

AJR INFORMATION

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ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN
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SOME URGENT REQUESTS

It is one of the principal tasks of this paper to inform its readers on the development of legislation and practice in matters of Restitution and Indemnification and on the work done by the "Council of Jews from Germany" which represents the AJR and its corresponding organisations abroad in this respect. We are very happy if we can report progress but it is also our duty to refer to difficulties or setbacks if they occur.

Shortcomings of the Federal Indemnification Law

In a statement of the "Council of Jews from Germany," published in the August issue, it was pointed out that several provisions of the "Bundesentschädigungsgesetz" (B.E.G.) were by no means satisfactory, but urgently called for amendments.

One of the shortcomings concerns the rigid regulations on the order in which claims have to be settled. The effect of these regulations, as laid down in the B.E.G., has been the following: Quite a few Indemnification Authorities, both in Southern Germany and in Berlin, are now doubtful as to whether they can continue to make certain compensation payments they so far were prepared to make; they have stopped proceedings in many cases until further clarification. This refers, e.g., to advance payments on claims not yet "called up for payment," and, above all, on claims for loss of career—a group of claims especially badly treated in the B.E.G. The Council has been very busy to impress on all concerned that the object of the Federal Indemnification Law was to further, not to impede the settlement of claims. We are glad to say that the Ministries of the "Laender," Wuerttemberg—Baden as usual in the forefront, have displayed great understanding in this matter. Whether, however, our wishes will be fulfilled and whether financial and legalistic doubts will be overcome can not yet be said. As things stand now, claimants must not be surprised if they hear from German indemnification authorities that their cases have been held over owing to the enactment of the B.E.G.

Amend the Law—Now!

The need to improve the law by amending legislation has been widely recognised, e.g. by a letter the Council of Jews from Germany has received from the Federal Minister of Justice. There is however, in certain quarters, a tendency to postpone amending legislation until it can be seen how the B.E.G. works. Certainly some deficiencies will become evident only when the law will be in operation, and just as the Berlin Indemnification Law has been amended (so far) seven times, the necessity for future amendments of the B.E.G. will also arise repeatedly. However, those deficiencies which are obvious to any informed person already at this juncture and which have been set out in the Council's statement should be remedied now.

Indemnification and Restitution

A further problem which should be settled quickly is the matter of the boundary line between restitution and indemnification claims, which, *inter alia*, affects claims for confiscated liftvans or bank accounts. It is a fact that even now, after years of controversy, in some Laender claims of this kind are rejected by the Indemnification authorities as falling into the province of Restitution, whereas in other Laender absolutely identical claims are dismissed by the Restitution authorities as falling into the province of Indemnification. Claimants feel bewildered and embittered (unless they choose most unfairly, but understandably, to blame URO or their lawyers).

The absurd position is that, as the clauses of the B.E.G. show beyond doubt, the authors do not intend the claimants to fall between two stools and to remain unindemnified; they realise the injustice of such an outcome and wish to remedy it. Yet they have not overcome their legalistic and financial hesitation to an extent, which would end the futile hair-splitting litigation by the necessary adjustments. They should grant the claimants at least part of their justified claims now. This again is a matter which must not suffer delay.

The "Rueckerstattungs-Ergaenzungsgesetz"

This is the name of a law, promised by the agreements between the Federal Republic on the one hand and the Allied Governments and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims on the other hand. It will settle claims against the German Reich (so called "Dritte-Masse" claims, i.e. claims for confiscated banking accounts, liftvans, jewellery, etc.). These claims are now only assessable in principle, but not as to the DM. amount ultimately payable. That amount will be determined by the forthcoming law. Claimants who often believe that these claims will now be satisfied by virtue of the B.E.G., must know that, in fact, their claims fall under this future Rueckerstattungs-Ergaenzungsgesetz and are not yet due for payment.

It can be noted with satisfaction that the Ministry concerned has been asked by the Federal Government to draft this "Rueckerstattungs-Ergaenzungsgesetz." It can, however, not be foreseen when it will be passed.

Reopening of Time Limits for applications

It is sincerely to be hoped that the coming "Rueckerstattungs-Ergaenzungsgesetz" will re-open the filing deadline to register such "Dritte Masse" claims, just as the "Bundesentschädigungsgesetz" does in respect to indemnification claims. This is all the more necessary as there is not the slightest doubt that thousands of "Dritte Masse" claims have not been brought forward by those entitled to them, because claimants or their advisers thought the claims in question were to be considered as indemnification, not as restitution claims. In many other cases (especially in the British Zone and in Berlin) the claim was submitted, but dismissed by the Restitution Authorities, again on the ground that it was supposed to be an Indemnification Claim, a legal view now no longer accepted by the same authorities. The absolute necessity of re-opening the filing deadline appears to be recognised by all concerned; the matter is, however, complicated by the statutory rights of the Successor Organisations.

Individual Claimants and Successor Organisations

As readers know, the "Successor Organisations," i.e. the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (IRSO) for the American Zone and the Jewish Trust Corporation (J.T.C.) for the British Zone are entitled to claim "heirless and unclaimed" property liable to restitution. Among the claims they have lodged are also thousands of "Dritte Masse" claims (e.g. for confiscated liftvans or banking accounts) which, for the reasons explained above, have not been submitted by the individual owners. By global settlement with some Laender, IRSO has even ceded their claims to the "Laender," and has received lump payments for them. It is obvious that it would be most unjust if this situation were not remedied. The Council of Jews from Germany has made a strong plea to the Successor Organisations, urging them not to act to the detriment of individual claimants and to restrict their claims to genuinely heirless and unclaimed

assets, i.e. to those which will remain unclaimed at the end of the time limit to be fixed by the "Rueckerstattungs-Ergaenzungsgesetz." It seems that this point of view has been well understood by the Successor Organisations and that they do not wish to deprive individual claimants of their rights, but will confine themselves to property ultimately remaining "heirless or unclaimed." However, the matter has not yet been definitely settled and further vigilance will be exercised so as to see that individual claimants are not prejudiced.

Appeal to IRSO

It has always been our intention to settle all differences of interest between the individual claimants and the Successor Organisations in an amicable way. Our Council is a constituent of both IRSO and the J.T.C. and its representatives have taken part in their work. This has been done under the assumption that the proceeds of the Successor Organisations would be used in accordance with the mandate given to them, viz. for the benefit of victims of Nazi persecution not otherwise cared for. We have always acknowledged that the Jews from Germany are not the only victims and that there are also great liabilities towards victims who have come from other countries under Nazi rule and many of whom have found a new home in the State of Israel. We have taken this attitude, though quite a good case might have been made out that the funds of the Successor Organisations, deriving from the heirless, unclaimed and communal property of German Jewry, belong to the remnants of German Jewry alone. Yet we have restricted our claim to 20% of the funds.

We have repeatedly complained that even this modest claim has been fully disregarded by IRSO. To be just, we have to note now that, for the first time, IRSO recently voted a grant for a project promoted by the Council's constituent organisation in U.S.A. and will allocate funds for an annex to an existing Old Age Home to provide for the special needs of refugees. This, however, can only be a beginning. We have again submitted our claim for 20% of the funds (a very large part of the IRSO funds has already been distributed!), and we hope and expect that justice will prevail this time.

W.B.

PUBLIC MEETING

under the auspices of the AJR

Wednesday, November 11, at 7.45 p.m.
at Stern Hall, 33 Seymour Place, W.1
(near Marble Arch)

Dr. W. Breslauer:
DAS BUNDESENTSCHAEDIGUNGS-
GESETZ

Bedeutung und Kritik

Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld:
WIEDERGUTMACHUNG IN
OESTERREICH
Gegenwaertiger Stand der Verhand-
lungen

The talks will be given in German
Free admission without ticket
AJR Members and their friends are cordially
invited

No further invitations will be sent out

DAS BUNDESENTSCHAEDIGUNGSGESETZ

ANSPRUCHSARTEN UND ANSPRUCHSBERECHTIGTE

Die folgende Zusammenstellung beschaenkt sich auf die Darstellung der Hauptmerkmale, insbesondere soweit sie fuer Juden im Ausland Bedeutung haben. Einzelheiten sind aus der Sonderbeilage zur September-Ausgabe von "AJR Information" ersichtlich.

SCHADENSTATBESTAND	A VERFOLGTE MIT LETZTEM WOHNSITZ IM BUNDESGBIET ODER GROSS-BERLIN ODER MIT AUFENTHALT IN EINEM D.P. CAMP AM 1.1.47	B BESONDERE VERFOLGTENGRUPPEN OHNE DIE WOHNSITZ- ODER AUFENTHALTSVORAUSSETZUNGEN UNTER A		
		B 1 VERFOLGTE AUS VERTREIBUNGS- GEBIETEN (1)	B 2 STAATENLOSE UND POLITISCHE FLUECHTLINGE (2)	B 3 NATIONALVER- FOLGTE
I. SCHADEN AM LEBEN Anspruchsberechtigte Entschaedigung Vererblichkeit	Witwe und, unter bestimmten Voraussetzungen, Witwer bis Wiederverheiratung oder Tod, sowie unter Umstaenden Enkel, Eltern und Grosseltern Rente und vom Tode des Verfolgten bis Rentengewahrung Kapitalentschaedigung Rente nicht vererblich, Kapital unbeschaenkt, wenn Berechtigter nach 1.1.47 verstorben, sonst nur auf Ehegatten und Erben 1. und 2. Ordnung (3)	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A Rente (bei Berechtigten unter 60 Jahren 75% der allgem. Saetze) und Kapitalentschaedigung (jedoch erst ab 1.1.49) Anspruch nicht vererblich	Kein Anspruch
II. SCHADEN AN KOERPER UND GESUNDHEIT Entschaedigung Vererblichkeit	1. Heilverfahren, 2. Bei Erwerbsminderung um mindestens 30% Rente und von Erwerbsminderung bis Rentengewahrung Kapitalentschaedigung Wie bei Schaden am Leben	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A, jedoch mit gleichen Einschränkungen wie bei Schaden am Leben Anspruch nicht vererblich	Rente bei dauerndem Gesundheitsschaden mit mindestens 50% Erwerbsunfaehigkeit Anspruch nicht vererblich
III. SCHADEN AN FREIHEIT Entschaedigung Vererblichkeit	150 DM fuer jeden vollen Monat Wenn Verfolgter vor 8.5.45 verstorben, nicht vererblich, sonst auf Ehegatten, Kinder und Eltern, wenn Vererbung wegen Zusammenhang des Todes mit der Verfolgung oder wegen Beduerftigkeit der Erben billig erscheint	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A, jedoch bei Berechtigten unter 60 Jahren 75% der allgemeinen Saetze Anspruch nicht vererblich	Kein Anspruch
SCHADENSTATBESTAND	A VERFOLGTE MIT LETZTEM WOHNSITZ IM BUNDESGBIET ODER GROSS-BERLIN ODER MIT AUFENTHALT IN EINEM D.P. CAMP AM 1.1.47	B 1 VERFOLGTE AUS VERTREIBUNGSGBIETEN (4)		
IV. SCHADEN AN EIGENTUM UND VERMOEGEN (5) Gemeinsame Vorschriften ueber Vererblichkeit Schaden an Eigentum und allgemeiner Vermoegenschaden Sonderabgaben Reichsfluchtsteuer Geldstrafen, Bussen und Kosten	Bei Tod nach 1.1.47 unbeschaenkt, sonst nur auf Ehegatten und Erben 1. und 2. Ordnung Hoechstgrenze der Entschaedigung, nach Umstellung 10:2, 75.000 DM Keine Hoechstgrenze, Umstellung 10:2 Bis zu 50.000 RM Umstellung 10:2. Fuer darueber hinausgehenden Betrag 10:1 (Hoechstbetrag weitere 30.000 DM) und unter Umstaenden Anrechnung anderer Entschaedigungsleistungen fuer Vermoegens- und Berufsschaden Umstellung 10:2	Anspruch nicht vererblich Kein Anspruch Hoechstgrenze einschliessl. Reichsfluchtsteuer 175.000 RM, umzustellen 100: 6.5 Siehe oben unter "Sonderabgaben" Kein Anspruch		

V. SCHADEN IM BERUFLICHEN UND WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN FORTKOMMEN ⁽⁶⁾	VERFOLGTE UNTER A (Definition umseitig)	VERFOLGTE UNTER B1 (aus Vertreibungsgebieten)
Gemeinsame Vorschriften ueber Vererblichkeit	Kapitalentschaedigung bei Tod nach 1.10.53 unbeschraenkt, sonst nur auf Ehegatten und Erben 1. und 2. Ordnung insoweit als diese einen Schaden in Bezug auf Unterhalt erlitten haben ⁽⁷⁾	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A
Selbstaendige Berufe	Entschaedigung vom Zeitpunkt der Verdraengung bis hoechstens 70. Lebensjahr. Inzwischen erzielttes Einkommen ist anzurechnen	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A, jedoch nur, wenn die ohne Eintritt des Berufsschadens aus eigenen Mitteln gewaehrte Altersversorgung nicht oder nicht ausreichend moeglich
	Kapitalentschaedigung (Hoechstgrenze 25.000 DM) oder Rente bis 500 DM per Monat	Kapitalentschaedigung (Hoechstgrenze des zu beruecksichtigenden Verlustes 150.000 RM, umzurechnen 100:6:5), wahlweise Rente jedoch nur bei Alter (65 bzw. bei Frauen 60) oder Erwerbsunfaehigkeit und nicht ausreichenden sonstigen Einkuenften
Private Dienstverhaeltnisse	Wie bei selbstaendigen Berufen. Wahlrecht auf Rente nur bei Alter (65, bzw. bei Frauen 60) oder Erwerbsunfaehigkeit	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A, jedoch mit gleichen Einschraenkungen wie bei selbstaendigen Berufen
Oeffentlicher Dienst	BEG regelt Ansprueche fuer die Zeit vor 1.4.50. Regelung fuer Zeit ab 1.4.50 durch Auslandsbeamtengesetz vom 18.3.52	Kein Anspruch nach BEG. Fuer Zeit ab 1.4.50 wie bei Verfolgten unter A
Schaden in der Ausbildung	Entschaedigung 5.000 DM Im Gegensatz zu anderen Berufsschaeden nicht vererblich	Kein Anspruch
Privatversicherung	Hoechstgrenze 10.000 DM	Kein Anspruch nach BEG
Sozialversicherung	Durch Fremdreten- und Auslandsrentengesetz vom 7.8.53 geregelt	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A
Kriegsopferversorgung	Durch Gesetz ueber die Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts in der Kriegsopferversorgung im Ausland vom 3.8.53 geregelt	Wie bei Verfolgten unter A

- (1) Verfolgte des deutschen Sprach- und Kulturkreises aus ehemals deutschen Gebieten oestlich der Oder-Neisse-Linie (z. B. Breslau, Koenigsberg, Stettin) und aus anderen nichtdeutschen Gebieten (z. B. Tschechoslowakei).
- (2) Voraussetzung fuer den Anspruch ist, dass bei dem Verfolgten Freiheitsentziehung vorgelegen hat. Bei Staatenlosen steht der nachtraegliche Erwerb einer Staatsangehoerigkeit nicht entgegen. Politische Fluechtlinge sind Verfolgte aus Gebieten, in die eine Rueckkehr nicht zugemutet werden kann.
- (3) Erben 1. und 2. Ordnung sind Kinder, Eltern und deren Abkoemmlinge.
- (4) Verfolgte der Gruppen B2 und B3 haben keine Ansprueche nach BEG fuer Vermoegens- und Berufsschaeden.
- (5) Nur soweit Eigentum und Vermoegen sich im Reichsgebiet nach dem Stand vom 31.12.37 befanden. Eigentumsschaden umschliesst Zerstoerung, Verunstaltung und Pluenderung; Vermoegensschaden umschliesst Boykott und schweren Transfervverlust.
- (6) Schaedigung muss im Reichsgebiet nach dem Stand vom 31.12.37 begonnen haben.
- (7) Schaden in der Ausbildung jedoch nicht vererblich.

(Zusammengestellt von W. Rosenstock.)

ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSBEHOERDEN

Die Zustaeendigkeit der Entschaedigungsbehoerden fuer im Ausland befindliche Anspruchsberechtigte nach dem Bundesentschaedigungsgesetz ergibt sich aus der folgenden Zusammenstellung.

I. Fuer Verfolgte mit letztem Wohnsitz im Bundesgebiet oder in Gross-Berlin oder mit Aufenthalt in einem D.P. Camp am 1.1.47.

Baden-Wuerttemberg :

Das Landesamt f. Wiedergutmachung in
Freiburg fuer den Reg. Bezirk Suedbaden
Karlsruhe fuer den Reg. Bezirk Nordbaden
Stuttgart fuer den Reg. Bezirk Nord-Wuerttemberg
Tuebingen fuer den Reg. Bezirk Sued-Wuerttemberg, Hohenzollern

Bayern :

Das Bayerische Landesentschaedigungsamt,
 Muenchen 2, Arcisstr. 11.

Berlin :

Das Entschaedigungsamt, Berlin-Wilmersdorf,
 Fehrbelliner Platz 1.

Bremen :

Das Landesamt fuer Wiedergutmachung, Entschaedigungsbehoerde, **Bremen**, Meinkenstr. 1.

Der Magistrat der Stadt, Entschaedigungsbehoerde, **Bremerhaven**, Stadthaus, Block IV, Zimmer 101/103.

Hamburg :

Die Sozialbehoerde, Amt fuer Wiedergutmachung,
 Hamburg 1, Altstaedterstr. 8, Sprinkenhof.

Hessen :

Der Regierungspraesident — Entschaedigungsbehoerde—

Wiesbaden, Faubrunnenstr. 13.
Darmstadt, Rheinstrasse.
Kassel, Ludwig-Mond-Str. 31.

Niedersachsen :

Die zustaeendigen Regierungspraesidenten (Praesidenten der Verwaltungsbezirke).

Nordrhein-Westfalen :

Der Regierungspraesident in **Koeln**.

Rheinland-Pfalz :

Regierungsbezirk Pfalz :

Das Reg. Bezirksamt fuer Wiedergutmachung u. verw. Vermoegen, **Neustadt a.d. Weinstrasse**, Landauer Str. 6.

Regierungsbezirk Rheinhessen :

Das Reg. Bezirksamt fuer Wiedergutmachung u. verw. Vermoegen, **Mainz**, Walpodenstrasse. 5.

Regierungsbezirk Koblenz und Montabaur :

Das Reg. Bezirksamt fuer Wiedergutmachung u. verw. Vermoegen, **Koblenz**, Loehrstr. 23.

Regierungsbezirk Trier :

Das Reg. Bezirksamt fuer Wiedergutmachung u. verw. Vermoegen, **Trier**, Kochstr. 1.

Schleswig-Holstein :

Die zustaeendigen Stadt oder Landkreise.

II. Fuer Verfolgte aus den Vertreibungsgebieten.

Bei Wohnsitz in europaeischen Laendern :

Der Regierungspraesident in **Koeln**.

Bei Wohnsitz in U.S.A. und Israel :

Das Reg. Bezirksamt fuer Wiedergutmachung und verw. Vermoegen, **Neustadt a.d. Weinstrasse**, Landauer Str. 6.

Bei Wohnsitz in den uebrigen aussereuropaeischen Laendern :

Das Reg. Bezirksamt fuer Wiedergutmachung und verw. Vermoegen, **Mainz**, Walpodenstrasse. 5.

III. Fuer Staatenlose, politische Fluechtlinge und Nationalverfolgte.

Bei Wohnsitz in europaeischen Laendern :

Der Regierungspraesident in **Koeln**.

Bei Wohnsitz in aussereuropaeischen Laendern :

Das Reg. Bezirksamt fuer Wiedergutmachung und verw. Vermoegen, **Trier**, Kochstr. 1.

For Information and Guidance

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

STAATSEKRETAER STUCKART CLASSIFIED AS "MITLAEUFER"

Himmler's deputy in the Ministry of Interior, Staatssekretaer a.D. Stuckart, was classified under Category 4 (Mittelaefuer) by the Hanover Denazification Court. He was sentenced to a fine of 500 DM. which is, however, only due when he receives a pension or salary. In fact, Stuckart's pension claim has been granted by the authorities. Stuckart is the author of the Commentary on the Nuremberg Laws, held the rank of an S.S. Obergruppenfuhrer and was awarded the Golden Party Emblem. At the notorious Wannsee Meeting, when the "final solution" of the Jewish question was decided, Stuckart called for compulsory divorce of all mixed marriages.

ASSETS OF MINISTER KERRL

The late Hanns Kerrl, Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs under the Nazi regime and a member of the Nazi Party since 1925, was classified by the Munich denazification court as a "Hauptschuldiger." 20% of his estate was confiscated.

GESTAPO OFFICIAL ACQUITTED

Two former Gestapo officials, who were accused of having ill-treated political prisoners in 1933 and 1934, were acquitted by the Cologne Law Court. The Chamber expressed the view that it would not be fair to prosecute the "small people" at a time when personalities well known by their previous record were politically active again.

Letters to the Editor

KARL WOLFSKEHL

Sir,

It was with considerable interest indeed, that I read Friedrich Walter's fine article about Karl Wolfskehl in "AJR Information," No. 7, but I cannot agree to his statement that he died "a lonely and half-forgotten man" in New Zealand. I gathered evidence that the intelligentsia in New Zealand as well as in Australia was fully aware of his importance. For instance, poems of Wolfskehl, in the German original beside translation into English, and articles about him had been issued in the reputed literary magazine "Meanjin" (Melbourne), and after his demise I was given the opportunity of publishing a detailed obituary on him in the representative Jewish monthly magazine "The Zionist" (Melbourne).

Fritz Friedlander.

Melbourne.

CEMETERIES IN THE RHEINPFALZ

Sir,

All Pfalzter will be deeply concerned to hear that, when I was in Neustadt a few weeks ago and went to the cemetery, the graves were in a shocking state and there was grass several feet high everywhere. Only perhaps half a dozen graves were planted and looked after. The Chairman of the Juedische Kultusgemeinde der Rheinpfalz, Herr Siegel, told me that visitors from America and other countries had made a big row about the neglected state. But they do not care to spend the DM 25 which is all that is necessary to keep one grave in order and well planted for one year. It is impossible to expect the small Jewish population to bear the burden—there are today 172 members in the Kultusgemeinde, mostly poor people, and only 20 of them are able to contribute at all towards the upkeep of the graves, and there are 132 cemeteries in the Pfalz.

Nearly every day we are called upon to contribute towards worthy causes, but I think it is a disgrace if former German Jews forget the graves of their nearest ones. May I call on Pfalzter whose relatives are buried in Neustadt or other places in the Pfalz to send a contribution—for which also blocked DM accounts can be used—to:—

Herrn Fritz Siegel,
Vorsitzender der Juedischen Kultusgemeinde
der Rheinpfalz
Ludwigstr. 20, Neustadt a.d. Weinstrasse.
Yours faithfully,
F. J. Sues.

65 The Green,
Ewell, Surrey.

ONLY JEWISH WAR CRIMINAL RELEASED

American authorities have released from Landsberg prison Dr. Edwin Katzenellenbogen, the only Jew sentenced by the Allies in Germany as a war criminal. A former inmate doctor of the Buchenwald concentration camp, he was found guilty of having refused to minister to the sick.

PRESIDENT OF SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY BURIED IN HAMBURG

The last President of the Hamburg Sephardic Community, Leon Cassuto, who died in Portugal, was at his explicit wish interred in the ancient Portuguese-Jewish cemetery of Ohlsdorf.

THREE GERMAN JEWISH REFERENCE BOOKS

The "Arbeitsgemeinschaft Juedischer Gewerbetreibender und freier Berufe in Berlin" has published a Handbook in which, classified according to profession or trade, Jewish doctors, lawyers, manufacturers, artisans and traders are registered. The booklet which may be obtained from the office of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft," Berlin, W.15, Joachimsthaler Str. 13, also contains articles about the Berlin-Jewish Community, its past and present, and on questions connected with restitution and compensation.

An interesting "Almanach"—"Die Juden in Deutschland"—has been edited by Heinz Ganther (Neuzeit-Verlag, Frankfurt/M., 376 pages). It includes comprehensive reprints and original articles by Jewish and non-Jewish authors about the recent history and present position of the Jews in Germany. A survey of the German Jewish communities and of the Jewish Press is attached. The book is of informative value for Jews and non-Jews alike.

The "European Jewish Year Book," written in English but also published in Germany (Hermann Bary, Frankfurt/M.) is meant as a directory of Jewish organisations and communities in Germany and some other European and non-European countries. In the case of several countries the history of the communities is briefly described, and a Jewish "Who is Who" is published at the end. Though the book is not in every respect balanced and consistent and, due to linguistic difficulties, also blurred by quite a few misprints, it may serve a useful purpose.

"ZENTRALRAT" MEETING IN BREMEN

The question whether the community of Jews in Germany should be liquidated by emigration as speedily as possible or whether it has a raison d'être stood in the foreground of the discussions at the Council Meeting of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany, held in Bremen on October 11th and 12th. Representatives of the Israeli Mission (Dr. Yahil), of the "Council of Jews from Germany" (Dr. H. Reichmann, London), of IRSO (Dr. Ernst Katzenstein), the "Joint" (Mr. S. Haber) and of other Jewish organisations attended. Dr. Leo Baeck, who was to be the Honorary President of the Meeting, but was unexpectedly unable to come to Bremen, had sent a message in which he recalled the historical role played by German Jewry throughout the centuries. The message ends as follows:

"Ueberall in der juedischen Welt sprach man von den 'Chasside Aschkenas,' den 'frommen Juden Deutschlands,' denen die Moral der Kern der Religion war; ueberall las man ihr 'Buch von den Frommen,' das in der Wende vom 12. zum 13. Jahrhundert in Regensburg verfasst war. Dies gab diesen Menschen ihren Opfermut, und wenn die Stunde es forderte: die Kraft des Martyriums, und es gab ihnen zugleich die Erschlossenheit fuer jeden neuen Gedanken und jede neue Aufgabe. Auch das ist die Jahrhunderte hindurch zu einem Erbe der Juden Deutschlands geworden. Wo einst die Fuelle der Gemeinden war, sind heute die Wenigen, aufbaut aus Truemmern. Aber der alte Geist will und soll hier weiterleben. Ihn zu pflegen, das ist die grosse Aufgabe, die jeder einzelnen Gemeinde und die ihrer Gesamtheit gestellt ist. Der Segen des Ewigen moege ueber ihnen sein."

RESTITUTION

UNTERSTUETZUNGSZAHLUNGEN AUS SPERRMARK-GUTHABEN

Mit Wirkung vom 15. Oktober 1953 werden die Betraege erhoehet, die auslaendische Inhaber von originaeren Sperrguthaben monatlich zu Unterstuetzungszahlungen im Bundesgebiet und in Westberlin verwenden duerfen. Von jedem Inhaber originaerer Sperrguthaben koennen statt bisher DM 300.—jetzt insgesamt DM.1000.—monatlich zu Unterstuetzungszahlungen, und zwar an einen oder mehrere Empfaenger, verwandt werden. Die bisherige Beschaenkung, dass Unterstuetzungszahlungen zu Lasten von Sperrguthaben nur an nahe Verwandte der Kontoinhaber geleistet werden duerfen, ist weggefallen.

BEREINIGUNGSGESETZ FUER DEUTSCHE AUSLANDSBONDS

Auf Grund dieses Gesetzes vom 25. 8. 1952 (Bundesgesetzblatt 1952 I S.553), zu dem inzwischen Ausfuhrungen—Bestimmungen ergangen sind, koennen nunmehr deutsche Auslandsbonds zur Bereinigung angemeldet werden. Auslandsbonds sind lediglich auf fremde Waehrungen lautende Stuecke von im Ausland begebenen Anleihen deutscher Schuldner, und zwar unter der Voraussetzung, dass die betreffenden Anleihen in der Anlage und den spaeteren Ergaenzungen des Gesetzes listenmaessig aufgefuehrt worden sind. Anmeldefaehig sind sogenannte Auslandsstuecke, rechtmassig erworbene Stuecke und Rueckerstattungsstuecke. Soweit die Stuecke im Rueckerstattungsverfahren angemeldet worden sind, koennen sie gemass dem Bereinigungsgesetz auch dann angemeldet werden, wenn das Rueckerstattungsverfahren noch nicht rechtskraeftig entschieden ist. Fuer die rechtlich verwickelten Einzelheiten muss auf das Gesetz verwiesen werden. Interessenten koennen Anfragen an den Foreign Representative of the German Federal Republic for the Validation of German Foreign Currency Bonds, 23 College Street Hill, Cannon Street, London, E.C.4, richten.

Antragsformulare zum Bundesentschaedigungsgesetz sind beim United Restitution Office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3 erhaeltlich (8d-plus postage).

UNITED KINGDOM COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN GERMANY

The new address of the United Kingdom commercial representative in the German Federal Republic is 77 Friedrich Ebert Allee, Bonn (Telephone Bonn 22021).

Contrary to views expressed by some guest speakers, the responsible members of the Zentralrat stressed the need for the existence of Jewish Communities in Germany. They recalled the historic fact that also in countries where Jews had been expelled in previous centuries, e.g. France and England, Jewish life had been rebuilt after catastrophe. Furthermore, there were now in Germany not only Jews, who were found there after the war, but also an increasing number of returnees from abroad who had to be looked after. For moral and practical reasons the Jews in Germany, represented by the Zentralrat, feel entitled to be considered as a legitimate section of World Jewry and to participate in its common tasks.

The Meeting also decided to set up a special committee for intensifying cultural activities in the Jewish communities.

At a gathering in the famous Bremer Ratskeller on the eve of the Meeting, addresses were given by Senatspraesident Kaisen in the name of the City of Bremen, Mr. Erich Lueth, the promoter of the "Peace with Israel" campaign, Rabbi Dr. R. Geisi and the representatives of the invited organisations, including Dr. H. Reichmann of the "Council of Jews from Germany."

The new Directorate was elected; it consists of Dr. Ewald Allschoff, Frankfurt (American Zone), Carl Katz, Bremen (British Zone), Leonhard Baer, Koblenz (French Zone), Heinz Galinski, West Berlin (Berlin), Maurice Weinberger, Munich (Bavaria) and Dr. H. G. Van Dam (Secretary General).

Werner Rosenstock :

LUDWIG TIETZ

March 5, 1897—November 4, 1933

The house Landhausstrasse 29 in Berlin is in ruins. In the twenties and early thirties, it was the meeting place of many who were then active in the Jewish Youth Movement. They came to see Ludwig Tietz. The twentieth anniversary of his premature death (November 4, 1933) reminds us of those formative years, enhanced, or rather determined, by the relationship to him. It is no accident that memories focus around this house though he did not spend the last years of his life there. Yet for those who knew Ludwig Tietz more intimately, the last phase, when his public activities reached their climax, is of lesser importance than the time before 1933, when work for German Jewry was motivated by a voluntary decision and not by force of external circumstances.

At first sight, there seems to be much similarity between Ludwig Tietz and another man of his generation whose all too short life was commemorated a few months ago: Wilfrid Israel. Both of them originated from a wealthy environment, both of them remained unattached to a family of their own, and both were of decisive influence on people junior to them. Yet while Wilfrid, hiding his compassion, was shy, Ludwig Tietz was straightforward. While Wilfrid kept aloof from the arena of public controversies, Ludwig Tietz, as a tough fighter, took part in the day to day work of the organisations. Wilfrid, certainly against his will, radiated an atmosphere of solemnity, but Ludwig Tietz was helped in mastering a situation by his wit which was a blend of his Jewish heritage and his Berlin upbringing. While Wilfrid smiled, Ludwig Tietz could laugh.

LETTER FROM JERUSALEM

Jews are highly sensitive of the treatment of minorities, for the very reason that they themselves have been minorities in many countries. The question, therefore, how Israel is dealing with her Arab population has received much attention both inside and outside the State.

Constitutionally, Israel bestows equality to all her citizens, regardless of race or creed. Political circumstances, however, did much to place difficulties in the way of this basic civil right.

After 5½ years, Israel's neighbours are still in a state of war with a country more than 100,000 residents of which have close religious, linguistic, ethical, political and family ties with them. In the constant warfare which is waged along Israel's borders, infiltrators, it is said, are aided by Arabs on this side of the frontier. Minister Lavon, in a recent debate on minorities, therefore argued that Israel's Arabs should first help in combating infiltration before the restrictions on their liberties could be rescinded.

These restrictions are, indeed, severe. The Arab areas of the country are still under military rule; in many places there is a curfew after 9 p.m., and Arabs who want to spend a night outside their registered domicile have to apply for a permit. When, the other day, a delegation of 60 Arabs from urban and rural areas travelled to Jerusalem to vent their complaints, they had received the permission to go to the Capital but were not allowed to break their journey on the way there or back.

The whole latent problem came to the open when an Israel plane was allegedly shot at from the Arab village of Tira, near Haifa. Searches and curfew followed, and the innocent in Tira had to suffer with the guilty, if there were any. The Hebrew press pointed out that considerations of security and equality were sometimes contradictory. Wherever possible, it was said, the Government's policy should be to weaken the ties of the Israel Arabs with their kinsmen across the border, by fulfilling their justified demands.

Certain Moslem and Christian spiritual leaders have recently suggested a transfer or exchange of Israel's Arab minority. These proposals are considered impracticable and opposed by the majority of these communities.

The general conclusion is that much can be done to alleviate the lot of the Arab minority to-day, but that the final solution can only come when peace is restored with the neighbouring countries.

HERBERT FREEDEN

His approach to the Jewish question started rather from the psychological than from the "ideological" angle. It was urged in the first place, not by the "objektive Judenfrage" which, in those days, did not seem to affect the emancipated and financially sound community of German Jews, but by the "subjektive" aspect of the Jewish problem, by the knowledge that a Western Jew can only be a balanced personality if he develops his Jewishness instead of trying to suppress it. This may sound a little vague and unspecified. Yet we must remember that an increasing number of German Jews, especially of the young generation, having lost their forefathers' natural religious loyalty, did not any longer stand on safe ground and tended to drift away. The split personality of the Jewish intellectual, detached from the community of his origin and yet not unreservedly accepted by his environment, was the most conspicuous and most tragic representative of this type. His spiritual position is reflected in Kurt Tucholsky's farewell letter, where he writes: "Ich bin einmal aus dem Judentum 'ausgetreten.' Heute sehe ich, dass man so etwas garnicht kann."

For Ludwig Tietz this human side of the Jewish question resulted in educational efforts for which the Youth Movement, with its creative tension between the Youth Leader and those in his charge, offered ideal opportunities. The confidence he enjoyed among young people was unique. "We must talk this over with Ludwig Tietz" was the preliminary solution of many a discussion in their groups. They came to see him, and he never failed them. His sphere of influence was not restricted to those who were his followers. He was an authority also for many who held different opinions on Jewish life or whose activities centred around general political movements. As long as he was sure that he could rely on a person's reliability and sincerity, his helpfulness as an adviser and friend and, last not least, as a doctor, knew no limits. Yet his attitude would be uncompromising and even result in intolerance, when he doubted an opponent's human qualities.

It would be insufficient if we remembered Ludwig Tietz only as a Youth Leader. He himself found it a little odd that he was sometimes given this label by Jewish organisations. He ironically compared this position with that of a professor who was supposed to be an expert on Aristotle and who, whenever the word Aristotle was mentioned at a meeting of a learned society, was automatically called upon to speak. One of the test cases in the wider political sphere of German Jewry was the extension of the Jewish Agency to non-Zionists in 1929. It was the "Richtung Tietz" which fought within the ranks of the "Central-Verein" for the participation in the work for Palestine. We are no longer concerned with the ideological aspect of the issue, yet it remains an historical fact, that adherents of this conception were conspicuous among those who were entrusted with responsible positions when German Jewry was confronted with new tasks in 1933. Ludwig Tietz himself became one of the founders and first directors of the "Zentralausschuss," the nucleus of the "Reichsvertretung." During the last months of his life he stood in the limelight of public Jewish activities, equipped by his long standing experience in Jewish life and his open mind for new ideas, necessitated by an entirely changed situation. His missions to Great Britain and other countries helped to pave the way for those who had now to leave their home country. The deep impression this upright proud German Jew left on other Jewish communities whose assistance was now required has been repeatedly recalled by leading personalities with whom he negotiated.

On that fateful November morning, when the news of his sudden death quickly spread all over the country, the German Jews realised that they had lost one of their outstanding leaders; many young people felt as if they had become orphans. The upheavals of two decades may have loosened the ties between his friends who were once united by a common task and a common background. Yet for all of them the word, on which Leo Baeck based his unforgettable address at the funeral of Ludwig Tietz, sounds as fresh as it did 20 years ago: "Dein Platz bleibt leer—du wirst uns fehlen."

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Mr. Emanuel Shinwell

The significance of Israel to Jewry was stressed in remarkable terms by Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, M.P., the former Minister of Defence, when he spoke at a public meeting in support of the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest project. As citizens, he said, we are proud that Britain provides a measure of freedom greater than any other country. As Jews we are grateful that violent and venomous antisemitism is almost, although not entirely, absent from this country. But freedom, he added, was also to be found elsewhere, and nowhere more so, from a Jewish standpoint, than in the State of Israel. Though young and far from fully developed, Israel was already "the finest and strongest bulwark against antisemitism."

Mr. Shinwell confessed that he did not attend many meetings associated with Jewish affairs. "But," he said, "all the same, I am a Jew and could not be mistaken for anything else." He was proud of the fact that he had been the first Jewish M.P. elected in Scotland and the first Jewish member of a Labour Cabinet.

Rabbi Kopul Rosen

Rabbi Kopul Rosen, Principal of Carmel College, resigned from the Presidency of the Mizrahi Federation. He expressed the view that after the establishment of the Jewish State, "a political party with religion as its sole raison d'être, far from furthering the interests of Judaism, is a serious disadvantage to it"; more could be achieved in the religious life of Israel if religious matters were considered outside the arena of party political strife.

Notable successes were scored by the British team at the fourth Maccabiah. Outstanding were the women, particularly Miss Irene Laderman who won three gold medals and broke Maccabiah records; Miss Yvonne Kaye who threw the javelin at a new record distance, and Miss Grossman who set up a new world Maccabiah record in the 100 metres backstroke swimming. In the field sports Britain came third, after Israel and the U.S.

Jewish—Christian Relations

Jewish-Christian harmony was demonstrated at Leeds when the Jewish community made a presentation to the Vicar of the city, Canon A. S. Reeve, upon his elevation to the Bishopric of Lichfield. Leeds Jewry was losing a true, tried friend, the President of the local Jewish Representative Council said: "In an age when reason is often coloured by prejudice, Canon Reeve has always been a shining example of leadership, with a strong sense of moral values which only a strongly held religious conviction can give."

A similar presentation was made by the local Council of Jews and Christians to the Dean of Manchester, the Right Rev. John L. Wilson who was recently appointed Bishop of Birmingham.

National intolerance was vigorously attacked by the Chancellor of St. Paul's, Canon John Collins, in an address at the Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service in the Cathedral. "There are people," he said, "whom we hear saying to-day that Hitler was right in one thing, namely in his attitude to the Jews. Let us, particularly when we are commemorating a victory over Nazism, be honestly ashamed of ourselves for any such utterances. Let us be on our guard with ourselves against any form of racial antagonism."

The attack was effectively supported in a News Chronicle editorial which thought the Canon "would have been well justified in the use of language a good deal less gentle."

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ENQUIRIES INVITED

L. J. Kahn

PORTRAIT OF A PAINTER

ELSE MEIDNER

"I should like to write a little article about you, Mrs. Meidner," I said, "if I may."

"About me? Oh yes, do." Else Meidner seemed as pleased as a child who is offered an ice-cream; but then her face clouded over.

"No, not about me. About my work if you like, quite objectively. My person is nobody's concern."

"Well," I replied doubtfully, "that is not so easy. Your work, it seems to me, is such a very direct and personal expression of your feelings and moods. It does not represent any particular School. It is, for the most part, devoid of any literary content. It advances no artistic theory. Your style is hard to classify. Some of your pictures are subtly and carefully composed in the traditional manner. Some, with their harsh colouring and deliberate distortion, are distinctly "modern." Some are severely formal, many others of an almost lyrical romanticism. I might, of course, say something about your technique: the way, for instance, in which you frequently use a purposely restricted palette of pure colours to . . ."

"When people write about art," Mrs. Meidner said softly, "they always write such nonsense."

Once a well-known and influential art critic had told me that he could not get on with Mrs. Meidner. I wonder if she had made a similar remark to him. It would be just like her, for she is a helpless innocent in a hard world where success is sought by means of cunning, flattery and self-advertisement.

"Before you married Ludwig Meidner," I asked, changing the subject, "you were a pupil of his, weren't you?"

"Yes, and naturally I learnt a lot from him. He is a great artist." She added fiercely: "But if you think . . ."

No, I hastily assured her, I did not think that her work was unduly influenced by her famous husband. And indeed, two artists could hardly be less similar in spirit: Ludwig Meidner who, in his art, imposes a forceful and very masculine mind on the visible world; and Else Meidner who looks out into life with child-like love and wonder, often deeply hurt by its cruelty, sometimes entranced by its beauty.

"May I have another look at some of your work?" I suggested.

"Very well. But no comments, please. Just look."

She showed me a series of charcoal drawings in which macabre subjects—Girl and Death, Angels of Death—predominated. But they were executed with such a rich warmth of tone and such a musical flow of line that the effect was one of gentle melancholy rather than gruesomeness.

"Why don't you say something?" Mrs. Meidner asked, offended. "If you are not interested . . ."

I said truthfully that I was very interested indeed.

She picked up another drawing and held it up for my inspection: the face of an elderly woman, with deep lines and sad eyes; a woman who had suffered much and had reached a profound human understanding. I recognized the sitter, a lady who, in reality, looks much younger, more handsome—and far less interesting.

"A lovely drawing," I said. "Did Mrs. — like it?"

Else Meidner grinned. "She nearly threw it at me. Would you believe it? The woman has a completely empty face, and when I put something into it, something human and beautiful that may be hidden deep inside her, she is furious."

"Ah well," I said, "I know it is an artist's birth-right to use everything and everybody as a theme on which he plays his variations. But then, we ordinary people like to think that we look perfectly all right just as we see ourselves in the mirror."

"You know what Käthe Kollwitz once said about me?" Mrs. Meidner mused. "That I only thought I was painting and drawing from nature, but actually was weaving fantasies in front of nature. I think that observation was very true."

As true, I agreed, as any generalization about an artist's work can be. Else Meidner's art has many facets. She is continually developing, experimenting, taking up and discarding new forms of expression. But she is at her best, I believe (though she herself

may not agree), when she simply sets out to recreate a part of the world around her and almost unconsciously transforms it into a little dream of her own—as in her landscape paintings where inanimate things, bathed in diffused and mellow light, become wonderfully alive, or in her portrait drawing of a young girl, in which she seems to catch the purity and promise, and the sad transiency, of youth itself.

No, I find it impossible to assess Else Meidner's work in objective terms. I simply know that hers is the sincere, sensitive and vital art of a warm-hearted and lovable woman.

"Thank you very much," Else Meidner said with mock demureness, "for looking at my pictures."

"It's been a great pleasure," I said. "It always is." And I meant it.

MARTIN BUBER AWARDED PEACE PRIZE OF GERMAN BOOK TRADE

At a ceremony in the Frankfurt Paulskirche Martin Buber was awarded the Peace Prize of German Book Trade 1953. Previous winners of the Prize were the Jewish author and pacifist Max Tau, the Protestant Albert Schweitzer and, last year, the Catholic philosopher Romano Gardini. In his address which was broadcast by all German Radio Stations Professor Buber said he could feel no hatred for those who had organised the murder of millions of his fellow-Jews, because these creatures had so far removed themselves from the human dimension to a sphere of inhumanity that not even hatred against them could be conceived. As far as those Germans were concerned who were too cowardly, indifferent, weak or ignorant to rise against the evil, he forgave them. By accepting the Peace Prize he wished to associate himself with the fight against inhuman trends.

Addresses were also given at the ceremony by the Chairman of the German Book Trade Association Dr. Arthur Georgi, the Frankfurt Mayor Dr. Walter Kolb and the parson and author Albrecht Goes.

TWO OCTOGENARIANS

Dr. GEORGE GOOCH

That the eightieth birthday of Dr. George Gooch (on the 21st October) should be noticed in these pages goes without saying; for the refugees from Germany, especially the scholars among them, have no better and more helpful friend than this historian, whom his colleagues acknowledge as the Grand Old Man of English historiography. Whenever Dr. Gooch heard of a German scholar who had fled from Hitler's tyranny, he offered him his help and his invaluable advice. How many who have entered his home in grief have left it comforted and encouraged by his wise words. There are some whose manuscripts he read with indefatigable care and interest—and if he found them valuable—recommended to a publisher. For others he contacted a college or a university. If one was in need of a special book he searched his splendid library to press it into one's hand. To many refugee writers he opened the pages of the Contemporary Review which he edits with so much taste and care. It did not matter if in the beginning one could hardly speak or write a correct English sentence. For Dr. Gooch masters the German language easily, having studied in Germany and married a German wife. With good cause the English Goethe-Society elected Gooch its President; for he is a liberal humanist to whom Goethe represents that Germany which he never ceased to love.

A good deal of his historical work is dedicated to the study of German problems. Only a few years ago he collected "Studies in German History" which deal with Goethe and Bismarck, with Ranke and Treitschke. Frederick the Great, the Ruler, the Writer, the Man, is the subject of another volume, and he wrote about Frederick's great adversary, the Empress Maria Theresa, in his most recent publication, which at the same time contains other essays of wide interest. One of these is a masterly appreciation of Lord Acton, the learned friend of Gladstone who became Regius Professor of History in Cambridge. Acton looked on Gooch as his favourite pupil; the great historian appreciated his excep-

POEMS IN PROSE

Manfred Sturmann, Jerusalem, who has some volumes of poetry to his credit, presents under the title "Die Kreatur" (Tschudy Verlag, St. Gallen, Switzerland, 1953) his first collected short stories, almost all poems in prose.

Sturmann is lyricist not only for his emotional interpretation of the oneness of soul and nature, man and beast, pretence and reality—but even more so for the passivity, the melancholy resignation with which he states and accepts facts. He is, no doubt, at his best whenever he can identify himself with his characters, and his three Israel stories are, therefore, most convincing and direct.

"Die Satanzahl" deserves the first place—a love affair between a Canadian volunteer and a Jerusalem nurse, thrown together for one night on guard duty during the siege of the City. The machinery of war is stronger than the tender love of these two young people. In "Regen," Sturmann tells of a home-coming from the war, again in Jerusalem. Here he succeeds to relate in subtle colours the frame of mind of his hero. The third Israel story, "Die Hunde," is the tale about some village dogs, abandoned by their erstwhile Arab masters. As always in the book, circumstances are mightier than the creatures who, in the end, are crushed.

The beautifully made-up volume contains pen drawings by Gunter Bohmer.

H.F.

PLAY ABOUT RATHENAU MURDERER

"Captain Tessier," a play by Horst Behrend, which was recently produced by the author in Westberlin, is based on the life story of one of the murderers of Walter Rathenau, Ernst-Werner Techow. Techow had deeply repented his crime and, as Captain Tessier, served with the French Foreign Legion, where he met a nephew of Walter Rathenau. Tessier had studied Jewish history and ethics and considered it his mission to aid persecuted Jews. He dedicated himself to this task for several years, both in North Africa and later in Marseilles.

tional learning and found in him the same love of freedom by which he himself was inspired. But Gooch preferred the political to the academic career; he became a Liberal Member of Parliament in 1906. After he left Parliament he fought for his political ideas with his pen.

How highly Gooch's trustworthiness and objectivity is valued became evident when he, together with the late Harold Temperley, was entrusted by the British Government to edit the British Documents on the Origins of the War of 1914, which followed the publication of the German documents in the fifty volumes "Die Grosse Politik der Europäischen Kabinette." The Foreign Secretary wrote: "The reputation of the editors offers the best guarantee of the historical accuracy and impartiality of their work." In fact, while the accuracy of the German publication is the subject of lively controversy, nobody has ever had the slightest suspicion that Gooch and Temperley deviated in any way from the strictest rules of scholastic conduct.

Dr. ERICH EYCK.

S. GUGGENHEIM

Author of the "Offenbacher Haggadah"

The former Notary and bibliophile Dr. S. Guggenheim, who in 1939 emigrated from Offenbach/Main to U.S.A., became an octogenarian recently. Guggenheim is the well-known author of the "Offenbacher Haggadah" which, for the skill with which it has been composed and the poetry by which it is animated and finally by the art which is shown in its print as well as in its illustrations, is rightly considered an outstanding document of the Jewish religious renaissance in Germany at the beginning of the twentieth century. Guggenheim, who was distinguished by his enthusiasm for the arts, his generosity and, last but not least, by his great human qualities, was honoured soon after hostilities had ceased by the freedom of Offenbach. He is now living with his wife in Flushing—New York 144-46—38 Ave. Ad multos annos. B. I.

SILESIA CITIES 1953 (II)

Old Acquaintances

Goerlitz

Goerlitz is the only Silesian city remaining predominantly German. The River Neisse, flowing through the town since its foundation, is now the "friendly" border. Three quarters of the city is situated on the German side, where the output of the machine tool and carriage works is geared to the demands of a nationalised industry, whose ultimate markets nobody seems to know.

The impoverishment and dilapidation of this medieval town is unbelievable: 110,000 people, amongst them 25,000 Silesian refugees from the East, living precariously in houses, many of which were severely damaged; women still wearing wooden shoes and dresses made from uniforms. Only in the Hotel "Stadt Dresden," frequented by the new masters can you see suits of western or Czech origin. The uniforms of Eastern Zone frontier police and Soviet soldiers dominate the scene. Streets are named after Marx, Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg and Gorki. Four thousand Poles have settled in the residential suburb of Rabenberg, which is part of the Goerlitz district under Polish administration. There are no Germans left. Scarcely any buildings have been restored and the lower floors of houses along the Neisse have been bricked up. Every 2 kilometres Polish watch towers have been erected along the river and anybody penetrating the prohibited area or attempting to trespass on Polish soil is liable to be shot.

Gruenberg

The most northerly vine growing town in Europe is the Lower Silesian town of Gruenberg, renowned for its "Scharlachberg Meisterbrand." The second world war has left it practically undamaged. This may be the reason why the Polish Government have made this town into the administrative centre of a newly formed "Wojewodschaft." The town is full of bustle since the authorities have opened their new offices, thereby increasing the flow of travellers and visitors.

Glogau

Nearly 90 per cent of this ancient stronghold has been destroyed. No Silesian town has suffered such devastating blows in the fury of war and none, after Breslau, fought more tenaciously, in a frenzy of heroic resistance, against overwhelming odds. To-day the picture is of burnt-out houses and ruins overgrown by weeds. A few buildings in the neighbourhood of the Hindenburg Hotel have escaped severe damage, but elsewhere there are almost no buildings left apart from the Hindenburg barracks, the main hospital built in "New-Jerusalem" just before the war, and a few estate houses. A graveyard for 3,000 Russian soldiers has been built near the Pionierwaldchen. From the Hohen-solern Strasse to the Ludendorff Strasse from the Oder to the Park, the place is deserted. A few Poles live in the devastated suburb and in the cathedral district. According to Polish sources the population of Glogau is 3,600.

Liegnitz

This Lower Silesian town is full of a strange atmosphere nowadays. In every street you meet with Russian soldiers and officers, smartly dressed women and shabby country girls, Polish peasants and Russian civil servants. On a tour of the town you may discover that the traces of war have here been removed. The whole population has been made to clear the rubble. Although there are still many ruins and partially destroyed buildings, numerous new blocks of flats have appeared in the centre of the town. Above their roofs rise, with the voice of another epoch, the Gothic towers of the Liebfrauen Church, the baroque cupolas of the Johannnis Church and the massive Romanesque tower of the Castle; but it is almost impossible to recognise the outlines of the ruined Museum. The walls of the Piast dukes, with its heavy metal coffins, has been declared a Polish national shrine.

It is intended to establish in Liegnitz important new branches of the textile industry and 75,000 new Polish settlers are to-day living in "Legnica." One thousand Germans are still domiciled in their native town; many of them work in vinegar distilleries and mustard factories, not, however, in responsible positions.

Glatz

The county of Glatz has lost little of its ancient charms. The war has scarcely touched the town of Glatz in its picturesque valley. To fulfil the obligations imposed by the Six-Year Plan, piece-work rates have been introduced in industry, particularly the machine tool and jam factories.

Neisse

Neisse was once considered one of the most beautiful old towns in Silesia; to-day the major part is totally destroyed. The long stretch from the station to the town centre is one vast scene of devastation. The badly damaged Kammerei, one of the most famous Renaissance buildings, was rebuilt by the Poles, but remains a mere shadow of its former self. The Arsenal has been turned into a market, whilst the former Wilhelms Platz is used as a market place. The house where the poet Eichendorff died is in ruins and the historic "Ring" is a sad spectacle, with the slender spire of the Town Hall, once 94 metres high, now a hideous mountain of rubble.

Beuthen

Here all German public life has been paralysed. The imposing Café Hindenburg, now called "Monopol," is scarcely in vogue as a people's café, since prices are high. Most of the inhabitants of Lemberg, which was ceded to Russia, have been settled in Beuthen. Occasionally you will even find Germans, but they are not allowed to speak their native language.

Königshütte

Pitheads, dumps, blast furnaces and gigantic smelting plants are still the main characteristics of this undamaged city. Daily no less than 8,000 people walk to the foundry from which the city derives its name. The focal point, now as before, is the Kronprinzen Strasse which has preserved its imposing façades. Here, many new shops, mainly departmental stores, have appeared. Most of the indigenous shopkeepers left the city and their place has been taken by Eastern Poles who have settled there. As of old, many taxis are parked in front of the station, and the Hotel Monopol opposite, with its elegant dining rooms, is especially favoured by the Polish authorities. The crowds are a milling turmoil in the spacious streets.

Kattowitz

Kattowitz, once known as the "little Paris of the East," has to-day, as "Katowice," become a pure working class town, in which complete silence reigns after 11 p.m. Since the city was renamed Stalinograd shortly after the death of Stalin, rumours are spreading that more and more Russians are infiltrating into leading industrial positions. During the day many Russian officers are to be met with in the Friedrich Strasse, as they like to pay a visit to this Upper Silesian capital on their way to Liegnitz, whence they entrain on leave to Russia. The sharpest contrasts are often noticeable in the street between rich and poor, a contrast always known in Poland and to-day more pronounced than ever. All important services and work places have long since been nationalised, and trade is entirely in the hands of Consumers' Co-operatives.

JUERGEN SCHUELER
in "Die Gegenwart"

Concluded

A CHEMIST WHO LOVED ART Ludwig Mond 1839-1909

Born in Lancashire, the writer can remember the great chemical factory known as Brunner & Mond, in Cheshire the neighbouring county. It was situated in Winnington near Northwich and formed from the partnership in 1873 of Ludwig Mond and Sir John Tomlinson Brunner.

Solomon J. Solomon as Royal Academician fortunately painted the brilliant German chemist before the latter's death in 1909. A British subject since 1862, Mond was born in Cassel and studied in Marburg and Heidelberg. His London home was The Poplars, Avenue Road, Regent's Park.

One cannot go into details on his contributions to chemistry. Apart from his achievements with fuel and ammonia he held many important scientific positions.

He bequeathed his vast art collection to the nation, and his son, Alfred, became the first Lord Melchett.

OLGA SOMECH PHILLIPS

Milestone:—Manfred George, editor of New York's "Aufbau," celebrated his 60th birthday last month. This born Berliner was already a prominent journalist when he had to leave Germany in 1933. He had to his credit a Herzl biography, a novel, and a play, besides being editor of Ullstein's "Tempo." He went via Prague and Paris to the States where he developed the little bulletin of the "New World Club" into the important weekly the "Aufbau" is today. Dr. George is one of those few writers who need not regret a single line they ever wrote. After the war his paper helped to bring the thousands of displaced Jews in touch with each other again. Each one of us has something to thank him for. Difficult as it may be in his position, he has only friends all over the world who wish him all the best and many happy returns of the day.

Success Story:—Over three years ago we wrote in this column about a young, gifted artist Susanne Bandler, when she appeared at Finchley Road's "Blue Danube." She came to England only after the war. Since then Susanne Bandler has made a name for herself. We saw her at the little "Torch Theatre," and she lived up to our expectations. Her next appearance will be at the "Irving" with her clever solo sketches.

Newspaper World:—There are now no foreign owned newspapers left in Germany. From one day to the next U.S. sponsored "Neue Zeitung" in Frankfurt closed down, and only the Berlin edition of that Daily will continue to appear. Hans Wallenberg, who succeeded Hans Habe as editor, will return to the States. The British Foreign Office sold "Die Welt" and "Welt am Sonntag" in Hamburg to publisher Axel Springer who already runs several papers. Hans Zehrer who belonged to the circle of "Die Tat" became editor of "Welt" while B. Menne kept his job with the Sunday paper.

News from Everywhere:—Max Opuls whose new picture "Madame de..." was successfully shown in Paris, has signed a contract with Sir Alexander Korda to direct a film based on Nancy Mitford's novel "The Blessing" at the beginning of next year.—Anton Walbrook who has returned from playing "Dr. med. Praetorius" in Munich, will go to France next month to star in "Der Fall Mauritius," based on Jakob Wassermann's famous novel, to be directed by Duvivier.—Erik Reger, co-editor of Berlin's daily "Tagesspiegel" celebrated his 60th birthday.—Anton Diffring who scored a success in the British picture "Albert," will be in Gottfried Reinhardt's film "The True and the Brave" to be produced in Holland; German actor O. E. Hasse is also in the cast.—Six pupils of the Reinhardt School for actors were sacked because they booted the first-night of H. I. Rehfisch's new play "Das Ewig-Weibliche" in Berlin which the city financed with 5,000 Marks.

Obituary:—Aged 68 Berthold Viertel died in Vienna after a long illness; he was a poet, an author and a film and stage producer. Viertel belonged to the circle around Karl Kraus, and started as lecturer of Vienna's "Volkstheater." Married first to ex-actress Mea (Salka) Steuermann, he was founder of "Die Truppe" in Berlin during the twenties. About his years as a theatrical producer in London, Christopher Isherwood wrote his well-known novel "Prater Violet." He spent his exile in Hollywood, and returned via London, where he worked with the B.B.C. Later, he directed in Zurich, and finally at Vienna's "Burg." Some of his wonderful poems will survive this warm-hearted man.

Germany:—Fritz Kortner successfully produced "Ghosts" in Munich with his wife Johanna Hofer in the lead.—Leo Mittler who directed Ibsen's "Stuetzen der Gesellschaft" in Hamburg, will next produce a new adaptation of "Bettelstudent" by Dr. E. Guerster (cultural attaché of London's German General-Consulate) and Dr. O. Maag of Basle's "Nationalzeitung" in Frankfurt.—Leopoldine Konstantin played "The First Mrs. Selby" in Berlin.—Margit Weiler, who has returned from the States, appeared in Anouilh's "Weib Jezebel" in Karlsruhe.—Curt Riess' new novel "Zwischenlandung in Paris" is serialised in "Quick."—Erika Mann is adviser on the film based on her father's "Koenigliche Hoheit" to be produced in Goettingen.—For the first time after the war, Werner Krauss appeared undisturbed on a stage in Berlin, together with Rudolf Forster.

PEM

PERSONALIA

Dr. Lasar Duenner who prior to his coming to England was Medical Director of the "Hospital Buch-West" and after his dismissal Chief Physician to the Department of lung diseases in the Jewish Hospital in Berlin has recently been appointed Honorary Physician in charge of an Industrial Chest Diseases Clinic in Hull. During his long work in Hull Dr. Duenner had found several groups of occupational lung diseases previously not at all or insufficiently known.

The Nobel Prize winner in Medicine of 1931 **Professor Otto H. Warburg** (Berlin) has been awarded the Grand Cross of Merit with Star by the West German Federal Republic on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Mrs. Lilly Freud-Marlé, (London), has been invited by the Hans Christian Andersen Society of Copenhagen to send recordings of her interpretations of Andersen's fairy tales for their collection of recitals by well-known artists who helped to interpret the work of the poet.

Mr. Gustav Michaelis (Kenton) celebrated his 80th birthday recently. In his early years this successful industrialist in Berlin was the financial adviser of the famous actor Josef Kainz in whose house he grew up. When he left Germany in 1933 he was already sixty, but not too old to embark on a new career. His friends here and abroad extend to him their sincerest congratulations.

Mr. Hans Oppenheimer (43-01 46th Street, Long Island City, New York) will be 50 on November 13th. In Germany, Hans Oppenheimer took an

active part in Jewish affairs. He was associated with the work of the Jewish Central-Verein and was also a co-editor of the well known Philo-Lexikon. For several years he held a responsible position with Ullstein's Propylaeen-Verlag. All those who know Hans Oppenheimer from his Jewish activities and to whom he has always been a loyal and trusted friend wish him many happy returns of the day.

OBITUARY

After a long illness **Rabbi Dr. D. Winter** passed away in London. Dr. Winter was a Rabbi in Luebeck where, due to his rabbinical qualities and his human understanding, he enjoyed a widespread reputation. In this country, he took an active interest in the efforts of the AJR to whose Board he belonged since its inception. Rabbi Winter will be always gratefully remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mrs. Gertrud Tietz (formerly Berlin) passed away in London recently at the age of 82. In Berlin she was actively associated with welfare institutions of the Jewish community. Care of the aged was particularly near to her heart. She was the mother of the late Ludwig Tietz, and her son's friends in this country and abroad in whose well-being she took a deep personal interest will always remember this noble and kindly woman with respect and gratitude. We express our sympathy to her son Dr. Ulrich Tietz, who is a member of the AJR Board, and to his family.

IN MEMORY OF ALFRED KLEE

On November 10th, 1943 Dr. Alfred Klee, formerly Berlin, died in the Dutch concentration camp of Westerbork. On the tenth anniversary of his death we commemorate this lively and lovable man who was one of the leading protagonists of Zionism in the Berlin Jewish Community and one of the most prominent personalities of German Jewry. His memory will be kept alive by all those who had the privilege of co-operating with him, whether they agreed or disagreed with his Jewish views. He was respected for his political ability, his oratorical gift, and, above all, his devotion to the Jewish cause. His son-in-law Hans Goslar, once head of the Press Department of the Prussian Government, and his daughter also lost their lives in a Dutch concentration camp. His son Dr. Hans Klee, who now lives in Zurich, is well known for his Zionist and journalistic activities.

A. W.

MAYOR ERNST REUTER

On the occasion of the death of the Berlin Mayor Ernst Reuter, the "Council of Jews from Germany" sent a telegram to the Berlin Senate expressing the sympathy of the former German Jews and gratefully recalling the outstanding services of this courageous man to the cause of democracy.

The writer and dramatist **Dr. Friedrich Wolf** died in East Berlin recently. His works included the well-known anti-Nazi film "Professor Mamlock." Friedrich Wolf spent the years of the Nazi regime in Russia and returned to Eastern Germany after the war; for some time he was Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic in Warsaw.

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AJR AT WORK

AJR SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Today we continue last month's summary of the services rendered under the auspices of the AJR Social Services Department.

Help for sick people. The AJR Social Services Department tries to assist sick people who require temporary help for household work, shopping, cooking and light attendance. As winter is now approaching there will be an increased demand for helpers, paid and unpaid. Those who are prepared to lend a hand should give their addresses to the AJR Social Services Department, 8 Fairfax Mansions, N.W.3, Tel. MAI 4449.

Hospital Visits. We often hear of sick people in hospital who are lonely and do not receive any visitors. We are trying to give these people encouragement by looking after them. Any members and friends of the AJR who know about cases of lonely sick refugees in hospital should contact the AJR Social Services Department, 8 Fairfax Mansions, N.W.3, Tel. MAI 4449.

Personal advice. The AJR Social Services Department has enlisted the voluntary help of a Psychologist who once a week gives personal advice to former refugees.

QUEEN ELIZABETH CORONATION FOREST

At a dinner in the historic Guildhall H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh was the Guest of Honour to receive for Her Majesty a book commemorating the plantation of the "Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest." In his address, the Duke welcomed this "convincing token—if any were needed—of the loyalty and affection of British Jewry." "We in the British Commonwealth and Empire," he also stated, "could count ourselves fortunate in those Jews who had made this their second home and who have brought us benefits by their contributions in the fields of science, industry, politics and commerce." The volume was presented to the Duke by Lord Samuel. In the appeal, by which the funds necessary for the Forest were raised during the past months, the AJR have taken an active part both in London and in the Provinces. It is gratifying to state that AJR members have generously responded to the appeal and that in some districts their share in the total result was particularly substantial. The AJR was officially invited to the Dinner and represented by its Board member Mr. K. Bernstein.

PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 11, at 7.45 p.m.
Stern Hall, 33 Seymour Place, W.1

Dr. W. Breslauer: Bundesentscheidungsgesetz

Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld: Wiedergutmachung in Oesterreich

(See announcement on front page)

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The AJR Handicraft-Group draws the attention of readers to its Exhibition of articles at 8 Fairfax Mansions, where attractive gifts for Chanukah may be obtained. The hours are: Monday—Thursday 10—1, 3—6, Friday and Sunday 10—1. Gift Tokens may be purchased.

THE HYPHEN

On November 15th, at 7.30 p.m. a meeting will be held at 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3. Members from four political Youth Organisations will give their points of view on topics selected by the audience. Members 6d., friends 1/-.

The Hyphen is a group of young people between the ages of 21—35, mostly of Continental origin, who get together for cultural, educational and social activities. For further information, please contact Miss L. Metzger, 45A Golders Green Road, London, N.W.11 enclosing s.a.e.

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