris, but was buried in Vienna. Kuennecke, like other composers of his time, started as a serious musician by writing operas, until the late Hermann Haller induced him to try scoring "Vetter aus Dingsda" which was an immediate hit. He died in Berlin.

**East Berlin:**—Helene Weigel, Mrs. Bert Brecht in private life, will take over "Schiffbauerdamm-Theater" with her "Berliner Ensemble." Fritz Wisten will run the rebuilt "Volksbuehne." The Government hopes to have the "Staatsoper" ready for production next year.

**News from Everywhere:**—Frank Wedekind's daughter Kadidja has written a play entitled "Kleine Staatsaffaire" which has been produced in Saarbruecken.—Ernst Haeussermann became director of Vienna's "Theater in der Josefstadt."—Ernst Morawsky, who returned from Hollywood, produced his first German post-war picture, "Hochzeitsreise."—Emmeric Pressburger has finished scripting the life story of Israel's first President, which he has sent to Mrs. Weizmann for approval.—Fritz Kortner is preparing a production of "Die Raueber" in Munich.—In Hamburg, Leo Mittler successfully directed Charles Morgan's "River Line," adapted by Alfred H. Unger.

PEM

## PERSONALIA

Dr. Ludwig Guttman, O.B.E., has been awarded the World Veterans Federation 1953 Rehabilitation Prize on account of his outstanding achievements in the treatment of ex-servicemen who have sustained spinal injuries. Prior to his emigration, Dr. Guttman was in charge of the Department of Neuro-Surgery at the Breslau Jewish Hospital. Since his student days he has been closely associated with Jewish activities. Dr. Guttman is a Board member of the AJR, in whose efforts he has always taken a deep interest. We extend to him our congratulations on this latest recognition of his services to his suffering fellow-men.

On the occasion of his installation as Chancellor of Edinburgh University, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh conferred the honorary Doctor of Law on twelve recipients including Mr. Kurt Hahn, who was the headmaster of Gordonstoun School, Elgin, when the Duke was a pupil there.

### IN MEMORY OF WERNER SENATOR

Although Werner Senator's personal friends were aware of his severe illness, the sad news of his sudden death in America came as a profound shock. It is impossible to give in a few lines a proper evaluation of this life, which reflects more than perhaps anybody else's the political, social and moral problems of a certain generation of Central European Jews who emerged from the first world war. Senator came from a wealthy assimilated Berlin family. He joined the small group of Jewish students who wanted to become acquainted with the real people, with the working and suffering East European Jewish proletariat which lived in the East End of Berlin. They founded the "Volksheim," and they remained faithful to their ideas to the end. Nobody was so faithful and unflinching as Senator. He was a Zionist, but his Zionism was never an abstract idea; it was always applied to human beings, and therefore he never lost his sense of humanity in a blind nationalism. He passed through many stages before he became a public figure of high moral standing in Palestine (later Israel). He served his apprenticeship in social work at the Berlin Arbeiterfürsorge-Amt; then he worked with the American Joint Distribution Committee, and afterwards, in 1924, in Palestine with "Hamashbir." From 1925-1930 he was General Secretary of the European Office of "Joint" in Berlin where he was a close collaborator of Bernard Kahn. He won the confidence of the leading Joint men who appointed him their representative on the Executive of the Palestine Jewish Agency when the Non-Zionists entered that body. In 1937 he was appointed Administrator of the Hebrew University and devoted the rest of his life to this institution. He was also Chairman of the Committee for Ben Shemen, the Youth Village founded by his friend Siegfried Lehmann. But this dry enumeration does not say anything of the man. He was not only deeply devoted to his tasks and duties, he not only loved his people and was always available for anybody requiring his advice or help, he also never failed to fight for his human ideals against injustice and vulgarity wherever they occurred, naturally also amidst his own people. For 25 years or more he was deeply concerned with the problem of Arab-Jewish relations, more precisely with the attitude of the Jews to the Arabs in Palestine, and he courageously raised his voice when he felt that the Jewish side had committed a wrong. Werner's house in Jerusalem was a centre—perhaps the only centre—of frank discussion on a high level. The local Jewish intelligentsia mixed there freely with Jews and Gentiles from all over the world. Also the high British officials in the period of the Mandate regarded it as a welcome—actually the only—inter-racial meeting place of high standing, as Sir John Shaw pointed out in "The Times" the other day. His voice has now been silenced, his house is deserted, but let us hope against hope that his legacy will be kept alive.

ROBERT WELTSCH

Dr. Erich Eyck (12 Lindfield Gardens, London, N.W.3) will be 75 on December 7. Dr. Eyck has added lustre to our community by his publications on modern political history. His books about Gladstone, Bismarck, Pitt and Fox and Kaiser Wilhelm II have been widely recognised by experts in this country and abroad. At present, Dr. Eyck is preparing a work on the History of the Weimar Republic. He was well known in Germany for his manifold public activities as a lawyer, politician, writer and journalist; he also took an interest in Jewish affairs especially in the "Central-Verein" to whose "Hauptvorstand" he belonged. As a member of its Board and as a contributor of "AJR Information" he is closely associated with the work of the AJR. All those who have benefited from Dr. Eyck's widespread knowledge and unrelenting helpfulness wish him many happy returns of the day.

Professor Hugo Bergmann of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, will be 70 on Chanukah. Dr. Bergmann started his Jewish and Zionist activities in Prague where, before the first World War, he was the spiritual leader of the Bar Kochba group of Zionist students who were followers of Achad Haam and Martin Buber. He went to Palestine as early as 1920 and, five years before the inauguration of the University, started to build up the National Library. He was its Director until he was appointed Professor of Modern Philosophy. Professor Bergmann is one of the few Western European Jews who achieved a proficiency in Hebrew four decades ago. His works include many philosophical books and essays in Hebrew, German and English. He also wrote innumerable articles on Jewish cultural and religious problems, some of which, written in German before 1914, were published as a book under the title "Yavneh und Jerusalem."

Dr. Oskar Wolfsberg, who was a leader of the Misrachi Movement in Germany, recently celebrated his 60th birthday. He now lives in Israel, where he takes an active part in public life.

Rabbi Dr. Moses Hoffmann (Petach Tikvah, Israel) was 80 recently. Dr. Hoffmann is the son of Professor David Hoffmann, of the Hildesheimer Seminar (Berlin), and, prior to his emigration, was a Rabbi of the Breslau Community.

Rabbi Dr. Benno Gottschalk (formerly Reform-Gemeinde, Berlin) was 70 recently. He is now the Rabbi of a Congregation in Los Angeles.

### OBITUARY

Mrs. Anna Minden passed away recently. She devoted her life to many Jewish causes and, for several years, was also a Board Member of the AJR. She will be gratefully remembered by all those who had the privilege of co-operating with her.

It is learned with greatest regret that Mr. Gustav Michaelis, to whom tribute was paid in the previous issue on the occasion of his 80th birthday, passed away on November 16.

Kommerzienrat Dr. h.c. Theodor Frank (formerly Diskontogesellschaft Berlin), who after his emigration lived in Nice, passed away, 82 years old.

Dr. Hans Hamburger (formerly a High Court Judge in Berlin) died in Sao Paulo. Dr. Hamburger took an active part in Jewish affairs, both in Germany and later in Sao Paulo, where he was closely associated with the work of the Community of former German Jews.

### NEW TEMPLE IN PORT ELIZABETH

To commemorate the opening of the Temple Israel Centre in Port Elizabeth (South Africa) an impressive brochure has been issued by the Congregation. The spiritual head of the Congregation is the Rev. Isaac Richards. The architect of the building is Dr. G. A. Adler, formerly Stettin. The Communal Hall is named after Leo Baeck.

### PSYCHOLOGY IN THE NURSERY SCHOOL

Nelly Wolffheim

Educationists and enlightened parents alike, in fact all those who are conscious of the importance and significance of the Nursery School for the formation of the child's personality will warmly welcome Nelly Wolffheim's book\* as a scientific confirmation of their practical experiences and as a stimulant to further research.

The author, who can look back on a wide experience as the head of a popular Froebel Kindergarten and the principal of the Seminar of Kindergarten teachers in Berlin, has studied the functions of the Nursery School in the light of psycho-analysis.

The generally accepted task of the Nursery School: to wean the child from the close family ties and to provide "a wider sphere for the range of its interests and emotions" is, according to psycho-analysis, possible through the mechanism of transference, i.e., a projection into the Nursery School environment of the child's family loves and hates. The teacher thus becomes the beloved mother, the other children brothers and sisters, and like them rivals for her favour. By regulating the transference situation consciously so as to provide for each individual child the affection, support and security it needs, she can counteract existing feelings of inferiority, relieve guilt feelings and increase a sense of self-esteem and of reality.

Group spirit—as such alien to young children—can develop on the basis of a strong relationship with the teacher, which binds the members of the group together without creating the same degree of emotional tension found in family relations. We agree most emphatically with the author when she suggests that the methods put forward by her are only practicable in small nursery classes, grouped round a permanent teacher.

Play and free activities, the basis of all kindergarten life, gain special significance in psycho-analytical education. The value of play as an outlet of aggression, as a symbolic expression of secret desires, fears, phantasies and ultimately as an opportunity for forming sublimations, is seen in a new light.

Learning, sense training and preparation for school are not underestimated, but the foremost task of the psycho-analytically orientated Nursery School is the advancement of the growth of the whole personality. Thus the author dissociates herself in some essential points from the Froebel teacher as well as from the theory and methods of Maria Montessori.

While naturally some of the functions of every understanding teacher are therapeutic in the widest sense, real problem children are not supposed to belong to an ordinary Nursery Class. Nelly Wolffheim suggests special schools conducted on psychiatric lines for the neurotic or otherwise disturbed child. However, a teacher well trained in psychology will be able to discover neurotic symptoms in good time and influence the parents to seek help in Child Guidance Clinics.

It goes without saying that close contact and friendly co-operation between teacher and parents are nowhere more essential than in the Nursery School, particularly in a school conducted on non-authoritarian lines.

The book contains many valuable discussions about the place of Fairy Tales and Father Christmas in the education of young children, hints on the use of music and movement from the psycho-analytical point of view and a challenge for further research in this field. It is illustrated with many examples from Mrs. Wolffheim's personal experience.

Her discussion of the unconscious motives that lead to the choice of a career as a teacher does not entirely convince me; nor do I believe that a personal analysis is a necessary pre-requisite of the professional training of a teacher. There is, I agree, need for more comprehensive teaching of dynamic psychology in Training Colleges, but we must beware of producing semi-analysts among our teachers, a danger of which the author of the book is aware, but which nevertheless cannot be ruled out if analysis were included in the syllabus of the student teacher. I would, however, suggest that Nelly Wolffheim's "Psychology" should be introduced as a text book in Training Colleges for Nursery and Infant School teachers.

IRENE TURGEL

\* "Psychology in the Nursery School," Gerald Duckworth & Co., 9/-

# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## MEETINGS IN MEMORY OF NOVEMBER POGROMS

In remembrance of the 15th Anniversary of the November pogroms Public Meetings took place in many German cities. Under the auspices of the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation a solemn gathering was arranged in the West Berlin Municipal Opera; the Organisation of Political, Racial and Religious Persecutees organised a rally in the "Metropol Filmbuehne," Berlin.

Stones from the destroyed Fasanenstrasse Synagogue were used for a monument erected at the Steinplatz (Charlottenburg) in memory of the victims of Nazism.

In a radio address, broadcast by RIAS, Dr. Leo Baeck stressed that on November 9, 1938, not only the Jewish houses of worship but the foundations of humanity were destroyed. "The churches were affected as well, for historically and spiritually the Synagogue is the mother of the Church." The destruction of the Synagogues, Dr. Leo Baeck went on, also symbolised the destruction of German Jewry, whose achievements have played a decisive part in the development of modern spiritual life.

## MEMORIAL AT WEISSENSEE CEMETERY

A monument to Jewish victims of Nazism was unveiled in the Weissensee Cemetery in the presence of representatives of Jewish bodies, persecutee organisations and the East Berlin City Administration.

## MONUMENT IN WIESBADEN

On the site of the Wiesbaden Synagogue, which was destroyed on November 9, 1938, a Memorial Stone bearing the inscription "Der Welt Gewissen ist die Liebe" was consecrated recently.

A Memorial was also erected at the restored Cemetery of Duderstadt near Goettingen.

## DESECRATION

The Jewish Cemetery at Drove, near Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) has been repeatedly desecrated during the past months. The Aachen Jewish community has posted a reward, but so far the culprit has not been discovered.

## VISIT TO TEMPLIN

A correspondent writes from Berlin: "A few weeks ago I travelled to Templin (Uckermark). It is not easy to reach the place because one has to change at Oranienburg and Loewenberg. I saw the only Jewess living in Templin; she had been in the Theresienstadt Camp and returned to her home town after the war. I was shown the former Jewish Cemetery which has been put in order by the Municipal Authorities and which is now in a very good condition indeed."

## FIGURES ON JEWS IN GERMANY

According to a detailed statistical abstract published in the Official Bulletin of the Federal Government of November 5, 1953, the Jewish Communities in Germany have now a total of about 25,000 members. To these professing Jews 8,000 to 10,000 Jews must be added who are not registered with Jewish Communities. About 73 per cent of the Jews in Western Germany possess German Nationality. 45 per cent of the members of the Communities are dependent on public assistance. Only a few doctors have returned, but there are more than 400 lawyers in the Federal territories, 50 to 60 of whom hold posts as judges. The number of returnees now exceeds that of emigrants, the Bulletin claims.

## "MAX REINHARDT SCHOOL" IN BERLIN

The Theatrical School of the West Berlin City Government has been officially renamed "Max Reinhardt School."

## BERLIN EX-MAYOR LIPPERT BEFORE DENAZIFICATION COURT

The former Mayor of Berlin, Dr. Julius Lippert, was classified as "Activist" (Category 2) by the Frankfurt Denazification Chamber. The trial centred around a book by Lippert "Im S.rom der Zeit" (1940), which, according to the Chairman of the Chamber, was "150% antisemitic."

## ECHO OF NOBEL PRIZE AWARDS

According to the "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung," of the Jews in Germany most of the German papers described the two Nobel Prize bearers, Dr. Hans A. Krebs and Professor Fritz Albert Lipmann, as "former Germans," without referring to the fact that they had been forced to leave Germany in 1933 because they are Jews. Among the exceptions is the "Frankfurter Rundschau," which writes: "The crowning of the scientific achievements of these two men recalls the darkest chapter of our recent past." The article also lists the names of other outstanding scholars and scientists whom Germany lost in 1933.

## UNIVERSITY RECTORS PLEAD FOR NAZI COLLEAGUES

At a Meeting in Bremen the Conference of Rectors of West Berlin Universities recommended the re-instatement of Professors who had been dismissed for political reasons in 1945.

## NEW RABBI IN STUTTGART

In succession to Rabbi Dr. Neufeld, who has returned to Israel, Rabbi Dr. Fritz Bloch, who also comes from Israel, has been appointed Landesrabbiner of Wuerttemberg-Hohenzollern for a term of two years.

## "DAS BUNDESENTSCHAEDIGUNGSGESETZ"

A Compendium by H. G. van Dam

It is gratifying that Dr. H. G. van Dam, the General Secretary of the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany, has published this guide through the complicated provisions of the new Federal Indemnification Law (110s. plus postage, "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland," Duesseldorf-Benrath). Though the interpretations are meant to reflect only the author's personal views, Dr. van Dam is particularly qualified to write about the subject, because he took part in the deliberations of the "Claims Conference" at the Hague and knows the genesis of the law from the outset. It is one of the peculiarities of the Federal Indemnification Law that its scope was determined by recommendations laid down in international agreements, i.e. outside the German legislative bodies. The speed with which the Law had to be passed before the last "Bundestag" was dissolved was bound to result in imperfections and uncertainties about the meaning of quite a few of its provisions. Dr. van Dam's book is not written as a clause by clause commentary, but as a systematic compendium which, in eighteen clearly written chapters, bases the interpretation on the legislative principles involved. It also deals with the relationship of the Indemnification Law to the German Civil Law and to restitution and indemnification laws already in existence. The usefulness of the book for the practical lawyer is, however, not impaired, but, on the contrary, increased by this scholarly approach. A good index facilitates the work of the legal adviser who wants to consult the compendium in his day-to-day case work. The book also includes the text of the Federal Indemnification Law and of seventeen other relevant Laws and Orders, including the "Auslandsbeamtengesetz," the "Kriegsopfer-Versorgungsgesetz" and the "Fremdrentengesetz." By his publication, the author has rendered a very good service to all those who have to deal with the general problems and the practical implications of the Law.

W. R.

## DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ULBRICHT AGAINST PAYMENTS TO ISRAEL

At a Mass Meeting in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of Eastern Germany, criticised the Agreement between the German Federal Republic and the State of Israel and called for the immediate cessation of West German deliveries of goods to Israel. He said, unified Germany should not recognise pre-war or post-war debts, and West Germany should discontinue reparation payments following the example of East Germany. Reparation claims against East Germany were waived by the Soviet Union a short time ago.

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### COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY Extension of London Executive

The London Executive of the "Council of Jews from Germany" has been enlarged by the co-option of Mr. F. G. Boas, Mr. F. Mann and Mr. A. S. Dresel. The Executive now consists of: Mr. Werner Behr, Mr. F. G. Boas, Mr. Walter Breslauer, Mr. Alfred S. Dresel, Mr. Fritz Mann, Mr. Hans Reichmann, Mr. Richard Schneider and Mr. Robert Weltsh. As before, the President of the "Council" is Dr. Leo Baeck, and Vice-Presidents are Dr. Walter Breslauer (London), Dr. Max Gruenewald (New York), Dr. Siegfried Moses (Jerusalem).

### THE HYPHEN

In December we are having discussions, rambles, a Channukah Social on the 6th December and a theatre visit. For further information please write to Miss L. Metzger, 45A Golders Green Road, London, N.W.11, enclosing s.a.e.

### ACTIVITIES OF O.R.T.

The manifold activities of O.R.T. are reflected in a pamphlet recently issued by this world-wide organisation, whose object is the re-training of Jews. Training centres are maintained, *inter alia*, in Israel, North African countries, U.S.A., France, Italy, Iran and Great Britain. Altogether almost 17,000 students were enrolled during 1952.

### THE SABBATH OBSERVANCE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

The Annual Report 1952 of the Sabbath Observance Employment Bureau reveals that altogether 879 situations were filled during the year under review. The two largest single groups the bureau had to deal with were shorthand-typists (172) and clerks (120).

### Letter to the Editor

KARL KRAUS

Sir,

With reference to Dr. Lutz Weltmann's article "Two Supplements" in your August issue I cannot agree to his statement: "... we feel with him (Karl Kraus) a certain pride in his Jewishness..." Kraus abandoned Judaism, boasted of his newly acquired Catholic faith, did considerable harm to Jewry by interspersing the scenario of his fiction writing with morally corrupt Jewish figures, and, in his "Der König von Zion," launched a vitriolic attack against Herzl which no Jew can approve whether he is a Zionist or not.

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Fritz Friedlander.

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### FAMILY EVENTS

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

#### Marriage

**Gumprich—Lazarus.**—The marriage took place on November 3rd in Haifa of Brigitte Gumprich, only daughter of Mrs. Louise Gumprich geb. Leffmann and the late Mr. S. Gumprich of Glasgow, Scotland (formerly Muenster in Westf.) to Walter J. Lazarus, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lazarus-Weil of Haifa, 8 Rachel Str., Mt. Carmel (formerly Juechen, Rheinland).

#### Deaths

**Mr. Ernst Rau** (formerly Nuernberg) of 85 Eton Rise, Haverstock Hill, London, N.W.3, passed away peacefully on November 5th at the age of 87, deeply mourned by his wife, daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Mrs. Frida Giesenow**, née Wallach, formerly Berlin, passed away on October 22, 1953 at the age of 79. Deeply mourned by her daughter, sister-in-law, nephews and nieces. Oron, Algiers, Darlington, England. 34 Bawtry Road, Doncaster, Yorks.

**Mrs. Martha Zorek**, née Noher, passed away on November 8 at the age of 77, deeply mourned by her children Eric and Margaret Zorek (109 Chiswick Village, London, W.4) and Ernst G. and Ilse Lowenthal (7 Lyndhurst Road, London, N.W.3).

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### MISSING PERSONS

#### Personal Enquiry

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#### Enquiries from AJR

**Herz, Ingeborg**, born 23.8.24, Muenchen-Gladbach, for Dr. Martin Kanter, New York.  
**Wirszinski, Elli**, from Berlin, for Maria Naumann, Munich.  
**Heymann, Stefan**, from Berlin, last known address: 15 Kildare Gardens, W.2, for relatives in Buenos Aires.

# AJR MEETINGS

## LONDON

Stern Hall was filled to capacity at an AJR Meeting on November 11, at which reports on compensation in Germany and Austria were given by Dr. W. Breslauer and Dr. F. Brassloff. In his opening address Dr. H. Reichmann, Chairman of the AJR, recalled the 15th anniversary of the November pogroms. The crimes committed by the Nazi regime, he said, could not be undone, but the efforts on the part of the Federal German Government indicated its earnest desire to grant moral and material indemnification to the victims as far as this was humanly possible. Dr. W. Breslauer, Vice Chairman of the "Council of Germany," described the objects of the Federal Indemnification Law and dealt with its manifold shortcomings. To safeguard the interests of the former German Jews, the "Council of Jews from Germany," of which the AJR is a constituent member, has asked for a number of important amendments; special attention has, *inter alia*, been drawn to the unjust provisions regarding the "Rangfolge" according to which claims are to be settled, by which many claimants would have to wait for a very long time, and to the urgency of the enactment of the "Rueckerstattungsgesetz" by which the claims against the former "Reich" are

to be implemented. In place of Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld, who had fallen ill, Dr. F. Brassloff dealt with the political and legal problems of legislation in Austria, where the position was still most unsatisfactory and where so far only few laws with a very limited scope have been promulgated. The most unfavourable position of Nazi victims from the Sudetenland and several other problems were raised during the discussion.

## PROVINCES

Reports on the present efforts of the AJR and the "Council of Jews from Germany," especially in connection with the Federal Indemnification Law, were given by Mr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the AJR, at meetings in Cambridge, Hove and (under the joint auspices of the local Ex-Servicemen Group and the AJR) in Birmingham.

## HOSPITAL VISITORS WANTED

Many lonely refugee patients in hospitals would appreciate visits of fellow refugees who take an interest in their well-being. Would those who could spare some time for this kind of social work communicate with the AJR, please. MAI 4449.

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