

AJR

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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HANS FEIST

BY the death of Dr. Hans Feist at the early age of 53 the AJR has suffered a very severe loss. He was actively associated with our work for many years, and, from 1949 onwards, one of the most devoted members of our Executive. He took his duties very seriously, and therefore it was only natural that he did not only make innumerable constructive contributions to our deliberations in Committee but was also closely connected with the day by day work at Fairfax Mansions. At a time, when voluntary communal workers are getting increasingly scarce everywhere, the untimely death of this reliable and capable Executive member is bound to leave a deep gap in our midst. Whilst it is not possible to describe in detail all his manifold services to our cause, his selfless endeavours in the interest of one under-privileged group within our community, the unregistered dentists, deserves special grateful remembrance.

Hans Feist had come to this country much earlier than the majority of us, and when, during the war, we joined hands to found the AJR and to tackle our common problems as so-called "enemy aliens," he was already a British citizen and a fully qualified member of the legal profession. But, unlike others in his position, he realised already then that nobody can dissociate himself from the community from which he hails. Therefore, he identified himself with our cause from the outset. Work for the AJR played an ever-increasing part in his life. Though it has now come to an abrupt end it has left its lasting mark on our movement. Hans Feist was free of ready-made and superficial slogans, and it was just his youthful open mind for new impressions and new experiences which endeared him to his fellow-workers. Within the short, all too short, time of his co-operation with the Executive, he became a faithful personal friend to several of its members. Together with his wife and his aged mother we mourn the departure of a noble, helpful and upright man.

A DECISIVE STAGE

German Indemnification Law in the Making

After the defeat and collapse of the National Socialist "Third Reich" the Allies, at first, did not want a centralized German regime. In consequence of this policy there was no comprehensive legislation regarding restitution and indemnification in Germany. Indemnification laws were enacted in 1949 in the Laender of the U.S. Zone and, later on, in the French Zone and in Berlin. Soon the Laender complained that the financial burdens connected with the compensation of victims of Nazi persecution were too heavy for them.

In 1952, however, the Western Allies and the German Federal Government concluded "Contractual Agreements" which will restore German sovereignty. The Germans undertook to extend the Indemnification Laws of the U.S. Zone to the whole territory of the Federal Republic, especially in the British Zone. The Federal Government further came to an agreement with the "Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany." This agreement, concluded at The Hague, envisages a comprehensive legislative programme regarding restitution and indemnification.

There are, at present, two drafts of a General Indemnification Law before the Legal Committee of the "Bundestag." One of them has been submitted by the Federal Government. It is to be hoped that the Legal Committee will not adhere too closely to the partly outdated provisions of the old indemnification laws preserved in this draft, but will improve the law according to the developments since 1949 and the more hopeful financial situation of 1953. The victims of Nazi persecution are well aware of the fact that the Federal Republic will not be in a position to indemnify them fully but they

resent the endeavour to restrict compensation to the low level which was deemed necessary in 1949 when the Laender were still suffering from the aftermath of the war and were not yet supported by a central authority.

Even the other draft of an Indemnification Law which the German "Bundesrat" passed last February and which the Legal Committee of the Lower House is also examining shows a more generous attitude.

The "Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany," one of the Constituent members of the "Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany," has asked its representative with the legal team of the Conference, which is negotiating with the German Authorities, to place some important demands before the competent bodies.

Demands of Jews from Germany

The "Council" regrets especially the limitation of compensation for damage to property and possessions and for loss of opportunities to earn a livelihood (maximum amounts of 75,000 DM. and 25,000 DM. respectively), the deviations of the Government Draft from the original draft of the "Bundesrat" regarding the claims of private employees, and the cancellation of a provision granting pension rights to widows of self-employed persons and of members of the free professions.

The "Council" has further raised objections to some provisions concerning the repayment of discriminatory taxes. It has also referred to a decision of the "Bundesrat" of

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CLAIMS CONFERENCE MEETS IN NEW YORK

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the "Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany," the representative body of non-Israeli organisations, met in New York recently. The "World Council of Jews from Germany" was represented by Dr. Rudolf Callmann, New York, who is also a Vice-President of the "Claims Conference." Out of the first payments from Germany, which are to be expected shortly, the meeting allocated 1,685,000 for rehabilitation and resettlement projects sponsored by Israeli organisations. This sum includes 1,250,000 for the Israeli constituent of the "Council of Jews from Germany," the Irgun Oley Merkas Europa, for the maintenance of victims of Nazism in its institutions.

At the meeting Dr. R. Callmann submitted a statement regarding the work of the United Restitution Office which, at the initiative of the "Council of Jews from Germany" and with the financial help of the great international Jewish

Relief organisations, has, for the past five years, prosecuted the individual restitution and compensation claims of indigent former German Jews. Whilst, Dr. Callmann stated, the United Restitution Office would be quite willing to submit to the financial control of the Claims Conference if and when the Claims Conference takes over the financing of URO's budget, there was no need of taking away from URO the responsibility for their administration. He stressed that URO had achieved a maximum of efficiency with a minimum of expenditure. When the Jewish organisations established the "Claims Conference," the statement went on, it was on the understanding that its activities should be of a policy making nature only. It never has been considered its task to impair the autonomy of its member organisations and their agencies. A decision on the matter has been postponed until negotiations between representatives of the Claims Conference and of URO have taken place.

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain
herewith invites its members to the

General Meeting

on Thursday, June 18th, at 7.45 p.m.

at 1, Broadhurst Gardens, London,

N.W. 6

(near Finchley Road Underground Station)

AGENDA

I.

THE AJR TO-DAY

Report on AJR activities
Election of Committee of Management
(Executive)
Election of Board

II.

OUR CLAIMS

Report on Developments in the field of Restitution and Compensation since the conclusion of the Hague Agreement.

Non-members are not entitled to vote but will be welcomed as guests at the Meeting

RESTITUTION NEWS

KRIEGSSACHSCHAEDEN IN DEUTSCHLAND

Das United Restitution Office, 8, Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3. macht nochmals darauf aufmerksam, dass die Frist fuer die Anmeldung von Kriegssachschaeden auf Grund des Lastenausgleichsgesetzes vom 14. August 1952 in der Bundesrepublik am 31. August 1953, in Berlin am 18. Oktober 1953 ablaeuft. Es laesst sich nicht mit Sicherheit voraussagen, ob unserem Antrag auf Fristverlaengerung entsprochen werden wird.

Die erforderlichen Antragsformulare sind bei der Diplomatischen Vertretung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
6, Rutland Gate, Knightsbridge,
London, S.W.7.

Tel.: KNIGHTSBRIDGE 1271.

Die erforderlichen Antragsformulare sind bei der erhaeltlich. Dort wird auch Auskunft ueber das fuer die Anmeldung zustaendige Ausgleichsamt usw. erteilt.

Es wird dringend empfohlen, die Anmeldung beschleunigt vorzunehmen, da die Bearbeitung voraussichtlich in der Reihenfolge des Eingangs der Antraege erfolgen wird. Verspaeteter Eingang hat den Verlust des Anspruchs zur Folge.

Die Anmeldung ist auch dann vorzunehmen, wenn ein Rueckerstattungs- oder Entschaedigungsverfahren bereits anhaengig ist.

UNITED RESTITUTION OFFICE

The branch office at Gray's Inn Road ceased its case work recently. The cases still pending have been taken over by the office at 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, which—as before—will advise and represent indigent victims of Nazi persecution irrespective of their creed or nationality.

Mr. R. O. Munster, who was in charge of the office at Gray's Inn Road, will remain a member of our Co-ordinating Committee as a representative of non-Jewish claimants.

CONFISCATED LIFTVANS IN TRIESTE

Some weeks ago the Arbitration Commission appointed according to the Italian Peace Treaty decided, at the request of the Government of the U.S., that victims who lost their furniture and other valuables stored in Trieste should receive compensation from the Italian Government even if they were not Allied nationals on the day of the Armistice with Italy in 1943. In view of this decision it may now be possible to submit claims for compensation also if the victims acquired British nationality at a later date. Claimants should contact either the Association of Jewish Refugees, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, or the Legal Department of the World Jewish Congress, 55 New Cavendish Street, W.1, giving full particulars.

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February 20, 1953, recommending to the Federal Government that indemnification payments should be made tax-free.

Priorities for aged and needy persons should not mean the total exclusion of other claimants for a large number of years. The "Council" has stressed the point that those persecutees who have no priority claims should at least expect adequate instalments according to a scheme to be worked out.

In our view the amounts which can be saved for the German exchequer by petty restrictions will be of no importance to the German taxpayer (in comparison with the general burdens of the country), but they will whittle down the compensation due to victims of terrible crimes to a degree incompatible with the solemn declaration and promise given by Chancellor Dr. Adenauer in September 1951.

We still hope that the German "Bundesstag" will rise to the historic occasion and concede to the persecutees a compensation which is not out of proportion to the losses sustained.

ENTSCHAEDIGUNG FUER BEDIENTSTETE JUEDISCHER GEMEINDEN

Wir haben schon wiederholt berichtet, dass die Bundesregierung beabsichtigt, fuer die Beamten, Angestellten und Arbeiter Juedischer Gemeinden und oeffentlicher Einrichtungen eine besondere Regelung zu treffen. Die Richtlinien, nach denen dieser Personenkreis eine Entschaedigung erhalten soll, sind jetzt von der Bundesregierung erlassen worden.

Diejenigen, die sich bereits bei der Association of Jewish Refugees gemeldet haben, werden die Antragsformulare mit den noetigen Erlaeuterungen von dem Beratungsausschuss der "Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany" in Bonn, Sternstrasse 63, unmittelbar erhalten oder haben diese schon erhalten. Wer einen Antragsbogen noch nicht erhalten hat, kann ihn vom United Restitution Office, 8, Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3. anfordern.

In Frage kommen Personen, die bei einer Juedischen Gemeinde, einem Verband Juedischer Gemeinden oder bei einer Anstalt taetig waren, die unter Aufsicht einer Juedischen Gemeinde oder eines Verbandes Juedischer Gemeinden standen. Voraussetzung ist, dass die Beschaeftigung innerhalb der Grenzen des fruheren Deutschen Reiches nach dem Stande vom 31.12.1937 stattgefunden hat, und dass der Antragsteller pensionsberechtigt war, oder eine Pensionsberechtigung ohne die Verfolgung erlangt haette.

Die Entschaedigung wird gezahlt, bis eine gesetzliche Regelung erfolgt ist.

RESTITUTION OF AUSTRIAN PROPERTY IN GERMANY

Austrian Jews who sold property in Berlin in 1936 and 1937 claimed that they had done so under psychological pressure and were therefore entitled to restitution under the Berlin Law. In a test case the Landgericht Berlin dismissed the claim for the reason that at the time of the sale (January 1937) Jews of Austrian citizenship and residence were not to be considered as persecutees in the meaning of the Berlin Restitution Law, because they did not belong to a "group" which was to be eliminated from the economic and cultural life of Germany; Jews of foreign nationality, the Landgericht stated, had never taken part in German cultural life and therefore could not be excluded from it.

On appeal the Kammergericht Berlin reversed the judgment. It stated that the Nazi Government intended to exclude Jews of any nationality and particularly the German-speaking Austrian Jews from the participation in cultural and economic activities in Germany. The decision is of importance not only for the claims of Austrian Jews, but also of other foreign countries.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON REFUGEES

In answer to a question by Mr. Sorensen the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated that so far only Denmark and Norway had ratified the Convention. With regard to the Government of the United Kingdom he added that they were consulting with the Governments of the Overseas Territories, for whose international relations they were responsible.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

On May 18 the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated that in the view of the Advisory Committee to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees it would be necessary to continue the High Commissioner's Office for a further term of years. The matter would be discussed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at their next sessions.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS COMMEMORATE JEWISH VICTIMS

At the conclusion of a socialist youth conference representatives of the German Social Democratic young people's organisation "The Falcons" visited the Jewish cemetery in Nuremberg, placing a wreath at the foot of the memorial dedicated to the Jewish victims of the Nazis. It bore the inscription: "We Shall Never Forget You."

WUERTTEMBERG-BADEN Haftentschaedigung fuer Untergetauchte und Auslandshaeflinge

Die vorlaeufige Regierung von Baden-Wuerttemberg hat fuer das fruhere Land Wuerttemberg-Baden am 23. Maerz 1953, Gesetzblatt fuer Baden-Wuerttemberg, Nr. 7/53 folgende Verordnung erlassen:—

"(1) Anspruch auf die Haftentschaedigung nach § 15 des Gesetzes hat, soweit dies der Billigkeit entspricht, ein Verfolgter auch fuer die Zeit, in der er

(a) im Gebiet des Deutschen Reiches nach dem Stand vom 31. Dezember 1937 als Untergetauchter unter haetaehnlichen oder menschenunwuerdigen Bedingungen gelebt hat,

(b) deshalb in auslaendischer politischer Haft (§ 15 Abs. 2) gehalten wurde, weil die nationalsozialistische deutsche Regierung die auslaendische Regierung hierzu angestiftet oder gezwungen oder ihr die Freiheitsentziehung dadurch ermoeglicht hatte, dass sie dem Verfolgten die Reichsangehoerigkeit oder den Schutz des Reiches entzog. Es genuegt, dass die Anstiftung oder der Zwang durch die allgemeine Politik der deutschen Regierung bewirkt wurden.

(2) Abs. 1 Buchst. b findet insbesondere Anwendung auf Verfolgte, die

(a) nach dem 1. April 1943 in dem Stadtteil Honkew der Stadt Shanghai eingeschlossen waren, (b) nach dem 1. Juli 1940 in franzoesischer politischer Haft gehalten wurden, auch wenn dies in der Absicht geschah, sie nach Moeglichkeit der Auslieferung an deutsche Stellen zu entziehen."

Berechtigt zur Geltendmachung von Anspruechen sind diejenigen, deren letzter Wohnsitz vor der Auswanderung sich in Wuerttemberg-Baden befunden hat. Antraege muessen bis zum 31. Dezember 1953 bei dem zustaendigen Landesamt fuer Wiedergutmachung gestellt werden. Fuer die fruheren Laender Baden und Wuerttemberg-Hohenzollern, franzoesische Zone, wird diese Entschaedigung bis zu einer gesetzlichen Regelung im Rahmen der Mittel fuer uebergesetzliche Leistungen gewahrt werden.

INDEMNIFICATION IN BAVARIA

According to the Implementary Order of the Bavarian Indemnification Law 50 per cent of claims coming under category II and III are becoming due now if and as far as a decision of the compensation office has been arrived at.

BOARD OF REVIEW (PROGRESS)

On April 20, Mr. H. Brooke asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the slow progress made by the Board of Review now sitting in Germany; how many cases down for hearing before it are still unheard; whether all cases are dealt with in strict rotation according to the date when they were entered; and whether the personnel of the Board can be augmented so that justice can be speeded up.

Mr. Nutting: Yes, sir. My right hon. Friend has been concerned at the slow progress which is being made by the Board of Review. There are at present 314 cases submitted for consideration in the United Kingdom zone of Germany and 95 in our sector of Berlin. My right hon. Friend intends to appoint an additional judge to the Board to assist in the discharge of this work as soon as a suitable candidate can be found. It is also intended to set up a separate Supreme Restitution Court for Berlin.

Mr. Brooke: Is my hon. Friend aware that a constituent of mine has a case pending before the Board which was settled in her favour by the lower court more than two years ago, concerning property confiscated under the Nazis; and is it not extremely important to kill any impression that justice under British auspices moves so slowly that ex-Nazis can get away with their plunder?

Mr. Nutting: I hope that the answer I have given will help to remove any such misapprehensions which may exist. I am aware of the case to which my hon. Friend refers, but it is a particularly complex one which has been complicated and delayed by the fact that an oral hearing has been requested.

NO VISAS TO GERMANY

From July 1 onwards British nationals will no longer require visas for journeys to Western Germany and Western Berlin.

H. G. Reissner (New York):

WILFRID ISRAEL

Recollections and Reflections on the Tenth Anniversary of his Death

On June 1, 1943, Nazi fighter planes attacked an unarmed British airliner homeward bound from Lisbon and shot her down into the Bay of Biscay. The crew and all passengers lost their lives. One of them was Wilfrid Israel. Upon the request of the Jewish Agency for Palestine he had volunteered to go to Portugal and work for the rescue of Jewish escapees from Nazi-controlled Europe. The British Ministry of Information and Oxford University with both of whom he co-operated in the preparation of post-war reconstruction plans, had released him for this assignment. Prior to this, he acted as a Liaison Officer for Alien Internment Camps in the U.K.

Wilfrid Israel had established domicile in England in April 1939 after having wound up, together with his brother, the firm of N. Israel, Berlin, established by their paternal great-grandfather in 1815. The firm was sold in compliance with the Nazi order for the liquidation of Jewish economic activities in Germany which had followed the outrage of November 10, 1938. About noon of that day, a cordon of State Police had appeared in front of the firm's premises to protect street traffic from flying debris. Inside, robots, not real human beings, were wringing havoc. In the evening of the same day, H.B.M. Consul-General appeared on the spot (Wilfrid Israel being a British subject by birth) and inspected the scene: burnt and defiled merchandise and equipment, typewriters thrown and miraculously hanging between smashed window glasses, oil paintings of previous generations in the owners' private office suite, torn to pieces by the hooligans. He also met the Nazi Shop Committee (Betriebsrat) who felt more than a bit embarrassed because of the evidence of engineered vandalism.

Twice before during the period of Nazi terror since 1933, Wilfrid Israel had been arrested by Nazi gangsters, and twice, in the face of threats and manhandling, had answered with personal courage and dignity. The political landslide had not surprised him when it materialised. To consider emergency action, if the Nazis were to assume power, Wilfrid Israel had, as early as summer 1932, joined an informal group of young Jewish men, representative of, but not limited by, divergencies of opinion in existing Jewish organisations in Germany. His later error in judgment was that, up to the time of the Austrian "Anschluss" in spring 1938, Wilfrid Israel overestimated the alertness of opposition forces within, and the readiness of the world at large, to stop aggression. He was one of the very few Jews in Germany who, throughout the Hitler years, retained contacts with old school officials, foreign diplomats, journalists and Jewish organisations abroad. It was probably difficult, if not impossible, to discount the individual sincerity of these good people's horror and relate it properly to the magnitude of its cause.

Constructive Relief Work

When Hitler assumed the chancellorship of the Reich on January 30, 1933, there was still no official central representation and steering committee of the German Jews. This was the hour for the group to which Wilfrid Israel belonged. They became the self-appointed nucleus of the Central Board for Help and Reconstruction ("Zentralausschuss fuer Hilfe und Aufbau"). Its scope of social activities was later on integrated with a definite central political board, the National Representation of the German Jews ("Reichsvertretung der Deutschen Juden"). Neither board was democratically elected; events and exigencies of the hour were too rough to permit a leisurely procedure. But these men and women probably comprised the ablest, most devoted and courageous that could be found. In retrospect, they appear like a reincarnation of the medieval Jewish "Stadlanim," spokesmen of the community in times of emergency by virtue of their own impulse, experience and station in life. Wilfrid Israel, in accordance with inclination and past activities for the children's village Ben Shemen in Palestine, and jointly with others, took charge of integrated plans of adolescents' emigration. Later on he was co-opted to the board of the Jewish Relief Association in Germany ("Hilfsverein der Juden in Deutschland"), departmentally responsible to facilitate emigration to countries other than Palestine.

Side by side with his communal responsibilities, Wilfrid Israel devoted attention and finance to the welfare of his several hundred Jewish employees and their families. Many have literally owed their rescue, re-training and re-establishment abroad to their boss's personal assistance. A separate "Sekretariat Wilfrid Israel" was established in his firm's premises to look after their immediate needs. This included activities to speed up release from concentration camp, advice and material aid for eventual emigration. It has probably never been recorded, but is a fact all the same, that the commandant of the Oranienburg concentration camp did his private shopping for Christmas 1938 at N. Israel, Berlin. Of course, no cash changed hands; his purchases were charged to account and eventually charged off.

Inclinations and Duties

To sum up: Wilfrid Israel, in his active years, would unhesitatingly heed the impersonal call of fellow beings' social needs, and this at the expense of his individual inclinations and interests. In private, he was a sculptor of talent and a collector of art, with a particular interest in the Turfan epoch in Central Asia. Some of these treasures perished during the London Blitz, which he himself went through as a voluntary fire-fighter. What is left of it, is now in the Wilfrid Israel House for Oriental Art and Studies in Kibbutz Hazorea, Israel. But, unlike his younger brother, he had never had a systematic school or college education. He accepted the obligations which tradition imposes, and tried to gain wisdom from meeting situations and individuals when the occasions arose. Two ancestral strains were merged in him: on his father's side, five generations of merchants whose scope of activities, gradually broadened with the growth of Berlin; on his maternal side, was another great-grandfather, Dr. Nathan Marcus Adler, Chief Rabbi of Victorian England.

When World War I broke out, Wilfrid Israel was an adolescent, son of a German-Jewish father and a British-Jewish mother. In his own soul he, then, experienced the self-laceration of European civilisation and the challenge to Messianic hopes of Judaism, witness and scape-goat of humanity amongst the nations. When he took his first assignment in his father's firm, he symbolically stopped the sale of toy guns and tin soldiers. He co-sponsored the Anti-War Museum in Berlin, which attitude the Nazis held out against him afterwards. In World War II, as mentioned before, he helped formulate plans for European post-war reconstruction. His intentions seemed to convert a worn-out saying into a new creed: If you want peace, prepare for peace.

Travelling, rather than reading, was Wilfrid Israel's way to broaden his views after he had become of age. Between the years 1920 and 1940 he went to Poland and Lithuania twice; twice he visited Palestine; he saw Russia, the Far East and India. He was open, yet did not surrender to experience thus gained. His participation in the work for the children's village Ben Shemen dates back to his visit at the institution's first place in Kaunas; but he did not, in his lifetime, subscribe to the Zionist claim of being "the" solution of all Jewish problems. He opposed the idea of mass-transfer, and thought that selective immigration was the only constructive principle on which to build Zion. Without turning a Communist, he supported, while they continued, the re-settlement activities of the Agro-Joint in Southern Russia and Biro-Bidjan. When calling on Rabindranath Tagore, he would discuss the role of the Mahatma ("Great Soul") in the destiny of nations; he certainly was in favour of their political emancipation. But, whereas he did not lack personal courage, he disliked any kind of coercion. In a letter to the Editor, Juedische Rundschau, Berlin, in early 1938, he recommended, as a pattern for the solution of the Palestine problem, the device of the compromise based on mutual recognition, once achieved, after a bitter feud, between the Boers and the British.

It seems in order to stress the actual convictions held by Wilfrid Israel ten and twenty years ago, for two reasons. Unlike the living, the dead do no longer have the privilege of amending their beliefs and actions. And yet, what a breadth of horizon

ANGLO-JUDAICA

The Coronation

The sentiments of British Jews at this time in national affairs were well expressed by the Chief Rabbi. "With affection and loyalty," he said, "all citizens of the British Commonwealth are awaiting the day of crowning and dedication of Her Majesty the Queen. As so movingly requested by Her Majesty, we will join with other creeds in praying for her welfare and prosperity. The Queen rules over a kingdom whose declining fate and future eclipse have often been prophesied by publicists and writers of woe. Crisis has succeeded crisis during recent years. Yet Britain's place in the international field is still high. . . . It abides as a bastion of democracy resplendent with the precious virtue of freedom in its manifold facets."

The Queen agreed that her Jewish subjects, in addition to playing their full part in the general manifestations of loyalty, should commemorate the Coronation by planting in Israel a forest to be called the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest.

Communal Problems

Urgent problems besetting the community were discussed at the tenth conference of Anglo-Jewish Preachers. Attention was drawn particularly to the ominous growth of intermarriage. According to Rabbi Epstein, Principal of Jews' College, the evil has assumed the character of an endemic against which no family in Anglo-Jewry, even among the most Orthodox, could consider itself altogether immune. It is estimated that over 10 per cent of British Jews are now marrying out of the faith.

The impact on Anglo-Jewry of the "several thousand Jewish exiles from Germany" was commended by Mr. L. G. Montefiore, Vice-President of the A.J.A. It was only since they had become integrated and now formed part and parcel of the community that it was possible to judge the influence they exert—"for good and for not so good."

Shechita

As a result of an investigation into the working of Shechita, two eminent veterinary scientists, Professors C. W. Ottaway and A. Carlyle, both of Bristol University, have come to the conclusion that (1) no criticism can be offered on the manner of the preparation of animals for slaughter; (2) the mechanical casting pen is well suited to the purpose; (3) the manner of throat-cutting is scientifically sound, and (4) the reactions of the animal to the cut do not come within the category of inhumanity.

Antisemitism

A frank avowal of his perilous susceptibility to antisemitism was made by a Liberal M.P., Mr. J. Grimond, when he spoke in the House on the Colour Bar. He had often seen Jews having an expensive meal in a restaurant, and "I have felt in myself the reactions which I suppose led to the persecution of the Jews in Germany. But one fights against that. One does not propose to follow the example of those who oppress the Jews."

During the recent borough elections one Fascist candidate was returned. But Mosley's cause suffered a setback when a number of high officers resigned from his Union Movement; they included Victor Burgess, the West London organiser; Sidney Cook, Director of Policy; Carl Harley, Youth Organiser; Captain Peter Leslie-Jones, head of the Special Propaganda Section; Arthur Bevan, Election Agent, and Derek Bloom, leader of the University Group.

encompassed a life span of forty-four years. There was in it the earnest response and responsibility deemed so characteristic by people dealing with "the" German Jew. There was something else in it too, which the living appreciate perhaps better to-day than they could have prior to their emigration. This something else has, since, taken root in their minds as it had previously in Wilfrid Israel himself. It is the basically British belief in a living and developing Commonwealth of Nations.

Of course, only the visible surface of man's character is accessible to rational exploration. Underneath the solid outer layer of political opinion and charity is a core of molten lava, an elementary desire to love and be loved. If it breaks through, it must upset the logical order of the strata above. Even the experienced observer cannot predict whether and when a volcano will erupt. Neither would it be safe for him to delve into the abyss.

Wilfrid Israel died in the service of the community. May his friendly soul rest in the bliss of peace which life withheld from him.

Jerushalmi :

JEW IN THE WORKS OF GERHART HAUPTMANN

From his early youth Gerhart Hauptmann numbered many Jews among his friends. His oldest one was his fellow student at the art school in Breslau, the painter Josef Block, who remained close to him throughout his life. Others were the writer Leo Berg, the poet Georg Hirschfeld, the members of the "Freie Buehne" (Free Stage) in Berlin (1889), Theodor Wolff, Ludwig Fulda, and the lawyer Jonas, the economist Franz Oppenheimer, Hermann Struck, who in the poet's view created the best of all Hauptmann portraits, and above all the theatre manager Otto Brahm and the publisher Sammy Fischer. The latter had immigrated penniless from Hungary to Germany and started a small bookshop, which was to develop into the greatest German publishing house. The poet once said to a Jewish friend: "I shall never forget that my publisher, the first theatre manager to present my plays and the best actors in them were Jews."

In the Utopian novel "Insel der Grossen Mutter" or "Das Wunder von Ile des Dames" (Island of the Great Mother, or The Miracle of Ile des Dames), a cheerful work, full of wit, which is well outside Hauptmann's normal style of writing, a number of shipwrecked ladies are washed up on to a South Sea island and found a women's republic, which mysteriously increases its numbers gradually through the arrival of children. Among these semi-Amazons who are hiding from the realities of life, there is a Mrs. Rosenbaum, formerly from Berlin, Unter den Linden, owner of a well-known drapery store, a resolute person who will not be fooled and who takes charge of nutrition. I have taken this matter upon myself, she says, and no one may complain. In Braun's store in Berlin the poet may have liked the assured manner of Mrs. Wessely, whom we recognise in Mrs. Rosenbaum.

In his drama "Gabriel Schilling's Flucht" (Gabriel Schilling's Flight), the most clearly developed part is that of Hanna Elias, a beautiful, intelligent Jewess from Odessa, who has left her husband and lives with a married painter, by whom she has a sick child. She fights for this wavering, weak-willed man, without whom she cannot live, and whose consuming passion she is. There remains an element of difference between them. You torture your women, only Germans are capable of that, she says to the painter; and to his wife she says, you German women are all slaves. This drama was first performed in the small Goethe-Theatre at Lauchstaedt with decorations designed

by Max Liebermann. Schilling is Hauptmann's friend, the painter Hugo Ernst Schmidt, who was living in Rome with a beautiful Jewess.

In the tragi-comedy "Der Rote Hahn" (The Red Cock), the continuation of "Biberpelz," Hauptmann built a monument to his brother-in-law and friend, the poet Moritz Heimann, reader for his publisher. Heimann, author of the drama "Das Weib des Akiba" (Akiba's Wife), sided with Jewish nationalism in the "Bar Kochba" book of the Association of Jewish College Students in Prague in 1913. In the "Rote Hahn" he is the consciously Jewish practitioner, Dr. Boxer. The doctors drawn by Hauptmann are unselfish, helpful people, and the writer, who always had Jewish doctors himself, loves them. The kind-hearted mother of Dr. Boxer had a little shop in a town near Berlin; there the young doctor was harassed by a reactionary sheriff because of his sympathy towards workpeople. So he leaves and for three years travels about the world as ship's doctor.

The writer's dramatic fragment "Die Buergerin" (The Citizen) is dedicated to his friend Toni Neisser, wife of the famous Breslau dermatologist Albert Neisser. In their hospitable house the Neissers collected around themselves scholars, musicians and artists. The childless wife worked with dignity, energy and wisdom at the side of her husband and considered charity her purpose in life: after all, charity alone is the real miracle. This noble lady is marked out by death, and she knows it. Controlling her pain, living like a hermit, and veiled, she receives the young artist who, like many others, owes everything to her, and whose works will bear witness for her. In his novel "Emanuel Quint" Hauptmann had already drawn a portrait of the famous scientist and doctor and his excellent wife.

Friendship with Walter Rathenau

After the murder of Rathenau, Hauptmann gave the funeral oration for his close friend in the Prussian Upper Chamber. He called this reserved grandseigneur "Sir Walter," just as another friend compared him to a Spanish nobleman with a Velasquez pointed beard who was excessively intellectual and fundamentally a Talmudist.

At the end of his—unpublished—Sir Walter Ballad the funeral of the Minister is described: the people uncover their heads before the descendant of Judas. The coffin swims on top of the seething crowd. Black-red-gold flags are fluttering in the morning wind, and above all there flies a new spirit. The poet was wrong. A decade later the old, blind fist of the slave, the clumsy hand of unfree subjects, shattered freedom and justice. Jewish fate was fulfilled.

In January and February 1934 the fragment "Bildhauer Raoul Markuse" (also unpublished) was created, in which the poet represented his friend, the sculptor Kurt Kroner. A great artist, who remains unrecognized by the outside world, discovers suddenly and universally his Judaism. Desperate and tormented, he argues with God, calls on him as his forefathers did.

"Requiem" for a Jew

We meet the sculptor again in the requiem "Die Finsternisse" (Places of Darkness), written in 1937; it describes the death of his friend Max Pinkus (in 1934) and the fate of the Jews in a grand, concise one act play. Kommerzienrat Pinkus, owner of the linen weaving mills of S. Fränkel at Neustadt in Upper Silesia, and a close friend of the poet, is Löwel Perl in the "Schwarze Maske" (Black Mask), and the seventy-year-old Geheime Kommerzienrat Clausen in the play "Vor Sonnenuntergang" (Before Sunset), in which, lonely after the death of his wife, he falls in love with a young girl. The "Finsternisse," too, is a "work from life." Having been notified of the death of their friend Pinkus on June 19, 1934, Gerhart and Margarete Hauptmann arrived in the stricken home late the next day after a journey in a hired car through teeming rain along bad roads. At midnight, they, as the only Christians, sat down to a meal with the son and daughter-in-law of the dead and a few other Jews. The scene happened in life as the poet describes it. Before the mourners settle down, the shadows of the prophet Elias, of Ahasverus, of John the Disciple and of the Kommerzienrat Joel wearing his shroud are invited to the table. Joel is dead

IN SERVICE OF THE LAW

80th Birthday of Dr. Max Friedlaender

Dr. Max Friedlaender (formerly Munich), the eminent lawyer and most esteemed member of the AJR, will celebrate his 80th birthday on June 28th. For every German lawyer Max Friedlaender has been an inspiration and the incarnation of integrity, honour and dignity of his profession. He is one of the last veterans of that great epoch which is marked by names such as Alsberg, Drucker, Hachenburg, Heilberg, Magnus and Staub.

Born in Bromberg as the son of a much respected family—his father was a member of the Prussian "Herrenhaus" by Royal appointment—he was educated in Frankfurt/Main. One of his earliest publications, "Ueber die absolute Nichtigkeit von Urteilen," caused a sensation. This work of scholarship has been followed by numerous treatises and lectures. However abstruse the subject may have been, it was enlivened by the high spirits and brilliant diction of the author.

It was only natural that his colleagues should have bestowed the highest honours upon Max Friedlaender. For many years he was a member of the Board of Lawyers in Munich and one of the heads of the Association of German Lawyers. By his unique commentary to the "Deutsche Rechtsanwaltsordnung" he solved many points of controversy. His "Gebuehrenordnung" was a never misleading guide to lawyers and judges alike.

In spite of the bitter disappointments which he, like all of us, had to endure when the Nazis came to power, Friedlaender's greatness protected him against any resentment. The draftsmen of the new Federal German "Bundesanwaltsordnung" requested and received his advice. In the new commentary to this law the chapter of "Internationales Anwaltsrecht" will be written by him. Thus Max Friedlaender is the link between the famous past and—we hope—a dignified future of the German legal profession.

Dr. CARL OESTREICH

but Israel does not die. The dead man has changed. The patron and philanthropist, the patriot and loyal to the Emperor, living in plenty and security, in his last night wrote these words of Habakkuk on a piece of paper: "Oh Lord, how long shall I cry and thou wilt not hear? I cry out unto thee of violence and thou wilt not save." And when the sculptor Kroner, a passionate Jew, takes an impression for the death mask, the mask of life drops off. The dead man assumes his real form, just as a kernel issues out when it is freed from its shell. The face of the settled German changes to that of the Oriental nomad, the lean desert chief. The old man is rejuvenated and returns to his origin. Kroner understands this. He feels the impact of the Jewish fate, but he also knows the truth of the prophet's sentence, "Woe to him who builds the city with blood and sets up the tower with injustice." Esther knows it too, Joel's proud daughter-in-law, who has carried the mystery of Judah through the ages. Her brother, Dr. Israel, "whose every fibre and breath are German," shakes off his past, and under the impact of the hour becomes one and a half millennia younger, building a new future for himself. Only Joel's son, Esther's husband, remains unchanged. He still argues. He is completely merged in European and German culture, he wants to call the whole world to testify to the injustice which is being done to him. But Kroner breaks out into the words, "So we are carried along, persecuted, tortured, killed, restless like Ahasverus, but immortal throughout eternity." And the poet closes quietly adding, "Not only you Jews! That applies to us all."

In his works and in his utterances right up to the last few years, Gerhart Hauptmann has seen in the Jews carriers of the ideal of humanity. "The most enduring dominion in history has been that of the pure idealists. The biblical prophets who built the dominion of the Jews for centuries to come—were they power politicians? No! But they were politicians in a higher sense, they renewed the world from above, i.e. from the spiritual side, and not from below, i.e. from the side of the daily needs, and being great visionaries, they had the distant goal in their mind's eye from the beginning."

By kind permission of "Mitteilungsblatt," Tel Aviv (Abbriv. translation).

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TWO LETTERS FROM ISRAEL

SEDER IN HAZOREA

The ritual for the festivals in socialist settlements, though still changing and varying in the different kibbutzim, may be illustrated by a description of this year's "Seder" in the Hashomer Hazair (left wing socialist) Kibbutz "Hazorea." It may be mentioned that this settlement is renowned in Israel for its specially high level of culture.

For the occasion, the big barn had been transformed into a large hall by fixing silvery glittering tin plates to its otherwise open sides, on which panels with appropriate artistic drawings had been attached. At one end a stage had been built, and the brilliantly illuminated room, decorated with masses of multicoloured spring flowers, was filled with six hundred men, women, boys and girls; they were sitting at long tables covered with white tablecloths and bearing enormous quantities of eatables and drinks and mazzoth, all this surrounded by greens and flowers. The ceremony started with the performance of selected parts of Haydn's "Seasons" (on New Year it would be the "Creation") by the kibbutz's excellent choir, soloists, and orchestra. This was followed by a kind of children's ballet to the accompaniment of music made by the children themselves. Then the recital of the Haggadah began. It is of course not the traditional Haggadah, but a specially produced and artistically made-up book by the Hashomer Hazair movement for its kibbutzim. It contains parts of the old Haggadah, but the feast is mainly explained in new words as the festival of liberty, starting with the Exodus from Egypt up to the influx of the large masses from the galah into the Promised Land—the new State of Israel in our days. It was remarkable that, for the first time this year, the divine guidance in the past was mentioned. . . . The Haggadah was not recited by one person, but the different parts were read by several participants, old and young, with numerous general songs in between. Two traditional features have been conserved: the interval for the meal—and the four cups of wine! Throughout the evening there was an animated attention, a quite unsophisticated, natural enjoyment which reached its climax when "Chad Gadhiah" was being sung by the whole company; some gifted soloists added verses referring to actual events, and again the refrain was taken up by their audience.

On the following afternoon, the entire kibbutz population, even the babies, proceeded to one of the neighbouring fields for "Omer"; and amidst dancing and singing, the first harvest was gathered. A similar ceremony on a larger scale, accompanied by competitions in agricultural achievements takes place at Shavuoth.

This kind of celebrating is, of course, considered with much criticism and scepticism, but by many people, this searching for new forms is being considered as containing a kernel of religious feeling, which, often unconscious to the participants, may develop into a religious rebirth.

HANS MOSBACHER (HAIFA)

"OPERATION LUETH"

The visit of Erich Lüth to Israel reads like a mystery thriller. The drama started when on the KLM plane which was to bring to Lydda the initiator of the "Peace with Israel-Action" and the co-founder of the "Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation," no passenger by the name of Lüth was listed. At the airport a Herr Erich Hamburger was the last to leave the plane. He was greeted by two gentlemen with the question: "Are you the traveller from Cyprus?"

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This was the cue for the official opening of "Operation Lüth." For the two gentlemen—one a detective from Jerusalem, the other one from Nazareth—took over the care for Lüth's security and chaperoned him, until 16 days later he left the country under another name—Julius Berman. Yet not only his name changed but also the cars in which he made his 3,800 km. tour of Israel, even the number plates of the cars, his addresses, telephone numbers.

Why the Government feared a terrorist attack just against Hamburg's Press Director and one of Jewry's most trusted friends, remains a security secret. Other Germans, among them Pastor Hermann Maas, Dr. Gertrud Luckner, Rudolf Küstermeier, had previously toured Israel like ordinary visitors. But the assault on Heifetz which occurred during Lüth's stay, tightened up the security measures.

Otherwise, the trip went smoothly—Lüth saw the land from North to South, the cities and the frontiers, the kibbutzim and Arab villages, the laboratories and museums, and even the big military parade on Independence Day.

Lüth will report on his journey in a series of articles and radio talks. But even the brief statements made on his return are interesting. The German-Israeli relations require still the greatest tact and delicacy; the majority of Israel's citizens can't forget the six million Jewish dead as quickly as a large part of the Germans does, he said.

HERBERT FREEDEN (JERUSALEM)

Old Acquaintances

Home News:—Otto Sonnenfeld, formerly in Prague, came from Israel to buy British pictures; he is one of the biggest film distributors for the 110 cinemas there.—German playwright Harald Bratt will see his play, "On the Night of the Fourth" with Paul Lukas, produced in London.—Lea Seidl, who played once in the London production of "White Horse Inn," went to Goettingen to sing Leo Fall's "Kaiserin."—Egon Jameson, who worked for seven years on the staff of the U.S. sponsored "Neue Zeitung" in Germany, has returned to London for good.—Dr. Felix Guggenheim, formerly with "Deutsche Buchgemeinde," who now lives in the United States, passed through London; he represents prominent German authors like Remarque, Feuchtwanger, and Vicki Baum.

Milestones:—One of the few German artists who survived the occupation in Holland—Kurt Geron, Kurt Lilien, Max Ehrlich, Willy Rosen, and Dora Gerson perished—celebrated his 75th birthday: the composer Rudolf Nelson. That little Napoleon on the piano wrote many of the not yet forgotten hit-tunes from the "Chat noir" at his own house at the corner of Fasanenstrasse and Kurfuerstendamm in Berlin. With his wife Kaethe Erholtz he now lives in Amsterdam.—Ernst Stern, who designed most of Max Reinhardt's productions once, is 80 years old. He lives in London, published his memoirs some time ago, and is still active.—Twenty-five years ago Sling died shortly after his 50th birthday. Born in Berlin as Paul Schlesinger, he became the best known and most human court reporter. Sling wrote novels and plays, but his articles in the "Voss" are still unforgotten. His widow and his son are living in Buenos Aires now.—Ten years ago Leslie Howard died on the flight from Portugal to London. Few knew that his real name was Steiner, and that he hailed from Hungary; he represented everything the theatre- and picture-goers took for British.

Obituaries:—In East Germany Erich Weinert, the poet who started in Berlin's "Kueka" and became a communist propagandist, has died.—Ernst Iros, a writer about the films, died in Montreux.—Hermann Jadlowker, once one of the most prominent singers of the Berlin Opera House, died in Tel Aviv at the age of 76.—In Berlin, the old-time baritone Max Dawson, died, aged 85.

Visitors from Germany:—Germany's top-cabaret, Duesseldorf's "Kommoechen," is coming to London again with a brand new programme. It is called "More Whisky and less Vodka," and will be presented in the new Park Lane Theatre, 45 Park Lane, W.1. Kay Lorentz, who writes and composes the show, and his wife are heading the company of eleven. They will be here from June 22 to July 5, and you can order tickets through the "Library of the German Language" (PRI 6083) already now.

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PERSONALIA

Professor Dr. Albert Lewkowitz, formerly lecturer at the Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary, recently became 70 years old. Professor Lewkowitz now lives in Israel.

Mr. Ernst I. Levy (of 34 Victoria Crescent Road, Glasgow, W.2) recently celebrated his 75th birthday. In Berlin he was the owner of the well-known Diana Apotheke in Moabit. Mr. Levy is one of the founders of the Society of Jewish Refugees, the local AJR Group in Glasgow, which elected him its honorary President. The AJR expresses its sincerest congratulations to Mr. Levy.

Oberregierungsrat Dr. Arthur Strauss (Heidelberg) has been awarded the Cross of the German "Verdienstorden." Dr. Strauss is a member of the "Oberrat der Israeliten Badens."

Dr. Alfred Philippson, Professor Emeritus of Geography at Bonn University, died in Bonn 90 years of age. He was a son of Rabbi Dr. Ludwig Philippson. After having spent three years in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, Professor Philippson, an authority in his field, returned to his home town.

The art historian Professor Werner Weisbach (formerly University Berlin) died in Basle 80 years old.

It is learned with great regret that Edith Herrstadt-Oettingen died in New York recently. Due to her outstanding artistic gifts she had many admirers; especially after 1933, her recitals gave strength and confidence to Jewish audiences in Berlin. During the war, Edith Herrstadt-Oettingen stayed in England and, on several occasions, put herself at the disposal of A.J.R. functions. She was a deeply religious Jewess.

Rabbi Dr. Max Grunwald died in Jerusalem 80 years old. He was a Rabbi in Hamburg and, from 1903 to 1931, in Vienna. Dr. Grunwald was an outstanding expert and research worker in the field of Jewish folklore and, for several decades, edited the "Monatsschrift fuer Juedische Volkskunde."

The dental surgeon Dr. Felix Callman passed away recently. Dr. Callman was an active member of the Berlin Students Fraternity A.J.G.V. He also took a very great interest in the efforts of the AJR.

FESTSCHRIFT FOR LEO BAECK

The "World Council of Jews from Germany," of which the AJR is a constituent member, has paid tribute to its President Dr. Leo Baeck by the publication of a "Festschrift," in which the manifold Jewish causes with which Dr. Baeck was associated in Germany are described in a number of expert articles. The book is at the same time a most valuable record of the last decades of Jewish life in Germany. A full review of the "Festschrift," whose preparatory Committee consisted of Rabbi Dr. Bruno Italiener, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. Werner Rosenstock and Dr. Alfred Wiener, and which was edited by Dr. Eva Reichmann, will be published in the next issue of "AJR Information." The 112-page book should be acquired by every former German Jew; the price is 7/6, and it may be ordered from the "Council of Jews from Germany," 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3.

The "Observer" published a most impressive "Profile" of Dr. Leo Baeck on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Surplus copies of the May issue of "AJR Information," which was dedicated to Dr. Baeck, may be obtained from AJR Headquarters. 6d. towards the expenses to be included.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birth

Elkins.—A second daughter, Janet Ruth, was born on May 1, 1953, to Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Elkins, of 104 Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middx.

Deaths

Mr. Rudolf Fleischer, Director of John Alder & Co., 332b, Goswell Road, died in London at the age of 72 years, deeply mourned by his family. 7 St. Gabriel Road, N.W.2.

Mr. Ludwig Lazarus. With great sorrow we announce the passing away of our beloved husband and father Mr. Ludwig Lazarus (formerly Kassel) on May 1st at the age of 61, deeply mourned by his family. Nellie Lazarus, née Reiss, George L. Lazarus, 249a West End Lane, N.W.6.

Mr. Max Gardner, formerly Karlsruhe a.Rh., the late husband of Mrs. Irma Gardner, of 128 Greencroft Gardens, London, N.W.6, passed away at the age of 72 years.

Dr. Felix Callman, B.M.D., L.D.S., R.C.S. England (formerly Berlin, W.15), passed away on April 25, 1953, at Olvidar, Bowes Road, Walton-on-Thames, after a short illness; loved and deeply mourned by his wife, children, relatives and many friends.

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MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries from AJR

Langer, Heinrich, last known address Harpenden, Herts., for Nederlandse Beheersinstituut.

Arendt, Kurt, about 62, or son Gerhard, for G. Putzrath, Berlin.

Danziger, Dr. Gerhard, about 69, wife née Kirchheim, and two daughters, same enquirer.

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AJR AT WORK

AJR CONCERT

The AJR Concert on May 17 at the Embassy Theatre was attended by a large and enthusiastic audience. Special thanks are due to the artists Moiseiwitsch, Victoria Sladen and her accompanist Hubert Greenslade and to all those who as advertisers in the Souvenir Programme or as members of the Concert Committee had contributed to the success of the function.

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SEARCH FOR A BOOK

Anybody who happens to possess the "Betriebs-raetegesetz" by the late Ministerialrat Dr. Georg Flatow, who perished in Auschwitz, should kindly contact AJR Headquarters. The daughter of the late Dr. Flatow would very much like to have a copy of this work.

ISSUE OF

"AJR INFORMATION" WANTED

If any reader can spare a copy of the January 1953 issue of "AJR Information" he should kindly send it to AJR Headquarters.

THE HYPHEN

The programme for June includes several outdoor functions, such as a visit to Hampton Court on June 28. Further particulars may be obtained from Miss L. Metzger, 45A Golders Green Road, N.W.11, enclosing s.a.e.

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AJR MEETING IN LEEDS

The meeting of the AJR Leeds Group on April 26 was an historic occasion whose importance goes beyond the ordinary meaning of local AJR Group Functions. It was convened to review the development of the closely knit community of formerly Continental Jews who, due to the devotion and generosity of Anglo-Jewish Committees and communal workers on the spot could now build up their lives anew in that hospitable city. Dr. L. Ross gave a most impressive review of the history of the Group. Apart from recalling important facts he analysed the psychological position of the Nazi victims. He stressed that former Continental Jews were the bearers of a precious spiritual heritage and that, to keep these values alive, they had to stand together. He also paid tribute to the unforgettable services of local Anglo-Jewish Committee Members. On behalf of these Anglo-Jewish helpers Mrs. G. Rosenthal talked about her experiences in those years of anxiety. In his address about the "AJR To-day" Mr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the AJR, pointed out that an effective organisation of Jews from the Continent was required both for the spiritual reasons described by Dr. Ross, and in view of the great number of practical problems which had to be tackled, especially in the field of restitution and social services. The AJR Leeds Committee is to be congratulated on having arranged this most successful and well-attended memorable function.

AJR GLASGOW

On Sunday, May 10, Dr. F. Seligsohn, Legal Adviser to the United Restitution Office (London), addressed the Meeting of the AJR local Branch. The talk was followed by a lively discussion.

CONCERT TICKETS FOR NEEDY PERSONS

A leading London Concert Agency is kind enough to supply us sometimes with complimentary concert tickets which are to be used for unemployed people, Old Age pensioners, etc. Applicants should contact the Social Services Department, MAI. 4449.

AN IMPORTANT PAMPHLET

The text of the Lecture on Jewish-Christian co-operation delivered by Professor Norman Bentwich last year under the auspices of the Central Jewish Lecture Committee has been printed and may be obtained from the Woburn Press, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1 (price 6d.). It reviews the co-operation of Christians and Jews especially on behalf of the victims from Nazi persecution.

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GENERAL MEETING of the AJR

Thursday, June 18, 7.45 p.m.

1 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6

(See announcement on front page)

No further invitations will be sent out.

STAMPS OF THE HOLY LAND Successful Exhibition in London

An exhibition of stamps of Palestine and Israel was held at the Anglo-Israeli Club, Great Windmill Street, London, by the British Association of Palestine-Israel Philatelists from April 20 to 26, and was attended by considerable numbers of philatelists from the Metropolis and other parts of the country.

The exhibition was opened by Mr. L. D. Gammans, Assistant Postmaster-General, who in his introductory remarks said that he knew nothing about stamps except to sell them, but he did know that philately was one of the few hobbies which follows a man through life, from his schooldays to the end. There was an interesting link between Britain and Israel as far as stamps are concerned, because Abram Games has designed stamps of both countries. Mr. Gammans congratulated the B.A.P.I.P. on having arranged such an interesting and unusual exhibition.

The exhibits included items from notable collections in Great Britain and overseas. The Rev. M. Wilkinson, of Beaconsfield, displayed letters and stamps tracing the postal history of the Holy Land from the 18th century to the present day. Dr. E. Rachwalsky, of London, showed a collection of letters bearing postmarks of military and field post offices, and Mr. B. Guggenheim, of Zurich, exhibited some of the early provisional stamps issued in 1948, before the Israel Post Office had been properly organised. Particularly unusual stamps in the display were issues made in a refugees' camp in Cyprus, the crudely printed local stamps of Safad and Nahariya, and specimens used by the ghetto post at Lodz.

A display by the Government of Israel was representative of stamp manufacture, and included photographs showing how stamps are printed, as well as proofs and trial impressions. The evolution of the design of Israel's 1951 Independence issue, from its original conception by Mr. Abram Games down to the finished stamp was another fascinating exhibit.

M. W.

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