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## ISRAEL AND EGYPT

THE present threat to Israel concerns not only the Jewish State. Israel now stands visibly, as Jewry always stands symbolically, for "a moiety of the world." But Jews must be the first to be aroused, and wherever free to do so, they will eagerly rally to uphold the State of Israel. They will share the civilised optimism of Mr. Ben-Gurion who avowed his trust in the "conscience of mankind," because, he said, "good men, and they are not few, can distinguish between a dictatorial régime built on force, aggression, and the abasement of the dignity of man, and States devoted to the values of freedom, the transcendent worth of the individual, justice, and peace."

In this country, Jews are fortunate in that they can count on staunch friends. Mr. Randolph Churchill told how he had been brought up a Zionist by his father—"the Englishman who has always worked for friendship with Israel and the furtherance of the Zionist cause"—and how he felt great self-justification when he saw with his own eyes the Jewish State's "fantastic, almost miraculous progress." Others, representing substantial forces—Sir Robert Boothby, Messrs. Hugh Gaitskell and Clement Davies—have similarly proclaimed their Zionist convictions. For the Government, Major Lloyd George, the Home Secretary, affirmed "the British people's age-old interest in Jewry and its claims to the Holy Land."

It was the idea of Sir Anthony Eden that a bargain might be struck by inducing Israel to part with some land in exchange for Arab recognition of its rump.

The proposition seemed strangely unrealistic. For whatever Israel might be prepared to do, the present Arab leaders will under no circumstances parley with her; indeed, the *Manchester Guardian* remarked, "if Israel were truncated the Arabs would feel themselves confirmed in the belief that Israel could be exterminated and would pass on to its breaking-up as their next objective."

Sir Anthony Eden was foremost in the resistance to the "men of Munich" whose *Realpolitik* was essentially the idea that a notorious warmongering bully, emboldened by his impunity so far, could be appeased by allowing territorial concessions to be extorted from the intended victim. It must be devoutly hoped that Sir Anthony will beware of the counsellors who once misled the visionless Bevin, and that H.M. Government will make the right choice where the issue lies, in more than one sense, between Israel and Egypt.

## Two Kinds of Refugees

The difficulties in the way of a settlement are obvious. There is above all the apparently intractable problem of the Arab refugees. This journal, speaking as it does on behalf of people who once were themselves refugees, is not likely to fail in sincere, heart-felt sympathy for their unfortunate fellow-men.

We think we have a right to say that what happened to the Arab refugees, once, in a way, also happened to us: we too lost our homes and possessions. But our plight greatly differed from that of our Arab brethren. In the first place, they were offered friendship by the Jews, while we were set upon by criminals who sought to exterminate us. Being so defenceless, we did not have a single government determined to restore us. We were thrown upon other nations' charity and forced to endure the cruel lot of the homeless alien. How very fortunate, by comparison, are the Arab refugees for whom each one of the rulers of Arabia professes to be eating his heart out!

We would certainly have refused to resign ourselves to the sloth and squalor in which the Arab refugees now rot away, an object of pity and

## WIEDERGUTMACHUNG UND FISKALISMUS

## Um die Entschädigung der Auswanderer aus Ostdeutschland

Wir berichteten in unserer Novembernummer ueber den Entwurf eines Bundesgesetzes zur Entschädigung fuer Opfer der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung und konnten hierbei mit Befriedigung darauf hinweisen, dass er eine Verbesserung gegenueber dem bestehenden Rechtszustand darstellt. Vor allem konnten unsere Schicksalsgenossen in aller Welt erleichtert aufatmen, weil nunmehr endlich die Verfolgten aus der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik und Ost-Berlin sowie die Personen, die ihren Wohnsitz in den sogenannten Vertreibungsgebieten innerhalb der fruheren deutschen Reichsgrenzen (d.i. Schlesien, Pommern, Ost- und Westpreussen, Grenzmark) hatten, den Berechtigten aus dem Bundesgebiet gleichgestellt werden sollten.

Diese Gleichstellung war von deutscher Seite als das Herz- und Kernstueck des Gesetzentwurfs bezeichnet worden. Sie sollte einem unertraeglichen Unrechtszustand ein Ende setzen. Es war geradezu grotesktragisch, dass Menschen, die in dem gleichen Berliner Strassenzug ihren Wohnsitz hatten, verschiedenartig behandelt wurden, je nachdem, ob ihre Hausnummer in einem der westlichen Sektoren lag oder heute zum Ostsektor gezaehlt wird. In dem einen Fall wurden sie entschädigt, in dem anderen gingen sie haeufig leer aus.

Die Gleichstellung ist ebenso eine Forderung des Rechts wie eine politische Notwendigkeit. Wiedergutmachung gilt als gesamtdeutsche Verpflichtung, und da die Bundesrepublik als einziger Rechtsnachfolger des Deutschen Reichs betrachtet zu werden

wuenscht, war sie nur konsequent, als sie die Gleichstellung der deutschen Ost- und Westgeschaedigten in dem Entwurf zusagte.

## Bundesrat lehnt ab

Der Bundesrat, die zweite an der deutschen Gesetzgebung beteiligte Koerperschaft, in der die Laender der Bundesrepublik vertreten sind, hat sich zur allgemeinen Ueberraschung am 11. November 1955 gegen dieses Kernstueck des Entwurfs gewandt. Er hat an sich dem Regierungsentwurf zugestimmt, jedoch mit einer grossen Anzahl von Abänderungsvorschlaegen, die zum Teil eine Verbesserung des Entwurfs darstellen, zum anderen ihn jedoch erheblich verschlechtern. Die entscheidende Verschlechterung ist die Ausschaltung der Geschaedigten aus den Ostgebieten aus der Wiedergutmachung.

Die Enttauschung ueber diese Haltung des Bundesrats ist umso tiefer, als seit einem Jahr ein Arbeits-Ausschuss von Bundestagsabgeordneten und Beamten der Bundesregierung zusammen mit Vertretern der Laender den gleichen Entwurf vorbereitet hatte, gegen den sich leider jetzt die Regierungsvertreter einiger fuehrender Laender gewandt haben.

Es muss peinlich beruehren, wenn auf der einen Seite Sprecher im Bundesrat den ethischen Charakter der Wiedergutmachung betonten, waehrend andererseits ein Minister die Auffassung vertrat, dass "die Bundesrepublik durch keine internationale Verpflichtung zu den vorgesehenen Ausweitungen der Leistungen gehalten sei."

Wir wollen hier nicht untersuchen, ob diese Auffassung wirklich zutrifft. Wir hatten angenommen, dass die von uns und allen Schicksalsgenossen begruesste Verbesserung des Entschädigungsgesetzes einem moralischen Impetus zur Wiedergutmachung entsprungen ist. Waren wir allzu naiv, als wir das annahmen? Wir wissen jedenfalls von fuehrenden Persoenlichkeiten in Deutschland, von denen einige bei der Vorbereitung des jetzigen Entwurfs mit entscheidender Initiative mitgewirkt haben, dass sie eine ethische Verpflichtung empfinden. Diese Maenner vereinigen "Augenmass und Leidenschaft" und sind trotz ihres leidenschaftlichen Kampfes fuer das Recht der Opfer nicht weltfremd genug, um die finanziellen Auswirkungen der vorgeschlagenen Ausdehnung des Gesetzes auf die Geschaedigten aus den ostdeutschen Gebieten zu uebersehen. Die Bundesregierung haelt die

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contempt, degraded by nothing so much as the barren and murderous hate which the agitators of their feudal lords offer them instead of bread, hygiene, and productive labour. We would have resisted the effort to make our misery the tool of power-politics.

But, then, perhaps, we would have shown all the initiative, energy, and enterprise for which Jews have been renowned down the ages. We would have shown those virtues which ensured our survival in a harsh and hard-hitting world. It is these virtues, too, which all will be wise to consider when they are called upon to make their decision between Jew and Arab, between Israel and Egypt. But whatever decision they eventually take, they will have cause to remember the words of Mr. Ben-Gurion: "Not many peoples have fought for their freedom and existence as this small people in Israel has fought and will fight for its freedom and existence. What Hitler did to six million helpless Jews in the ghettos of Europe will not be done by any foe of the House of Israel to a community of free Jews rooted in their own land."



(Continued from page 1)

Einbeziehung der Ostgeschädigten fuer finanziell vertretbar. Selbst der Sprecher der Opposition im Bundesrat schaezte—uebrigens ueberhoehet—die Mehrkosten auf eine Zahl, die im Verhaeltnis zu den Gesamtaufwendungen von 14 Milliarden D-Mark fuer Wiedergutmachungszwecke im weitesten Sinne keine unzumutbare Belastung darstellt.

### Zahlungen an KZ-Verbrecher

Es ist im Ausland nicht uebersehen worden, dass es dem Bund moeglich war, jedem der Rueckkehrer aus Russland einen Pauschalbetrag von DM 6.000 auszuhaendigen. Unter diesen Rueckkehrern sind eine ganze Anzahl SS-Maenner, darunter namentlich bekannte Angehoerige der SS-Mannschaften des Konzentrationslagers Sachsenhausen, von denen jeder einzelne sich schwerster Delikte, einschliesslich Mordes, schuldig gemacht hat. Es war moeglich, den Rueckkehrern innerhalb weniger Wochen einen Betrag von etwa 30 Millionen D-Mark auszus zahlen. Die ueberwaeltigende Mehrheit der Hitler-Opfer hat bisher Vorschuesse auf ihre Ansprueche in Hoehe von 6.000 D-Mark pro Anspruchsteller nicht erhalten.

Es erscheint unverstaendlich, dass der Bundesrat Opposition gegen die zentrale Bestimmung eines Gesetzentwurfs der Bundesregierung leistet. Er hat dies nicht getan, weil die Vertreter der Laender den Gedanken der Wiedergutmachung ablehnen, sondern allein aus fiskalischen Gruenden. Die Laender, die gegen das Kernstueck des Entwurfs gestimmt und kleinliche Abaenderungsvorschlaege gemacht haben, suchen ihre eigene finanzielle Verantwortung zu vermindern. Wahrscheinlich haetten sie anders gestimmt, wenn der Bund groessere Lasten uebernommen haette als der Entwurf es vorsieht.

Bei diesem Taziehen aus Fiskalismus scheinen die Vertreter des Bundesrats jene Tausende von Opfern des Nationalsozialismus vergessen zu haben, die sich seit Jahrzehnten in engen, bedruckten Verhaeltnissen im Ausland quaelen muessen. Fuer diese Menschen aus Pommern und Schlesien, Sachsen und Ost-Berlin wirkte der Entwurf der Regierung als eine belebende Hoffnung.

Es ist erfreulich, dass der Vertreter der Bundesregierung im Bundesrat sich entschieden gegen die Abaenderung der Vorlage zu Ungunsten der Ostgeschädigten gewandt hat. Es ist zu hoffen, und wir erwarten die bestimmte Verwirklichung dieser Hoffnung, dass der Bundestag den Ostgeschädigten die Rechte gibt, die die Bundesregierung fuer sie vorgesehen hat. Es ist ferner zu hoffen, dass das endgueltige Gesetz auch eine Reihe von Anregungen beruecksichtigt wird, die es von kleinlichen Beschraenkungen der Entschädigungsrechte freihaelt.

Es waere wuensenswert, dass das Gesetz in seiner endgueltigen Form von den Spuren eines uebertriebenen Fiskalismus gereinigt wird und in allen seinen Bestimmungen jenen echten Willen zur Wiedergutmachung dokumentiert, von dem die deutschen Vertreter einer ethisch motivierten Politik geleitet sind.

## RESTITUTION NEWS

### LIBERALISIERTE KAPITALGUTHABEN

#### Allgemeine Genehmigung

Am 28. Oktober, 1955, ist eine Allgemeine Genehmigung (Nr. 76/55) betreffend Verwendung von liberalisierten Kapitalguthaben ergangen, die u.a. bestimmt, dass Inhaber von liberalisierten Kapitalguthaben im Bundesgebiet oder in Berlin (West) folgende Bezahlungen vornehmen koennen:

Provisionen, Gebuehren und Barauslagen; Steuern und oeffentliche Abgaben, andere behoeerlich festgesetzte Geldleistungen, Gerichts- und Anwaltskosten; Kosten fuer die Anlage und Erhaltung von Graebnern; Praemien fuer Lebens-, Unfall- und Krankenversicherungen; Praemien fuer Schadensversicherungen; Unterhaltszahlungen, Reise- und Lebenshaltungskosten.

Die Allgemeine Genehmigung gilt nur, wenn dem kontofuehrenden Geldinstitut in jedem Falle ein schriftlicher Auftrag des Guthabeninhabers vorliegt, aus dem der Zahlungsweg hervorgeht und in dem der Kontoinhaber bestaetigt, dass die gewuenschte Zahlung die Voraussetzung dieser Allgemeinen Genehmigung erfuellt.

Die Allgemeinen Genehmigungen Nr. 14/49, 15/49, 16/49, 19/49, 20/49, 34/50, 36/50 und 46/50 werden aufgehoben.

Der volle Wortlaut der Allgemeinen Genehmigung ist im Bundesanzeiger Nr. 213 vom 3. November, 1955, veroeffentlicht.

### ANMELDEFRIST FUER BERLINER RUECKERSTATTUNGSANSPRUECHE

Wie wir in "A.J.R. Information" Oktober 1955 berichteten, lief die Frist fuer die Anmeldung von Anspruechen, die im Ostsektor von Berlin entzogene Vermoegenswerte betreffen, am 15.11.1955 ab. Einer an den Senator fuer Justiz gerichteten Anregung, diese Frist zu verlaengern, ist nicht entsprochen worden. In seiner Antwort wies der Senator fuer Justiz u.a. darauf hin, dass zumindest eine vorsorgliche Anmeldung innerhalb der gesetzlich vorgesehenen Frist moeglich sei, und fuegte hinzu:

"Schliesslich sieht der gegenwaertig als dritter Referententwurf vorliegende Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Regelung der rueckerstattungsrechtlichen Geldverbindlichkeiten des Deutschen Reiches in § 12 Abs. 2 fuer die hier in Betracht kommenden Schadensersatzansprueche unter bestimmten Voraussetzungen eine Wiedereroeffnung abgelaufener Anmeldefristen vor. Es kann deshalb damit gerechnet werden, dass Ansprueche nach der BK/O (54) 15 noch zu einem spaeteren Zeitpunkt angemeldet werden koennen, wenn ihre Anmeldung binnen der zur Zeit laufenden Frist unterblieben ist."

Hiernach ist anzunehmen, dass die in Frage kommenden Ansprueche auch noch auf Grund des erwarteten Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetzes werden angemeldet werden koennen.

### ABLAUF EINER ANTRAGSFRIST NACH DEM ALTSPARERGESETZ

Das Gesetz zur Milderung von Haerten der Waehrungsreform (Altsparger Gesetz) v. 14.7.1953 gewaehrt Entschädigungen, wenn es sich um sogenannten Altspareranlagen handelt. Aus gewissen technischen Gruenden konnte die Frist fuer die Stellung von Antraegen auf Gewaehrung einer Entschädigung fuer die einzelnen Gruppen von Altspareranlagen nicht einheitlich geregelt werden. In "A.J.R. Information" September 1955 berichteten wir ueber den Ablauf der Antragsfrist fuer Entschädigungsansprueche aus Hypotheken, Grundschulden und Rentenschulden. Wir weisen jetzt darauf hin, dass die Frist fuer die Stellung von Entschädigungsantraegen in Bezug auf Pfand- und Rentenbriefe sowie Industrieobligationen und verwandte Schuldverschreibungen am 1.1.1956 ablaeuft.

Zu beachten ist, dass auch der Rueckerstattungsrechtigte ein selbstaendiges Recht zur Antragstellung hat, selbst wenn ueber einen geltend gemachten Rueckerstattungsanspruch noch nicht rechtskraeftig entschieden ist (vgl. § 24). In letzterem Falle wird das Altsparer-Entschädigungsverfahren bis zur rechtskraeftigen Entscheidung

### WIEDERGUTMACHUNG IN OESTERREICH

#### Hilfsfonds-Gesetz

Der Entwurf des "Hilfsfonds-Gesetzes," der die Bereitstellung von Mitteln fuer den Fonds zur Hilfeleistung an Verfolgte aus Oesterreich mit staendigem Wohnsitz im Ausland vorsieht, wurde am 8. November vom oesterreichischen Ministerrat gebilligt und dem Parlament zur weiteren Behandlung vorgelegt. Sobald das Hilfsfondsgesetz in Kraft treten und der Fonds seine Taetigkeit aufnehmen wird, wird hierueber und ueber die Moeglichkeit der Antragstellung auf Zuwendungen in der "A.J.R. Information" eine ausfuehrliche Darstellung veroeffentlicht werden.

#### Fristverlaengerungen

Durch eine im oesterreichischen Bundesgesetzblatt vom 20. Oktober erschienene Verordnung des Finanzministeriums wurden einige Fristen zur Geltendmachung von Rueckstellungsanspruechen nach dem Ersten, Zweiten, Dritten und Fuenften Rueckstellungsgesetz neuerlich, und zwar bis zum 31. Juli 1956, verlaengert. Diese Gesetze regeln die Rueckstellung entzogener Vermoegen, soweit sie noch vorhanden sind, durch den Erwerber oder, falls sich das Vermoegen im Eigentum der Republik Oesterreich oder der Verwaltung des Bundes und der Laender befindet, durch diese. Die Fristen zur Geltendmachung von Rueckstellungsanspruechen sind im allgemeinen vor geraumer Zeit abgelaufen. Die Fristerstreckung bis zum 31. Juli 1956 gilt u.a. fuer bestimmte in der Nachkriegszeit unter oeffentlicher Verwaltung befindliche Vermoegen, sowie fuer sonstiges Vermoegen, sofern nach der Beendigung der deutschen Besetzung die Anwendung des oesterreichischen Rechts von ausserhalb der oesterreichischen Rechtsordnung gelegenen Tatsachen abhing oder das Recht durch eine solche Tatsache betroffen war. Die Fristerstreckung ist demgemass insbesondere fuer Rueckstellungsansprueche betreffend Vermoegen von Belang, das in dem bis vor kurzem unter russischer Besetzung stehenden Teil Oesterreichs liegt.

### LEBENSVERSICHERUNGSGESELLSCHAFT PHOENIX

Bekanntlich ist der Versicherungsstock der Lebensversicherungsgesellschaft Phoenix von der OEVAG, Oesterreichische Versicherungs-A.G., nach dem Zusammenbruch des Phoenix im Jahre 1936 uebernommen worden. Ein Teil der juedischen Phoenixpolicen ist individuell, d.h. unter ausdruecklicher Bezeichnung der Policennummer, von der Finanzverwaltung auf Grund der 11th Durchfuhrungsverordnung zum Reichsbuergergesetz eingezogen worden. Ruecksichtlich dieser Policen steht die OEVAG auf dem Standpunkt, dass sie erloschen sind. Ausserdem hat die OEVAG im Jahre 1944 in Abloesung der Rueckkaufswerte der restlichen juedischen Policen eine namhafte Zahlung an die Reichs-Finanzverwaltung leisten muessen. Diese, nicht individuell konfiszierten Policen, die einen sehr betrachtlichen Teil des Versicherungsbestandes darstellen, ist die Gesellschaft bereit, nach Massgabe der gesetzlichen Bestimmungen betr. Phoenix-Versicherungen zu honorieren.

Es wird daher fruheren Versicherten des Phoenix, bzw. deren Rechtsnachfolgern angeraten, sich unverzueglich an die OEVAG, Wien I, Freyung zu wenden, und zwar unter Angabe folgender Details soweit bekannt: Policennummer, Name, Geburtsdatum und Geburtsort des Versicherungsnehmers.

Eine moeglichst vollstaendige Angabe aller relevanten Daten ist im Interesse der Berechtigten, weil sie zu einer beschleunigten Bearbeitung der Ansuchen entscheidend beitraegt.

C.K.

ueber den Rueckerstattungsanspruch ausgesetzt. Der Rueckerstattungsrechtigte muss auch in solchen Faellen vorsorglich den Antrag auf Altsparerentschaedigung bis zum 1.1.1956 zur Vermeidung von Rechtsnachteilen stellen. In einer Rechtsverordnung, die bisher nicht erlassen ist, wird das Entschädigungsverfahren in Rueckerstattungsfaellen naeher geregelt werden.



## REPORTS FROM AND ON GERMANY

PROFESSOR CARL CLAUBERG

Professor Carl Clauberg, the former head of the medical experimental centre at Auschwitz, who recently returned from Russia among the much feted "late homecomers," is to be prosecuted on the initiative of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. The charge against him is that he "repeatedly inflicted grave bodily injury" on Jewish women inmates he used in sterilisation experiments. According to the Council, many of the women were "permanently crippled or doomed to die."

Clauberg claimed that all Jewish women concerned had agreed to the treatment. In a letter to Himmler in June, 1943, he described details saying that he would be able to sterilise "several hundreds, if not a thousand," every day. He was assisted by Dr. Johann Goebel, a pharmacist now said to be living in Schleswig-Holstein.

The Central Council has called for survivors to come forward to give evidence. The address is: "Zentralrat," Duesseldorf, Fischerstr. 49.

### PREMATURE RELEASE OF WAR

More than 1,400 German war criminals were released by the Czech Government last month.

A group of 45 Austrian "homecomers" from Russia, described as "serious war criminals," included the former Gestapo chief of Vienna, Johann Sanitzer.

Another group included Dr. Streckenbach, who was Gestapo chief at Hamburg, and Herr Beckerle, an ex-Storm Troop leader and Nazi police chief at Frankfurt. Both took an active part in persecuting Jews. They are, nevertheless, to receive financial help from the Federal Republic, and as a first instalment have been given RM. 6,000 (about £500).

Among more prominent Nazis recently released in the West was Sepp Dietrich, the former commander of Hitler's S.S. bodyguard, whom the Americans had sentenced to life imprisonment in 1946. He had been guilty of the massacre of 142 American prisoners at Malmédy in 1944. For

### JEWISH AFFAIRS

The Jewish population in West Germany has become stabilised for the moment at 25,000, and a "marginal" Jewish community will survive in some of the principal cities of Southern Germany and in Berlin, unless there is a major international upheaval, it was stated by Mr. Paul W. Freedman, correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in West Germany. According to him, many of the now existent small Jewish communities would become extinct during the present generation. The majority of the 2,000 Jewish children in Germany today were of elementary school age. All of them attended German schools since efforts to establish Jewish all-day schools have thus far been unsuccessful.

#### Pogrom Anniversary

Rias, the American broadcasting station in Berlin, recalled the ninth of November by broadcasting an hour-long radio play, written by Joachim Fest, one of the leading (non-Jewish) feature writers, which he calls "Nur den Opfern steht es an, zu vergessen." It shows, dramatically, the terror of the "Kristallnacht," and gives moving extracts from the diary of Ann Frank, the young German-Jewish girl who lived in hiding in occupied Holland.

At a public meeting held to commemorate the pogrom, Dr. Joachim Lipschitz, West Berlin Senator of Interior Affairs, said that many evil things of the Nazi past had survived in the new German State. Much had been done towards creating a true democratic régime, but the revival of Nazi tendencies and the reappearance of former leading Nazis in public life constituted a real danger to the new democratic order.

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A new Jewish cemetery was opened in West Berlin on November 6th. The ceremony was performed by the Chief Rabbi of Hesse, Dr. Lichtigfeld, as there is still no Rabbi attached to the West Berlin community.

While the bulk of the West German press showed no great interest in the matter, an editorial in the *Stuttgarter Zeitung* expressed surprise that, though the Jews had taken action, nothing had as yet been heard from the German Medical Association. It called on them to take care that "doctors with the conscience of a Clauberg shall no longer be allowed to practise their profession in the name of Hippocrates and Paracelsus." The paper also hoped that judges would be found with sufficient understanding of the gravity of the crime.

At present two trials are pending of men accused of atrocities in concentration camps. The former commandant of the Stutthof camp (near Danzig), Paul Werner Hoppe is charged at Bochum with the murder of 400 inmates, 300 of whom were gassed and 40 killed through lethal injections. A fellow-defendant, Otto Heidl, the camp doctor, hanged himself in his cell. Another doctor, Hermann Fischer, is being tried at Weiden for alleged complicity in the killing of 40 people.

### CRIMINALS—"A Grave Mistake"

once, however, the release of a war criminal has run into resistance. The American Veterans Committee requested a Congressional investigation, and so did the influential Senator Kefauver. What success these interventions will have, remains to be seen.

#### Lord Russell's Warning

The freeing of war criminals before they had served their full sentence was "a grave mistake," Lord Russell of Liverpool, author of "The Scourge of the Swastika," told the annual remembrance rally of Jewish ex-servicemen last month. As a species of political bargaining, those releases could not be too strongly condemned, he said.

Lord Russell's book has now sold nearly 250,000 copies. It has been translated into 15 languages. An East German edition was sold out in four days; a West German one is due this month.

### JEWISH AFFAIRS

A memorial in the Jewish cemetery of Wuppertal-Elberfeld was unveiled in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Herr Schmeissing, who said that decent Germans had been suffering with their Jewish fellow-citizens. There must be no forgetting the past, he declared; it was essential from time to time to recall the terrible times of the Nazi tyranny.

The chairman of the local Jewish *Gemeinde*, Josef Heimann, said that out of the 3,000 Jews in Wuppertal before the war, 1,700 had been deported and only very few had returned.

#### They, Too, Were "Homecomers"

The noisy "homecoming" of the miscellaneous prisoners from Russia is contrasted by the *Rhein-Neckar Zeitung* with the quiet return of those Jews who survived the deportations from Baden 15 years ago. After a description of the hardships suffered by the Jews, the paper goes on: "Only a fraction returned—old, poverty-stricken, broken in body and spirit. They came home, quiet and tired, without celebrations and reception committees, though they, too, were Germans, with only the desire to spend in the country which had always been their home, the last days of their sorely-trying lives."

A Jew, Professor Helmuth Plessner, 63, was elected chairman of the German Society for Sociology. He was removed from his Chair at Cologne University in 1933. After several years at Groningen University, Holland, he returned to Germany in 1951.

#### Jews Return From Russia

The Jewish community of Berlin welcomed the first returnee from Soviet captivity, Leon Buras, a Berliner who spent eighteen years of his life in various Russian prisons and camps, mainly in Siberia.

A few days after his arrival, a second returnee followed, Jacob Lewin, a man of 28, who six years ago was arrested in Dresden.

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### Concern for Israel

The Board of Deputies passed a resolution urging H.M. Government to ensure, in co-operation with the United States and France, a military balance between Israel and her Arab neighbours by furnishing arms to Israel.

A message of "close identity with our brethren in the land of Israel" was issued by the Chief Rabbi in a speech assuring "those in the vanguard of the defence of Israel" that British Jews were with them, prepared to answer any call for aid.

A definition of Zionism differing from the conception of Mr. Ben Gurion was suggested by the Hon. President of the Zionist Federation. Whereas the Israeli Premier had stated that the only Zionist was one who went to live in Israel, Mr. I. M. Sieff felt that Zionism was rather "a way of life": "You can live in Israel or in the Diaspora."

### Ex-Servicemen's Parade

The Jewish ex-Servicemen's annual parade was inspected by General Sir Gerald Templer. It was the General's first public engagement since he became Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

The Jewish National Fund of Great Britain and Ireland had during the year ended on June 30, 1955, an income of £881,608.

About £50,000 is spent annually on improving British settlements in Israel by way of supplying agricultural machinery. Since 1952 individual British immigrants outside the settlements have received more than £100,000 in loans.

Mr. Isaac Wolfson, chairman and managing director of the Great Universal Stores Ltd., who is one of the foremost supporters of Jewish and general charitable causes, announced a Group Trading Profit for the year ended on March 31, 1955, of £18,856,896, as compared with £8,116,368 in 1951 and £11,388,271 in 1953.

### Jews' College

The centenary of Jews' College was celebrated by the laying of the foundation-stone for a new building to be erected at Montagu Square, W., the first to be specifically designed for the College. The £250,000 appeal launched in 1952 to meet the cost is still open.

At a dinner to celebrate the 85th birthday of Lord Samuel, a £100,000 "testimonial fund" was launched to enable the Hebrew University to build a library named after Lord Samuel who is the President of the Friends of the University in Britain. £65,000 were collected at once.

Mr. Harold Samuel, the Jewish financier and property owner, is to make a gift of £250,000 to Cambridge University for the furtherance of research and study in estate management. Mr. Samuel has previously given substantial amounts to home charities and Israeli causes.

### Sir Basil Henriques

After 32 years as a member of the East London Juvenile Court and its chairman for the past 18 years, Sir Basil Henriques retired. He was the founder, in 1914, of the Bernhard Baron St. George's Jewish Settlement in Stepney.

Mr. R. D. Barnett, an Elder of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, was appointed Keeper of the Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities at the British Museum.

On the occasion of his visit to Britain, the President of Portugal was handed a letter from the Gentlemen of the Mahamad of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, saying: "The memories and achievements of our forefathers in Portugal binds us with imperishable ties to that fair land, and these are strengthened still further by the freedom and equality before the law which our co-religionists enjoy under your Excellency's Presidency."

### Anti-Communist

In an editorial on "Free Speech," the *Glasgow Jewish Echo* explained its decision to refuse publicity to Jewish meetings where the principal speaker was known to be a Communist. Such meetings would be advertised no more than would treifa hotels or missionary meetings.

The need for communal unity in the defence of Shechita was stressed by the President of the Board of Deputies. Mr. Janner referred to the anxiety in U.S. Jewry over anti-Shechita sentiments in Britain which, if unchecked, might encourage the protagonists of similar legislation there. British Jewry was once again leading the struggle for the maintenance of Jewish traditions throughout the world.



Lutz Weltmann:

## THALIA AND MELPOMENE

Rudolf Bernauer's "Das Theater meines Lebens"  
and Pem's "Der Himmel hängt voller Geigen."

Two London exiles, Rudolf Bernauer, who died in 1953 at the age of seventy-four, and Pem, who needs no introduction to our readers, descended into the deep shafts of their memories and wrote these delightful books about the "boards that represent the world." Both works, lavishly illustrated, were beautifully produced by Lothar Blanvalet, Berlin (444 pages: DM 16.80 and 196 pages: DM 12.80) and they complement one another, not only in subject matter, where they sometimes overlap, but also documents of life seen and displayed by two different generations. Pem's title, by the way, has been borrowed from Bernauer's libretto of Leo Fall's operetta, "Der liebe Augustin."

When Pem and I were writing dramatic criticisms in Berlin, he mainly acted as a keen observer of comedy—and his book owes a great deal of its freshness to this fact—whilst I was a devotee of the tragic muse. It was not until works such as Brecht-Weill's "Dreigroschenoper" and Georg Kaiser's "Zwei Kravatten" indicated the decline of the old style operetta even before Radio and Sound Film brought about its final downfall, that we dealt with the same exciting first nights. However, in Rudolf Bernauer's hey-day at the *Theater in der Königgrätzer Strasse* I was not yet a dramatic critic. Or rather, my reviews were not published—I wrote them in letters to a school chum who, somewhat older than I, was already serving in the Kaiser's army. I still remember writing to him that I considered Bernauer's *mise-en-scène* of Strindberg's "Traumspiel" a match to Reinhardt's famous productions, and when Reinhardt tried his hand at this later, his skill proved by no means superior. I met Bernauer in person when Barnowsky was his lessee at the *Theater in der Königgrätzer Strasse*. Once he invited us to listen to his and Oesterreicher's drama "Das zweite Leben." He read superbly—indeed, his reading was much more dramatic than the actual performance.

Rudolf Bernauer tells the story of his life and of the great days of the Berlin theatre, the days when it led the whole world, in a very appealing and cultured manner: his up-bringing as an affectionate son of a Jewish family, born in Hungary; groping his way as a student of art, literature and philosophy; his loves and liaisons, even the latter treated without that exhibitionism which is the fashion of today; his training as an actor by one of Otto Brahm's producers; his beginnings in small parts at the master's stage, and, above all, his friendships: with Carl Meinhard, with whom he was to enter into a partnership comparable to that existing between Gilbert and Sullivan, remarkable in its business aspects as a gentleman's agreement kept without any written contract, and rich in human drama—and with Max Reinhardt, whom he greatly admired and, wisely avoided lest he sacrificed his individuality.

### Second Only to Reinhardt

Contrary to Barnowsky, Bernauer did not suffer "in the Titan's shade," having been recognised by Reinhardt as an independent character, when, for a short time, he worked as a producer of the Deutsche Theater. Barnowsky, though justified in his statement that he was not much inferior to Reinhardt, had developed an inferiority complex which he tried to compensate by building up a "Lebenslüge" (it was no coincidence that Ibsen's "Wild Duck" was one of his best productions) that, if Reinhardt had not come before him, the prophet's mantle (and glory) would have fallen on his shoulders.

Bernauer, who could write, as both his librettos for musical comedies and operettas and his philosophical book on acting, "Forderungen der reinen Schauspielkunst" show, was well equipped to become the historian of Berlin's theatrical splendor and decline as a frame-work for the story of his own enterprise. He had seen Kainz and Matkowsky in his youth and experienced the work of Otto Brahm as formative in his development. He also remembers how Reinhardt became a producer through force of circumstance as much as by inclination and how through Reinhardt's example, the star and director-producer was established. He gives a lively description of a chance rehearsal of Tschirikoff's play "Die Juden," which he reluctantly held to please his friend Meinhard, and during which the producer Bernauer was born.

We read how his growing fame as a producer was to poison the happy relationship with his generally

noble-minded partner in the successful run of the "Meinhard-Bernauer-Bühnen." There are humorous episodes, too, for instance how, after playing three Jewish jargon parts in succession, Meinhard was promised a series of "Aryan" aristocrats, a promise which was not broken. We learn to appreciate and to love the "true" Bernauer with his Jekyll and Hyde nature, now writing in a very light vein and now as a serious interpreter of Shakespeare and Goethe, Ibsen, Strindberg and Wedekind. We read of his liaison with Maria Orska, which originated in Bernauer's gift of leading actors and actresses and in her artistic obsession, but which nevertheless created some difficult situations. We have a good glimpse at the business side of theatrical management and the cultural background, from the Kaiser's era, so fertile for the satires of Meinhard and Bernauer's "Böse Buben" beginnings, to the artistic and economic reasons which put an end to a great period of German theatre.

### History of Operetta

After reading Bernauer with emotion and affection from cover to cover during one night, I felt equally absorbed by Pem's charmingly human book. Spicing his chronicle of the Indian summer of operetta with good anecdotes and gossip, the *Rasende Reporter II* gives us a well documented history of this important branch belonging to the old family tree of Mime, which, however ephemeral the genre be, is an outcome of the political and social life of its time. With all his enthusiasm for Oskar Straus and Lehar, Leo Fall and Kalman, Lincke and Abraham, for the performers and producers of operetta such as Fritzi Massary and Richard Tauber, Hermann Haller and Eric Charell, Pem never overlooks this aspect: Young Hitler helps to restore the picture in a collection of Oskar Straus's uncle, and General von Schleicher attends the last Rotter première of

"The Ball in Savoy." We see how Austrian, Hungarian, Berlin and Jewish elements contributed to the rise of 20th century operetta, an artificial world lit up now and then by sheet-lightning from outside. One of the most lovable features of Pem's has always been his unassuming, unpretentious manner, but he has surpassed himself with this book on a somewhat unique phenomenon, a product of matured discipline and inner growth. Many people who have not read his previous book "Heimweh nach dem Kurfürstendamm" will, I feel sure, want to read it now because it is by the author of "Der Himmel hängt voller Geigen."

## GERMAN BOOK EXHIBITION

The recent German Book Exhibition in London, organised by the "Boersenverein" of the German Book Trade, reflected the amount and the variety of the German book production which is increasing from year to year. For immigrants from Germany, the reprints of the classics and of authors banned under the Nazi régime were of special interest. There were also many new works on historical and political subjects. Furthermore, a beautifully printed Hebrew Bible (edited by R. Kittel) as well as writings by leading Jewish thinkers, such as Martin Buber and Leo Baeck, were displayed. The political corner included a copy of H. G. Adler's comprehensive sociological study on the Theresienstadt Ghetto. In the biographical section the memoirs of two surgeons, Professor Sauerbruch and Professor Paul Rosenstein (formerly Director of the Berlin Jewish Hospital) were facing each other.

Many of the exhibited books excelled by the high standard of their make-up. The sales prices are, on the average, higher than those of corresponding publications in England, at least when compared on the basis of the official currency rate. On the other hand, there were some popular books (including reference books) which, probably due to their high circulation, are obtainable at comparatively low prices.

## FAREWELL TO TWO AUTHORS

### WOLFGANG GOETZ

Eight days before entering the eighth decade of his life, Wolfgang Goetz died suddenly at his Berlin home. He was one of the finest writers of his generation, a connoisseur of all things literary and artistic, a subtle critic, a true gentleman and my friend.

When I returned to Berlin, it was comforting to find him still alive, well installed as the theatre critic of the "Morgenpost," and ready to advise, to talk freely and to recall the good old days. It is easy to forget the Germany of old, and nobody will blame anyone for forgetting what she once was; but whenever we meet again men like Wolfgang Goetz, we start re-thinking and re-valuing. He represented a Germany of the mind that we were wont to find in the eighteenth century, not now.

We have not forgotten his "Gneisenau," nor his tragedy circling around Herbert von Bismarck, great Otto's unfortunate son, which he called "Der Ministerpräsident." Later, he turned to literary essayism and to editing the classics and other important work, and to criticism. He was one of the first writers to be made a "Regierungsrat," as head of a film-censoring government department. In 1933, he was, of course, deprived of his office. He retired, as all "good Germans" did, to make his come-back soon after the liberation.

He was the centre of our own informal circle of friends who met, quite irregularly, at Berlin's "Maison de France" where, over bottles or carafes of splendid Bordeaux, this great raconteur entertained colleagues like Georg Zivier, Ivan Heilbut, Peter Goldbaum, the playwright, and others who happened to join us. He had the grandezza of the real bon-viveur who liked good things in life and knew how to discover "good things" in literature and the arts, perhaps better than most of his contemporaries in Germany. Berlin's cultural life is the poorer for his passing.

OTTO ZAREK.

### ERNST SOMMER

Ernst Sommer died in London some weeks ago. He had been a well-known solicitor in Karsbad before becoming a writer. He had published 14 novels in his lifetime. One of his books, published in 1913, was called "Gideons Alijah"—how very typical it sounds of its time and place! In 1935, he began again to write novels; he felt impelled to raise his voice against the injustice, against the lack of morals in Europe. The first of his second series of novels dealt with the fate of the Templars, an outstanding example of the corruption of power. Sommer wrote biographies of Rabelais and Villon, whilst his historical novels about Rabbi Hillel and Hutten are to be published soon, posthumously.

His two most important books and, strangely enough, his most successful ones, have Jewish themes. "Botschaft aus Granada" contains all the discussions, all the conversations of Central European Jews between 1933-39. The problems of Spanish Jewry in the 1480s were the same as the problems of German Jewry in the 1930s, only more so because baptism was then the salvation. Sommer has written powerfully about this conflict. The book was immediately published in Hungarian, Czech, and Polish, in 1937. No wonder—but it does seem a wonder today—that "Botschaft aus Granada" could have been published in the "Jüdische Buchvereinigung," in 1938. Even more important is the fate of "Revolte der Heiligen," written in London in 1943. The revolt in a Jewish Ghetto is described before anybody had heard of the Warsaw rising. The bestiality of the organisation of death is told in a longish short story without any sentimentality, that occupational disease of all minor Jewish literature. The book was published in Mexico in 1944 and republished in East Germany. 50,000 copies were distributed to the German war prisoners in Soviet camps—a good thing, even if only 10,000 actually read this deeply moving story.

Ernst Sommer was paralysed for many years, but he did not stop writing until the very end.

GABRIELE TERGIT.



## EX - GERMAN JEWS IN THE NEWS

### Physician to Haile Selassie

The Silver Jubilee recently celebrated by Emperor Haile Selassie recalls the story of some German Jews who found their way to Abyssinia. One of them is Dr. Heinz Ermann, a physician, who holds a high position in that country. He served as the senior Medical Officer with the Ethiopian contingent that fought in Korea. Originally he had gone to Palestine, but during the war was assigned to the Ethiopian Brigade, and on demobilisation settled in Addis Ababa, where he married an Amharic girl.

Another is Dr. Jacobson, who was once personal physician to the Emperor. He now lives in Bangkok, where he is Honorary Consul for Israel.

It is interesting also to recall that Dr. Jacques Faitlovitch, who recently died, was operating from Germany when he did his grand work for the Falasha Jews in Abyssinia. The headquarters of his committee were in Frankfurt-am-Main.

### THOSE IDIOMS

"Though I had a bone to pick with my wife I decided to let sleeping dogs lie, thus making a fool of myself." That was the type of language we used in our first essays for our English classes 16 years ago, when we still thought that the more idioms we used the more idiomatic we sounded. By now, this over-enthusiasm has ceased. We have learned that knowing idioms does not necessarily mean that we can speak or write English. However, we cannot do without them, because the temptation to translate an idiom literally is too great. "You can remain me stolen" would certainly not have the desired effect when we want to advise someone "to go to blazes." Therefore, we welcome the publication of a book which may protect us from such howlers. ("4,000 German Idioms and Colloquialisms with their English Equivalents," by Werner Ruedenberg and Kate Pearl, Hirschfeld Brothers Limited. 470 pages. 21s.)

The book is primarily meant for the Englishman who wants to learn German and who may be puzzled when he hears somebody quarrelling about "des Kaisers Bart" or suffers from being "durch den Kakao gezogen." Accordingly, the German idioms are given first (in alphabetical order) and their English equivalents are not always idioms but often explanations or interpretations. However, readers from German-speaking countries, who still hope to bring their English nearer to perfection (or a little further away from imperfection!) will also find the book most useful—and great fun. "Ein dunkler Punkt," we learn, is "a dark chapter," and if you tried to translate "schiefer gewickelt" literally you would be "on the wrong track." In case you want to leave a cocktail party because you had "a drop too much" ("einen ueber den Durst getrunken") don't make yourself "thin" ("duenne") but "scarce." "Kurz und gut" ("in short") the book is highly to be recommended for English and former German-speaking readers alike. At the same time, it may be regarded as a fine contribution of two immigrants to the life of the country which gave them refuge.

This may also be said of another, though less ambitious, book on the same subject ("A book of German Idioms," by E. Scheyer and R. W. E. Weil, Methuen & Co. Ltd., London. 49 pages. 4s. 6d.). It is divided into several chapters, some of which aim at facilitating conversation in a particular situation (business negotiations, travelling, etc.), whereas others enumerate idioms or phrases suitable to any conversation. Not all the items are idioms in the strict meaning of the word. Some are just apt German expressions to be used in every-day life. The booklet is enhanced by two very useful additional chapters, a vocabulary of current technical terms and a guide through the jungle of prepositions. At the very end, the double meaning of certain words (a parlour game of our youth and the foundation of "emigranto") is explored. There we find the "Bauer" being either a cage or a peasant, the "Decke" as the ceiling or the cover, and the "Zug" as a train as well as a draught.

The booklet is to be welcomed for its comprehensive survey of a very vexing problem.

W. ROSENSTOCK.

### Joseph Oppenheimer

Joseph Oppenheimer, the Bavarian painter who worked in England from 1898 to 1908 and settled here after 1933, has been celebrating his 80th birthday with an exhibition of oils, pastels, tempera, and water-colours at the Ohana Gallery. Among his portraits stand out two studies of Herman Struck and Leo Pastenack.

### Mr. Attenborough's Charges

The story of the adoption by his parents of two German Jewish refugee girls at the beginning of the last war was told by Mr. Richard Attenborough, the film star, at a Jewish Child's Day meeting. They were the daughters of the Medical Health Officer in Berlin, on their way to America when war broke out. Unable to reach the US, they stayed with the Attenboroughs, hearing from their father until 1945, when he disappeared.

Mr. Attenborough senior was chairman of the Refugees' Committee in Leicester.

### Successful Composer

A successful young composer is Berlin-born Peter Jona Korn. His "Variations on a tune from the Beggar's Opera" were performed at Louisville, Ohio, shortly after the first performance of his overture "In Medias Res." The 32-year-old composer was educated in Jerusalem and then in Los Angeles, where his family settled in 1941. As conductor of the orchestra of the University of Southern Carolina and founder of his own "New Orchestra of Los Angeles," he has made quite a name for himself.

### Dr. Bruno Weil

An old friend visited London again the other day—Dr. Bruno Weil—and he gave one of his fascinating talks, at a meeting of the "K.C." about his pet subject, the Dreyfus Affair. In his far-ranging researches he has found that the German Government could have helped to establish Dreyfus's innocence but deliberately refused to do so. Bülow, said Weil, had feared that Dreyfus's rehabilitation would swing over Jewish and Liberal opinion in Europe to a pro-French attitude, and he was determined to prevent that. Also (according to Weil) the Kaiser was very antisemitic as was shown by his marginal comments on relevant documents.

### Birthday of Nahariya

Nahariya was recently in the news because it celebrated the 20th anniversary of its foundation. The first settlers came from Germany, and their way of life has left its mark on the character of the town once and for all. Whilst, when the State of Israel came into being, there were about 1,460 inhabitants (most of them former German Jews), the population has now grown to 12,000, mainly due to the intake of refugees after 1948. The place enjoys a high reputation as a seaside resort and provides accommodation for about 1,000 holidaymakers. At the same time the immigrants have developed several industrial works, *inter alia*, the Isasbest Works, who employ 300 labourers, the Moller Textile Corporation with 200 workers, and the Strauss Dairy with 90 workers.

### Grand Cross for Research Worker

The Grand Cross of the West German Order of Merit and the Goethe Plaque of the City of Frankfurt were awarded to Professor Ferdinand Blum, a Jewish medical research worker, now living in Switzerland, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Dr. Blum's father was a teacher of natural science at the Frankfurt Jewish Philanthropin.

### Arnold Zweig's New Novel

Arnold Zweig, who lives in East Berlin, recently published a new novel, "The Ice Breaks." He is now engaged in writing three plays—one entitled "Bonaparte in Jaffa," another about Sergeant Grischa, and a third dealing with the expulsion of the Jews from Prague by the Empress Maria Theresa in 1744.

## Old Acquaintances

**Memories Revived:**—To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the day Max Reinhardt took over Berlin's "Deutsches Theater" the surviving members of his ensemble gathered in Berlin. There were Lucie Hoefflich, Elias Wagner, Hilde Koerber, Ilse Fuerstenberg, Ernst Deutsch, Emil Rameau, Robert Mueller, and H. Huebner, and it was decided to introduce again the famous "Reinhardt Ring." Helen Thimig (Reinhardt's widow) will be the first one to get that decoration. The city of Berlin hopes to bring the remains of the "great magician" from America to the town where he made his name.

Four parties want to rebuild Berlin's once-famous variety "Scala," destroyed by bombs. There is Karl Marx, living in London, the brother of the former owner, Jules M., who lost his life in Sachsenhausen. The second is Eduard Duisberg, who became director under the Nazis. The third claimant is Karl Wolfsohn, the former publisher of "Lichtbildbuehne," who returned from Israel; he had shares in "Scala." W. R. Mortier, an old film producer is the fourth, but it is very doubtful whether the whole project will come off.

**Home News:**—Wolfgang Rilla, the son of actor Walter R., went to Samoa to direct his first feature film, "A Pattern of Island," based on Sir Arthur Grimble's novel.—German-born John Hanau, living in London, accepted an invitation to produce Ibsen's "Nora" in East Berlin.—Richard Duchinsky, the Austrian playwright, directed Ross Williamson's "Green Girl," with Karel Stepanek, at Richmond.—Vienna-born cartoonist, F. Joss-Josefovich, has resigned from the "Star" after over twenty years.—Honoraria Plesch directed and designed the "Irving" revue "Blue Print," with Irmgard Spolianski in the cast.—Leslie Frewin, a London publicity man, published a Marlene Dietrich biography under the title "Blonde Venus" with Gibbon and Kee here.—Peter Illing went to Africa on location after having finished work in "The Battle of the River Plate," a British picture about the German battleship, "Graf Spee."—Maria Fein arrived in London for a broadcast of Bert Brecht's "Mother Courage" on the B.B.C. Third Programme.

**Obituaries:**—Renato Mordo died in Mainz at the age of 61; the Austrian-born producer returned only a few years ago from Athens and Ankara, where he helped to build up a national theatre.—F. C. Weiskopf, journalist, novelist, and diplomat, died in East Germany at the age of 55; during the war years he lived in the United States.

**News from Everywhere:**—Max Nosseck, who returned from Hollywood a few months ago, married actress Ilse Steppat in Berlin.—Sigfried Arno arrived in Hamburg from America to play the lead in Friedrich Hollaender's new musical, "Scherzo."—In Vienna, Theo Lingen is directing the new Paula Wessely picture with Fritz Schulz in the cast.—Viennese actress, Gusti Huber, and Joseph Schildkraut played in the "Diary of Anne Frank" on Broadway.—Heinrich Schnitzler arrived in Berlin from Hollywood to produce his father's "Professor Bernhardt," with Ernst Deutsch.—Dancer Lotte Goslar: visited London to prepare her appearance there after a successful tour of the Continent.—Wolfgang Stresemann came to Germany to supervise a film about the life of his late father, the German Foreign Minister.—Frederick Valk played "Shylock" and "Othello" successfully in Toronto (Canada).

**Milestone:**—On November 22nd Hugo Schuster celebrated his 70th birthday in London. The always reliable actor, married to Sybille Rares, played for years in Berlin and still works for the B.B.C.

**"Prince of Vienna":**—When Oscar Straus died a few years ago in his beloved Ischl he was the last representative and the only gentleman of the Silver epoch of the Vienna operetta. Over eighty years old, he wrote the music for Max Opul's "La Ronde" and "Madame de . . ."; his creative power was limitless. Now Bernard Grun, himself a composer, has written the first biography of the great master, published by W. H. Allen in London, under the title "Prince of Vienna; the life, the times, and the melodies of Oscar Straus." It is a worthy and dignified memorial to the man who gave us the immortal "Waltz Dream" and "Chocolate Soldier," not to speak of the many operettas he composed for the never to be forgotten Fritzi Massary.

PEM



## SCHOOL FOR CIVICS

By Herbert Freeden (Jerusalem)

"It would be a fundamental mistake to confuse the information services of the Israeli Government with a Ministry of Propaganda or of National Guidance," told me emphatically Mr. D. S. Teshler, the vigorous and dynamic Director General of the Civic Education and Information Office. Pointing to the recent Knesseth elections with a majority of voters who had been in the country only from one to six years and had not yet struck root in the language, culture, and social life of the nation, he explained that the solidarity which was the "secret weapon" of the Yishuv in the formative years of Statehood could only be regained if the newcomers were imbued with the same spirit. To make the citizens take an active and interested part in the affairs of the State, and to speed up the blending of the "aliyothe," the Information Office was set up in April, 1954, as part of the Office of the Prime Minister. Israel's propaganda abroad remains the responsibility of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Yet in a country that lives in the uneasy twilight between war and peace and whose people to a large extent hail from lands in which they were disfranchised and discriminated against by the authorities, basic civics have to be taught first.

Russian-born David Teshler, just turned 50, is responsible—under Minister Zalman Aranne—for these activities; he had been a leading official of the Keren Kayemeth for over 25 years, first in Germany and later in Israel, Canada, and the United States, and left the Fund at the invitation of Prime Minister Sharett to organise the new office in its three sections—the radio, with Harry Zinder at the head; the Press Office, with Michael Arnon in charge; and adult education, whose director has not yet been appointed.

### 1,200 Lectures

Oral explanation probably leads the organisational effort. Far above 300,000 people have attended about 1,200 lectures by ministers, judges, government officials, social workers, teachers, youth leaders, etc., on such subjects as foreign policy, immigrants' assimilation, and problems of the country's development. Two months before the elections all meetings were discontinued so as not to be charged with influencing the prospective voters.

In the coming year, oral propaganda will be stepped up to 300 public lectures per month, and study groups will be set up in 150 immigrants' settlements. Among the many seminars which are planned, are some for women in the new villages; for adolescents; for Government and Jewish Agency employees, as well as citizenship courses in the big towns. Seminars are also prepared for 1,500 civil servants and 600 police inspectors, for the civil servants have, of course, an overriding influence on the relation between the citizen and the State. In the past year, courses and study days were arranged for 1,400 Government employees on the subject "The Civil Servant and the State," with parallel courses for policemen.

Festivals can play an important part in the integration of the immigrants. 40,000 newcomers took part in special celebrations of Succoth and Chanukkah and over 100,000 people in Independence Day festivities in ma'abarot and immigrants' settlements. A programme on similar lines has now been worked out for 250 such villages covering also the 15th of Shvath and Shevuoth.

It was Wingate who said that man loves only what he knows. The new citizens are given the opportunity of getting to know their homeland and its development. So far 682 trips were organised for 10,000 people; in the coming year 70,000 immigrants will be taken on sightseeing tours.

Not only the people travel; a travelling exhibition was seen by 40,000 persons in the Negev and the Jerusalem Corridor since it started out in June, 1955, showing the history of the nation from the destruction of the Second Temple to the present day. Soon it is going to visit 30 places in the Galilee. A second exhibition is in hand which will explain the basic points of the Government programme as expounded by Ben-Gurion.

Films are naturally among the most effective media of the Information Service. A 13-minute short on Income Tax is a telling example of their fresh and unconventional approach. Instead of

depicting where the taxpayers' money goes and what it achieves, the film does just the reverse: it shows what would happen if the citizen would cease paying taxes—and this in an entertaining and yet most convincing manner. Eleven 35 mm. documentaries have been produced during the past year on subjects such as Independence Day, The Hula, The Negev, Volunteers during the Second World War, Water, Haifa Port, Spring in Israel, Road to the Skies, Fishing in Israel, and Day and Night in a Frontier Settlement. For the coming year another 15 documentaries are planned for public showing in cinemas as well as for immigrants' settlements and various organisations and institutions. A number of newsreels are also being commissioned. 16 mm. copies of all films are made for non-theatrical distribution; moreover, film libraries are to be set up in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, and Ashkelon. Ten mobile units are to bring the films and film-strips to settlements and villages all over the country.

### Film-Strips

Film-strips are by no means outdated, but remain an important aid to lecturers. An extensive programme is being prepared—a series of six film strips on citizenship; another one of six film-strips on the geography of Israel; two lectures, with coloured slides, on archaeology; and ten more film-strips on various other topics.

Printed information also falls within the orbit of the Office. Material for the immediate future includes a monthly bulletin called "Facts and Figures," illustrated pamphlets, and a short report for Independence Day, in 350,000 copies, on the progress of the State.

Much has been said and written about expanding the scope of the radio "Kol Yisrael." Three more wave-lengths are planned to provide a "light" programme, a special immigrants' programme in eight languages, and a greatly improved overseas service.

"There are three instruments in Israel which help turn the new immigrants into citizens," concluded Mr. Teshler—"the schools, the Army, and the Civic Education and Information Services of the Government."

After having heard of their work and plans, I am prepared to agree.

## EGYPTIANS AND GERMANS

While Egypt orders arms from the Soviets, she also makes effective use of those Nazis to whom she once granted a generous refuge. Many of them have long been training Egyptian soldiers in the use of new weapons, some are to serve as U-boat commanders, and it is generally agreed that in large measure the Soviet arms deal was negotiated through the good offices of Herr Otto Werner von Hentig, former head of the Middle East section in Ribbentrop's Foreign Office. Having been, between 1952 and 1954, a member of the German diplomatic mission in Indonesia, he was recently appointed "political adviser" to the King of Saudi Arabia, in succession to the veteran British adviser, John Philby, who was unexpectedly expelled.

### Supplies from the Soviet Zone

Eastern Germany is also taking a hand in the Soviets' new Middle Eastern game. As the result of a visit to Cairo of her Minister for Foreign Trade, Herr Heinrich Rau, she is to supply Egypt with heavy machinery and prefabricated factories. She will also send engineers and specialists to assist in factory installations and provide East German university training. Lebanon is likewise to receive the benefit of agricultural as well as industrial advice from Eastern Germany.

At the same time, the Soviet Zone continues to shirk its obligation towards the persecuted Jews. When the Under-Secretary in the Pankow Foreign Office, Herr Georg Handke, was asked why no reparations were being paid, he blamed Israel which he said did not recognise his Government. There was no answer when it was pointed out that neither did the Jewish State recognise West Germany which nevertheless was paying reparations.

## A STAMP COMES INTO BEING

### Early Israeli Postage

On November 8th, Dr. E. Rachwalsky invited members of the Palestine-Israel Stamp Study Circle to meet Dr. and Mrs. Hesky, who are at present on a visit to London. Dr. Hesky is the Director of Philatelic Services in Israel, and Mrs. Hesky is the editor of the Wizo magazine.

Dr. Hesky told the guests that his job began in April, 1948, shortly before the State of Israel was proclaimed. The Minhelet Ha'am (National Provisional Government) set up an organisation for governing the new State as soon as it was born, and among the tasks undertaken was maintenance of the posts and the issuing of postage stamps. Dr. Hesky's instructions were to arrange for the production of stamps and act as liaison officer with the printers. Secrecy was essential and only a handful of people knew that stamps were being prepared. A few artists were invited to submit designs within 24 hours, indeed a rush job. Among these artists was O. Wallisch, who prepared a design showing ancient Hebrew coins.

The State had not yet even been given a name, and essays were made from Wallisch's designs with alternative inscriptions, one reading Yehuda, another Eretz Yisroel and a third Doar Ivri; it was this last wording which was finally adopted. No postage stamps had previously been produced in Palestine, because the stamps of the Mandate period were printed either in London or Cairo, and those of earlier times had been printed in Turkey, Germany, Austria or elsewhere; consequently, no suitable printing press was available, nor did any suitable paper come easily to hand, so that everything had to be built up and made ready not only in secrecy but also with great speed.

### By Candlelight

On May 3, 1948, printing was begun, and on the same day a state of war was declared. All work had to be done under war conditions, a strict blackout was observed and the stamps often printed by candle-light. Despite these difficulties the stamps were ready on time. The Israel Post Office has sometimes been blamed by collectors for creating unnecessary varieties, but that accusation is unfounded and the varieties, such as they were, occurred solely because of the primitive conditions in which work had to proceed. Not only the printing caused trouble but the perforating also gave rise to difficulties. The first perforating machine was not really satisfactory and a second machine was pressed into use, but no more than 750 sheets had been perforated when that machine also had to be discarded. Of the 3 pruta, the lowest value stamp, a mere 60 or 70 sheets were perforated on the second machine.

In those uncertain days the people were still doubtful whether the promised State of Israel would indeed come into being, but the appearance of the postage stamps on May 16th furnished proof that it had done so, and there was unrestrained jubilation throughout the country.

Dr. Hesky concluded by saying that the Philatelic Services Department was set up in August, 1948, in one corner of a room, and that five people were engaged in running it. Today the department occupies a building and employs about 70 people, who work to capacity in fulfilling orders for stamps which come in from all over the world.

L.N. and M.W.

\*

### FINDS IN NAHARIYA

Most interesting archaeological finds were made in Nahariya, according to a statement of the Israeli Department of Antiquities. They include a stone mould for casting a metal figurine and indicate the existence of a cult centre in the eighteenth to sixteenth century B.C.E. The direction of the Temple Complex is supposed to have coincided with the beginning of the Hyksos Rule and its abandonment is contemporary with the renewed Egyptian campaigns in Palestine.

\*

### "FAUST" IN TEL AVIV

The first part of Goethe's "Faust" was performed in Hebrew by the Habimah at Tel Aviv. This is the first time that a German play has been staged in Israel.

The Israeli Spinoza Institute received a large consignment of German Spinoza literature from the German Research Council.



## WHO KNEW OF THE EXTERMINATION?

### The Story of Kurt Gerstein

WHEN did people first get to know about the mass gassings? The question was broached in the course of the recent trial of Dr. Gerhard Peters, former managing director of the German Association for the Extermination of Vermin (DEGESCH) who was charged with abetting mass murder by way of supplying poison gas. He had negotiated the supply with SS Colonel Dr. Kurt Gerstein, head of the Waffen-SS "Institute of Hygiene," who, he claimed, never used the gas for the mass murder of prisoners in concentration camps because Gerstein was, as Peters said he knew, a member of the anti-Nazi resistance and therefore destroyed the gas or arranged for it to be used only as disinfectant. From a French prison in which he was held, and eventually, on July 25, 1945, committed suicide, Gerstein had written to his wife (who appeared as a witness): "My activity in the (Gestapo) Security Head Office was from the first an agent's activity on behalf of the Confessional Church."

During his captivity, in May 1945, he also wrote an eye-witness report on the mass gassings of Jews and other "undesirables." In this report he describes how, having heard of the massacre of idiots and insane people at Grafeneck, Hadamar, etc., he "had but one desire to gain an insight into this whole machinery and then to shout it to the whole world." He joined the SS, and after he had seen in August 1942 what one of the men in charge at Lublin, Odilo Globocnik, described to him as "one of the most secret matters at present existing, if not THE most secret," he at once set about trying to stop the crime. Globocnik had told him that those who talk about it will be instantaneously shot; only the day before two "babblers" had been so shot. But Gerstein was not to be deterred. He approached people whom he considered worthy of trust and able to help.

He found an opportunity to do so already on

#### Bishop Dibelius' Evidence

Gerstein's story was in all essentials confirmed, and in parts supplemented, by several witnesses in the Peters trial. Dr. Otto Dibelius, Protestant Bishop of Berlin, said he had known Gerstein before the war as a member of the Protestant youth movement, a profoundly religious man and a "confirmed Christian." One day Gerstein had come to see him in SS uniform. In reply to an astonished challenge, he explained that he had joined the SS not from any inner conviction but because he considered it important for the "future historian" that an authentic report should be given by someone watching "from the other side." In the late summer of 1942, Dr. Dibelius continued, Gerstein had come again, this time in high excitement, saying that he had been commissioned to take charge of the "gassing institutions," where he was to be responsible for the "disinfection" department, that is to say, his duty was to be to find ways of removing the "pestilential smell" caused by the mass burning of corpses. He (Gerstein) had not been slow to grasp what that meant, and, said Dr. Dibelius, he proceeded to describe in many details the extermination of Jews at Belzec. The sight of the horrors, Gerstein said, had so shaken him that he decided to have done with it all.

Dr. Dibelius also referred to Gerstein's encounter with Baron von Otter who, however, according to Dr. Dibelius' version, appeared to have been non-committal. Gerstein therefore had besought him (Dr. Dibelius) to "do something" inside Germany, too.

Asked by the President of the Court what he actually did, Dr. Dibelius became hesitant and said that this had been the first time he had ever heard of the gassings. He had considered Gerstein's story so "terrible" that he could hardly bring himself to believe it. A few days later, Dr. Dibelius went on, von Otter approached him with a request for information about Gerstein. When the Swede, too, told him about the conversation in the express train, Dr. Dibelius said he felt his doubts cease.

Baron von Otter also gave evidence. He added to the available information that Gerstein had urged, during their talk in the train, that Allied leaflets should be dropped over Germany enlightening the German people on what was going on; it

his journey back from the gruesome experience. On the express train from Warsaw to Berlin he met the Secretary of the Swedish Embassy in Berlin, Baron von Otter. "Under the fresh impression of the terrible things I had seen (Gerstein wrote) I told him everything, with the request that he report at once to his Government and the Allies, as every day was bound to cost the lives of more thousands and tens of thousands of people. He asked me for a reference, and I gave him the name of Dr. Otto Dibelius, an intimate friend of Pastor Niemöller and member of the Church Resistance against the Nazis."

Gerstein goes on: "I then met Otter twice again at the Swedish Embassy. He had in the meantime reported to Stockholm, and told me that the report had had a considerable bearing on Swedish-German relations. I likewise tried to make a report to the Papal Ambassador in Berlin. They asked me whether I was a serving soldier. When I said I was they refused to have any further talk with me, and I was requested to leave the Embassy of His Holiness. On leaving the Papal Embassy, I was shadowed by a policeman on a bicycle who overtook me, stopped, but then unaccountably left me unmolested. I then went to see hundreds of people whom I told my story, among them the legal adviser of the Catholic Bishop of Berlin, Dr. Winter, whom I expressly requested to pass the information on to the Holy See."

Nor were these hundreds the only people reliably informed in 1942 about what was going on. Even while he was still at Belzec (one of the three camps near Lublin), Gerstein did what he could to spread the truth. He was to negotiate the disinfection of the huge quantities of clothing taken from the victims. It was quite impossible to place such big orders, he writes, but "I took advantage of all those negotiations to cleverly draw attention to, or drop hints about, the fact of the killing of Jews."

was his (Gerstein's) opinion that the Nazi regime would have lost all support once the people had been made aware of the mass killings. The Swedish diplomat said that he had, at the time, dispatched a report to his superior, but he was unable to say what his Government had done as a result.

Whereas these two witnesses dwelt on incidents in 1942, another witness, the Rev. Herbert Mochalski, of Darmstadt, told of an occurrence in the summer of 1943 when he held the living of St. Ann's Church, Berlin-Dahlem, in succession to Professor Gollwitzer and Dr. Martin Niemöller (then in Dachau concentration camp). He had been preaching on the commandment "Thou shalt not murder." After the service he was visited in the vestry by Gerstein, who was in mufti, carrying his SS uniform in a suitcase. Personally unknown to Mochalski, Gerstein confessed that he was in serious trouble. He produced a red-bordered document marked "Geheime Reichssache," ordering him to collect in Frankfurt several kilos of potassium cyanide, which he said were obviously intended for the killing of hundreds of thousands of people. Gerstein had seemed in despair, rent in a conflict of conscience—on the one hand a criminal order which he could not obey, on the other the fear that if he did not obey he would endanger not only himself but also two men who had vouched for him when he joined the SS. He said he was contemplating suicide. He gave the impression of one who was "haunted," who had become "overborne to the machinery into which he had been flung, and was powerless to get out."

Over year later, early in 1945, Mochalski said he met Gerstein in a tram and then visited him at his flat. Gerstein then seemed to be little more than a moral wreck. He said: "This is the end." Apparently he was foreseeing the downfall of Nazidom, and the approach of his own doom. He then told Mochalski that a brother and sister of his had been killed, and searching for the killers and determined to exact revenge, he was facing the prospect of becoming himself a killer. According to Mochalski, who did not know of Gerstein's links with the Confessional Church, it was this hope of revenge which caused him to join the SS.

[Reprinted from the *Wlener Library Bulletin*]

## THE MESSAGE OF THE JEW

Among the non-observant Jews two categories may be distinguished: some base their Jewishness on pride, solidarity or a political—Zionist or non-Zionist—conception; others are, either consciously or subconsciously, bearers of an ethical heritage designed by the Jewish approach to the fundamental problems of humanity. It is this second group whose *raison d'être* Dr. Rudolf Bienenfeld analyses in his booklet which bears the provoking title "Die Religion der religionslosen Juden" (Wilhelm Frick Verlag, Wien, Muenchen, Zuerich, 2nd edition, 35 pages). The publication is a reprint of the lecture held by the author before the Society for Sociology and Anthropology of the Jews (Vienna) in November, 1937.

Dr. Bienenfeld sets out to explain that also among "non-religious" (or at least non-observant) Jews the specific elements of the Jewish religion may live on. In his view these specific values centre around four ideas: Brotherliness, Justice, Reason, and Belief in Redemption in this World (not after death), as reflected in the Messianic idea. It was the discrepancy of this Jewish conception and that of the non-Jewish environment which induced the Jews on their own accord to keep aloof from the Gentile civilisation right up to the eighteenth century; and it was the gradual adoption of similar ideas by the spiritual and political forces of Central Europe, symbolised, inter alia, by the French Revolution, which helped to overcome the antagonism. In the author's opinion, the political emancipation of the Jews was not the beginning, but the ultimate outcome of their cultural integration. However, whilst Europe fused the ideas with the existing irrational trends, Jewish thinkers retained them in their purity. In view of their uncompromising attitude they were regarded as dangerous for the order of society. In the course of the last decades, when the irrational forces threatened to destroy the ethical values, the task of the non-religious Jews as defined by Dr. Bienenfeld has gained new importance.

Since the lecture was given, Nazism as the extreme expression of these irrational forces has done its destructive work in Europe. For us Jews the problem raised by Dr. Bienenfeld has become topical again in a twofold way: On the one side, the question has arisen, whether and to what extent the absolute Jewish ethical values will shape the political life of the young State of Israel. On the other hand, every non-observant Jew in the Diaspora has to think anew about the need and the contents of Jewish life outside Israel. Towards this vital discussion Dr. Bienenfeld's essay is a most stimulating contribution. W.R.

#### ACTION AGAINST PHILO-NAZIS

Determined action against one variety of the Nazi revival was taken by German book-dealers who forcibly removed from the Frankfurt Book Fair a philo-Nazi publisher, Waldemar Schütz, owner of the "Plesse" publishing firm and German Reich Party member in the Lower Saxon Parliament. According to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, indignation had been caused especially by the "Plesse" display of S.S. runes and Knight's Crosses with Swastika as advertisement for a "Book of Honour of the Waffen-S.S." "The S.S. runes are regarded by the peoples of Europe as symbols of oppression and brutality," the paper said; they were the signs of a régime "which we can only remember with feelings of shame."

★

Dr. Ludwig Eberlein, editor-in-chief of the Free Berlin broadcasting station, resigned after he had been attacked because of the antisemitic comments he wrote in 1940 on the Nazi film version of "Jew Süß." He claimed that he had been at pains since 1945 to make up for his objectionable record. He would, however, do nothing, he said, that would give rise to "conflict with the Jewish community": "The very thought that the broadcasting station might lose the co-operation of people whose feelings are being so gravely hurt by the memory of the past, would be intolerable to me."

In a comment, the chairman of the Berlin Jewish community, Herr Galinsky, pointed out that the Jews had never called for Dr. Eberlein's dismissal. Like many others, they had felt that his present employment was undesirable. There was no objection to his being appointed to any other position at the station. It was, however, an "ominous sign," Herr Galinsky said, that the Eberlein affair had been "blamed on the Jews."



## GERMAN JEWS IN NOTTINGHAM

NOTTINGHAM lies in the byways of Anglo-Jewry. Its roughly 2,500 Jews are hardly conspicuous either among the 450,000 of their brethren in all England or among the 300,000 of their townsmen. Of communal life there is no evidence before 1823; a generation later no more than 50 souls were counted, and the synagogue that was at last built in 1890 had room for 150. A congregation so small aroused little interest (even among its own kin), and the first printed record appeared outside the fold, in the *Nottingham Guardian* some 25 years ago. A somewhat cursory article dealt particularly with one family, the Weinbergs, who had come from Germany. They were described as "practically synonymous with the Nottingham Jewish congregation," and Rabbi Harris Cohen, long a minister there, found that "if the Jew in Nottingham is respected and esteemed, it is largely due to the exemplary lives of successive generations of this family."

There were quite a number of German Jews in Nottingham 60, 70, even 100 years ago, mostly merchants of the city's lace and hosiery trade. They did their share in maintaining Britain's supremacy in commerce, especially in the face of German rivalry. For in those years the Nottingham trade was feeling the pressure of that competition, even in the home market. "There were several large steam factories at Chemnitz, whose products were said to be superior to the English" (writes a British economist), and "it was evident that unless British manufacturers bestirred themselves they would be beaten on their own ground." The Jews undoubtedly brought the experience of the German trade and also a good many foreign contacts.

Many names are still distinctly remembered. The Nottingham subscribers to William Felk'n's famous *History of the Machine-Wrought Hosiery and Lace Manufacture*, in 1867, included such, by then well-established figures as Moritz Jacoby, who, in 1835, launched one of Nottingham's first shipping houses; Moritz Dann; L. Jacobsen; Messrs. Fleirsheim, Feilman & Co.; and Messrs. Liepmann, Kohn & Co.; others were Messrs. Stiebel, Kaufmann & Co. (founded by Bernard Stiebel, of Frankfurt); Lowenstein, Polak & Co.; and Albert Cahn, from Cologne, founder, in the 1880s, of Messrs. Jays & Campbells, the furniture dealers (now under the direction of Messrs. Isaac and Charles Wolfson).

Most of the merchants were men of wealth, standing, and unquestioned integrity. A few were foreign Consuls and several prominent in the Chamber of Commerce; Liepmann and Weinberg were once its President, though during the Kaiser war some were forced to resign. They in devious ways not only advanced the trade, especially the export trade, but raised the general development of Nottingham in the 19th Century.

### Upholder of Judaism

None, however, was quite like Jacob Weinberg (1830-1900), who came from Hamburg in 1849 as an agent of Messrs. Philip Simon and Simon May, importers and re-exporters of Nottingham goods. He founded the well-known firm of Simon, May & Co., specialists in lace. "By his strict integrity, industry, and zeal, and his business capacity (said the *Nottingham Trader*) he built up an organisation which has for many years held a world-wide reputation." Much the same qualities had raised his brother, Isaac Julius, to prominence in the jute trade of Dundee.

Jacob Weinberg vigorously upheld the cause of Judaism, even as a youth, even far from home and with almost no one to sustain him. "Orthodox Judaism seldom claimed a more ardent devotee, and he was scrupulous to a nicety in the performance of all his religious obligations," said the *Jewish Chronicle* obituary, adding that "wherever in England a movement was set afoot which had for its object the strengthening of Orthodoxy, there Weinberg's aid was readily and unstintingly given."

He not only liberally supported, having all but himself established, the synagogue; he also had a shool in his own house, and almost alone maintained two mikvoth, paying the city Corporation

a considerable sum to exempt the kehillah for ever from the water rates. The strict Orthodoxy was signally practised in business. That he himself conscientiously observed the Sabbath and all festivals, was a matter of course; but Weinberg also did what he could to enable other Jewish employers to do the same. In 1875 he gave evidence before the Royal Commission on the Factory and Workshops Act, pleading that factories owned by religious Jews be allowed to open on Saturdays from sunset until eleven p.m. His zeal carried him even farther. He requested every Jew in his employ to sign a formal undertaking not to renounce his religion, not to intermarry, and to bring up each male child as a Jew. To the high regard in which he was held among his fellow-men, the *Nottingham Guardian* bore striking testimony: "He showed to a marked

### UNITARIANS

In fact the majority had withdrawn from the Jewish religion and turned Unitarian, some feeling probably that they could thus become Christians without having to countenance the intellectual stumbling-block of the Trinity; others no doubt impressed by the fact which Susannah Winkworth noted in Manchester, that Unitarians were "as a body, far and away superior to any other in culture and refinement of manners." A good many too, changed their names. Kohn after a while emerged as "Keane," Meyer as "Meyrick," and one made a clean slate with the happy choice of "Woodhouse."

Among these indifferent Jews the foremost figure was Lewis Heymann (1802-1869), who came from Mecklenburg-Schwerin in or about 1834 and soon afterwards founded the firm of Heymann & Alexander, first lace manufacturers, then, in a characteristic change, lace merchants. "There was no man who did more to extend the lace trade of Nottingham," writes Robert Mellors, the local historian, describing Heymann as a "pioneer of the curtain trade": "He had no money but he had what is better—character, joined with energy, good taste and agreeable manners. Mr. Alexander, a Hamburg capitalist, had confidence in him which he justified, and very wisely he married Mr. Alexander's daughter Julia."

Heymann not only widely expanded the trade in Nottingham goods by his knowledge of languages

### A DISCIPLE OF CARLYLE

The pursuit of culture conspicuous in all these lives, was even more vividly present in one of the most peculiar careers that passed through Nottingham. Josef Neuberger (1806-1867), of Würzburg, now holds a secure place in the history of English Literature as the devout disciple of Carlyle. But when he first came to England, in the late 1820s, he settled in Nottingham as the agent of a Hamburg firm. He soon prospered, like most of his compatriots there, but he increasingly felt, as he once confessed, that while easily able to satisfy the "meaner half," a man of business engaged in money making must needs become "blinded, dwarfed, stupefied" in soul if he fails to provide for the "spiritual life."

Neuberger's ambition was—no mean thing in the early days of the Industrial Revolution—to raise the condition of his fellow-men, especially of the working class, and to secure for them "the opportunity of reading, conversing on useful subjects" and generally learning "all those sorts of things which were once the monopoly of the rich." Accordingly he took the keenest interest in the local Mechanics' Institution and was for some years a President of its Literary Department as well as of a Discussion Society which he had started. Here he would either himself lecture, on the "sacredness" of literature and preferably on Carlyle, or attract distinguished lecturers, English and foreign. In 1847 he so invited R.W. Emerson, the American author, who eventually introduced him to the "Master" in Chelsea, and two years later he left to follow his true calling.

The Carlyles had previously stayed with Neuberger and his sister in Nottingham, and Jane Welsh each time thoroughly enjoyed the "good providence." "We both took to you," she told him once, because, she explained, he was not one of those

degree" (the paper said) "that it is possible for a Jew to discharge in every respect his duties as a citizen while remaining undeviatingly loyal to his ancestral faith."

The tradition was worthily carried on by his two sons, and, more especially by a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mehir Weinberg, J.P., daughter of a German Jew of Baltimore, U.S.A.—a lady (wrote the *Nottingham Journal*), "whose presence in Nottingham has proved of inestimable worth to the city of her wide philanthropic activities, both social, political, and intellectual."

Well remembered, too, are some of Jacob Weinberg's German Jewish associates—his partner since 1856, Pius Lewenz, and one of his chief lieutenants, Paul Meyer, who directed the important branch in Czarist Moscow and later (until his death in 1928) was head of the firm. They were, however, Jews little more than in name, and in this they were like the run of German Jews in Nottingham.

and of houses abroad, he also developed original and enlightened ideas to such effect that at the Industrial Exhibition of 1862 the productions of Nottingham were found to be now "surpassing those of France." He was one of the few manufacturers who appreciated industrial art and probably the first to show a practical interest in the students of the local Art School. He made a point of engaging the most efficient designers and draughtsmen, paying them liberal salaries. Also, says Mellors, "he was very kind to his employees, and it was considered lucky to 'get into Heymann's.'"

The city he served as Alderman and Magistrate, and in 1857 he was elected Mayor at the invitation of the Town Council, of which he was not then a member. Similarly he laboured for the Unitarian High Pavement Chapel of which he was several times a Warden. One of his two sons, Henry, is generally believed to have made the anonymous gift of £10,000, which virtually secured the building of Nottingham University College.

Hardly less notable was the career of Edward Goldschmidt, J.P. (1827-1903), twice, 1880 and 1889, Mayor and, says a local historian, "a great friend of the spread of culture and education." He came from Cassel in 1851 and two years later began business, first as a wholesale stationer and since 1861 as an importer of silk and a silk-throwster.

"at ease in Zion." She was in fact "deeply in love with the dear Neuberger," particularly with the sister (later Mme Frankau)—so much so that she was eager to have her as a sister-in-law. "She is extremely fond of you," she assured John, Thomas's brother, "and really there is no objection that I can see. . . . You MUST marry her—she will make you an excellent wife." The fond hopes were disappointed.

Carlyle himself held the very highest opinion of his disciple, describing him as "one of the wisest and faithfulest German friends I ever had, a correct observer and much a lover both of his own country and of mine." Neuberger translated into German not only "Hero-Worship" but also the successive volumes (except the last two) of the "Life of Frederick of Prussia," thus enabling the book to appear simultaneously in London and Berlin. Without his help, Carlyle said, the "Frederick," with its "horrible immensity of drudgery," would have been "impossible."

The generosity of the tribute was remarkable particularly in that it came from a man smitten with what a recent biographer has called "a detestation of most things Jewish." But no doubt when he held forth against the "usurious insatiable Jews," etc., Carlyle would have claimed he "never meant" Neuberger, and Neuberger for his part felt no qualms in translating "Past and Present." However, this is really another story, concerning many more beside the erstwhile German Jews of Nottingham.

### C. C. ARONSFELD.

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Bertha Badt-Strauss:

## A REPUBLIC OF JEWISH INTELLECTUALS

Memories of the old Hansa-Viertel

Did you know the old Hansa-Viertel of Berlin, in the North-West, and therefore sometimes dubbed by malicious tongues the "Nebbich-Westen?" Today it is empty and deserted; grass now grows where stately houses and well-kept rows of trees used to stand. "If the waters did not still flow as they once did . . ." nobody would recognise the busy and lively Hansa-Viertel now. Certainly, it could not compete with the West of Berlin, as it used to be, with its fine porches with flights of steps leading to the road, and its folding-doors, nor could it compete with the "bayrische Viertel," which was equipped with "all modern conveniences." But the Hansa-Viertel had its own, very definite, character: it was a "Republic of Jewish intellectuals and artists," unlike anything one could have found in the Germany of the day.

Even the waiter at the *Café Presse* at the Hansa-Platz knew very well that on the Sabbath he must not take any money from his regular patron, *Professor Eugen Mittwoch*—and he was only too pleased to give the haggard-looking man with the sparkling eyes and the Assyrian beard his cup of coffee on credit until after Habbalah. It was common knowledge that Mittwoch lived, with his attractive wife and his fair-haired daughters, in Altonaer Strasse, in the fine house belonging to the well-known democratic politician, Paul Nathan who, as head of the Hilfsverein of the German Jews, played an important part in public life. In his house, young Mittwoch, scholar of the Islam and of Ethiopian dialects, later professor at the University of Berlin, had rented the ground floor. During the housing shortage after the First World War.

Not far from the Mittwochs, at the Schleswiger Ufer, lived his cousin, *Isaac Boschwitz*, who resembled him like a brother; he was a successful businessman and, at the same time, a friend of Jewish learning. Unfailingly, early in the morning before business hours, he would go to a lecture at the "*Hochschule der Wissenschaft des Judentums*" in the Artillerie Strasse. His brilliant wife, Clara, had written a biblical drama, "*Jephta's Daughter*," which we already knew in manuscript. In later years it was translated into Hebrew and had its first production by the Habimah. Her younger sister, Rose, a teacher, had married another Jewish scholar, *Fritz Baer*, who undertook a voyage of exploration to Spain together with his young wife, to collect the data he needed for his studies on the History of the Jews in Spain, which was to earn him fame in later years and obtain for him a professorate at the University of Jerusalem, where he still is today.

Not far from where he lived in the Thile Wardenberg Strasse, two teachers from the "*Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums*" had settled: the historian of German Jewry, *Ismar Elbogen*, whose children now live in Israel, and the philosopher, *Julius Guttman*, whose home in the Wullenweberstrasse, filled with books and works of art, was a social centre of the district. Julius Guttman, who died all too early some years ago in Jerusalem, was one of the most brilliant Jewish scholars of this whole generation. In addition to his many other gifts, he was endowed with a magnificent sense of humour. In those days, apart from his own work, he was occupied in editing the Jubilee Edition of Moses Mendelssohn's

works, and it was a happy coincidence that the editor of Mendelssohn's letters also happened to live in the Wullenweber Strasse. The hour was never too late to discuss some doubtful date of one of Mendelssohn's letters or perhaps the much-debated date of his visit to Friedrich II at Potsdam.

Quite close to Guttman's home, at the Sigmundshof, at the corner of the Achenbach Bridge, was the impressive studio house, a workshop for plastic and graphic arts. *Joseph Budko* lived there and, at that time, was working on his memorable etchings to Bialik and for the Haggadah. He was a pupil and friend of the master-etcher, *Hermann Struck*, whose tall figure, with his dark prophet's beard, could often be seen on a Sabbath striding through the Tiergarten. He, too, had his studio in this district, in the Bruecken Allee.

Two older, highly esteemed scholars had also made their home not far from here: the two anglicists, *Josua Friedlaender* and his friend, *Philipp Aronstein*. Friedlaender was also a first-class hebraicist, who often put us to shame when he joined in our Hebrew beginners' exercises as "expert." Aronstein, who had long before made his name by his researches on English syntax, came from an ancient Westphalian family of "Landjuden." At first, he had been a strong opponent of Zionism; but his fine children, who were in the German Jewish Youth Movement, had made clear to him the value of the new ideas and had made of him, too, a great friend of the Hebrew language and of the Land of Israel.

"The free man thinks least of death, and his wisdom consists not in thoughts of death, but of life." These words of Spinoza, Philipp Aronstein, who died in Theresienstadt, wrote to his son during the Hitler years. It is the motto of the Republic of Intellectuals of the Hansa-Viertel.

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**BERTHA BADT-STRAUSS—SEVENTY**

If the "Dispersion" of our own days has severed many bonds of friendship and common work, jubilees and anniversaries may serve to fasten them again. Thus, it has a special significance if we convey, on behalf of former German Jews in Great Britain, heart-felt wishes to Bertha Badt-Strauss on the occasion of her seventieth birthday. In doing so, we experience the happy illusion as if she were still in our midst, still writing and entertaining in that "Republic of Jewish Intellectuals," which she so vividly described somewhere else in this issue, the old Berlin Hansa-Viertel.

Bertha Badt-Strauss was born in Breslau—like so many other Jewish and non-Jewish Berliners—but spent the best part of her life in the capital. She was a Berlin Jewess in that peculiar sense that she was something like a late sister of the famous Berlin Jewesses of the period of Romanticism. It is no mere accident that she started her career as a writer with a book on "Rachel and Her Time" (1912) and followed it up, fifteen years later, with a book on "Jewesses," whose centre piece again is devoted to the Jewesses of the Berlin "Salons." Her loving interest belongs to the intellectual Jewish woman. She traces her back as far as the biblical times, meets her again in the medieval ghettos and among the Sefardim, and follows her path eventually to the contemporary Zionist woman pioneers and social workers. But being herself a writer of learned books and a contributor to all the best Jewish reviews, her closest relationship is to women of letters, such

as the Berlin women of the time of Mendelssohn and the prophet's own daughter, Dorothea.

Bertha Badt-Strauss, however, differs from them in that she became the more Jewish the more she studied and wrote. Unlike her "sisters-in-spirit," she did not seek universal accomplishment outside the fold, but gave her best to her own Jewish people. Whether in America or her former homeland, she lives and creates for and among the Jews, "a figure," as she once wrote about Henrietta Szold, "who vouches for the eternity of our Jewish will to live."

We wish her happiness and strength, so that her word may long be in our midst. E.G.R.

**MEMORIAL MEETING FOR PROFESSOR TURKHEIM**

An impressive memorial meeting for the late Professor Dr. H. J. Turkheim was held on October 29th, at the Royal College of Surgeons, under the auspices of the Continental Dental Society. The addresses by Dr. F. G. Salomon (who was unable to be present and whose speech was read by Dr. M. Adler) and Dr. W. Grossman recalled his personality and his scientific achievements. The speakers also paid tribute to Professor Turkheim's services as Chairman of the Continental Dental Society and his efforts in the interest of those of his colleagues, who so far have not been admitted to practise in this country. Dr. W. M. Reif was in the chair. The AJR, in whose work the late Professor Turkheim took a constant interest as a member of its Board, was represented at the meeting.

Letter to the Editor:

**JOURNEY TO ISRAEL****Delegation of Trade Advisory Council**

Sir,—Jewish business and professional men and women who would like to combine useful work for the community with a fortnight's vacation in the Mediterranean sun, at very low cost, could join the delegation for the Trades Advisory Council which is leaving on or about December 21st from London Airport.

The inclusive fee amounts to £160. Particulars can be obtained from Mr. Maurice Orbach, M.P., of 280 Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

The T.A.C. were the pioneers in bringing some of our business community to Israel in 1953, under the most favourable conditions, and all who participated were unanimous that it was a most enjoyable holiday. At the same time members of the party are received by the Government and Institutions and Enterprises not otherwise available.

Yours, etc.,

M. ORBACH,

Trades Advisory Council.

280 Euston Road,  
London, N.W.1.

**CORRECTION**

In the column "Ex-German Jews in the News" of the previous issue it was erroneously stated that Mr. Gustav Kramer, Mayor of Nakuru, Kenya, is also Consul for Israel. Actually this should have referred to Mr. Israel Somen, Mayor of Nairobi, who is Hon. Israeli Consul for the whole of East Africa.

**FAMILY EVENTS**

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

**Birth**

**Graber.**—A daughter, Rose-Marie, born to Hanna (formerly Mitchell, née Glass) and P. Graber, of 2298 West First, Vancouver 9, B.C., Canada.

**Death**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Kneip.**—It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Kneip (née Gutmann), of 1 Polperro Mans., N.W.6. Deeply mourned by her son, daughter-in-law, and other relatives.

**CLASSIFIED****Situations Vacant**

**KEEN, INTELLIGENT JUNIOR ASSISTANT** wanted for recognised research library, with knowledge of German and typing. Full training given. Progressive post for right applicant. Apply, stating qualifications, age and salary required to Librarian, Box 277.

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**TRAVELLER**, experienced, own car, wants position with Import-Export firm. Perfect knowledge of French and Italian. Box 291.

**ACTIVE**, elderly man with wide experience in ledgerwork & Export documentation, good at figures, reliable, seeks position. Box 292.

**Women**

**EXP. BOOKKEEPER**, up to Trial Balance, wants full or part-time position. Box 278.

**BOOKKEEPER/TYPIST**, own machine, wants homework or evening work weekdays or Saturday/Sunday work as additional work, also translations. Box 279.

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**Miscellaneous**

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**Personal**

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**WIDOW**, beginning 40, with two children, wants acquaintance with gentleman, object matrimony. Only serious offers considered. Box 286.

**MY FRIEND**, pretty, tall, intelligent lady, beginning of 30, well off, wants to meet gentleman. Object matrimony. Box 270.

**ATTRACTIVE LADY**, 33 years old, in good position with own home, wishes to meet gent. 38-45 in good circumstances and of good character, with view of marriage. Box 293.

**MISSING PERSONS****Enquiries from AJR**

**Otto Gumpert**, born 5.8.1889, and wife, Luise-Charlotte, née Spiegel, born 4.6.1906, formerly Wuppertal-Elberfeld, Moltkestrasse 40, for Mr. Mainzer, Zürich.

**Mrs. Frida Lehmann**, née Raphaelson, born 27.1.1890, in Guttstadt, formerly Berlin, Kaiserstrasse, for Mr. Jedamski, Frankfurt.

**Aron, Waldemar**, born 11.10.1918, Herbert, born 30.1.1920, Ruth, born 2.2.1922, Manfred, born 9.11.1924, and Mrs. Baszian, née Heimann, born 4.3.1893, for Mr. Schlesinger, Homberg.

**Herbert and Elisabeth Loew-Ber** for Mr. Reimann, London.

**Carl(?) Berkowitz**, formerly Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Emser Strasse 39A, of Berkowitz & Honig, Berlin, for Mr. D. Pelz, Tel Aviv.

**David Gerd London**, born 14.11.1923, in Hamburg, for German Embassy, London.



## GOODWILL AND CONFIDENCE

### AJR GENERAL MEETING

At the well-attended General Meeting, held on Thursday, November 17, 1955, at 1 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6, Mr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the A.J.R., reported that, in the course of the past year, constructive social tasks had been accomplished. A Home for the Aged had been opened at 14 Netherhall Gardens and the establishment of further Homes is visualised. A social centre in Hampstead, where people may meet in a friendly atmosphere, will, it is hoped, be ready soon. Mr. Rosenstock said steps taken by the A.J.R. in the interest of certain sections of the community, referred, *inter alia*, to the assessment of taxes for German pensions and to the admission of the unregistered dental surgeons.

In his report on the budget, the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. M. Pottlitzer, stressed that it had always been the policy of the A.J.R. to work as an independent organisation. The contributions and donations of the members and donors were, therefore, decisive for balancing the budget. In view of the rise of prices and the growing liabilities of the A.J.R. since the present minimum subscription fee of 24s. was fixed in 1946, the Executive had come to the conclusion that now, after ten years, an increase to 40s. per year (*i.e.*, 10s. per quarter) was indispensable. However, as before, members who are not able to pay the minimum fee may retain or require membership with full rights. On the other hand it is hoped that members who have already paid more than 40s. in the past years will also adjust their subscriptions to the new circumstances by a voluntary increase. Mr. Pottlitzer also stated that, considering the manifold tasks of the A.J.R., the office was

greatly understaffed; only by the co-operation of all members an adequate machinery could be built up.

The motion to increase the minimum subscription fee was unanimously carried.

In the ensuing lively discussion various suggestions regarding the work of the A.J.R. ("A.J.R. Information," Old Age Homes, Propaganda, etc.) were made. Several speakers expressed their appreciation of the successes achieved by the organisation in the year under review.

The members of the Executive and the Board were unanimously re-elected (a full list was published in the previous issue of "A.J.R. Information"). Furthermore, the co-option of the following new Board members was agreed upon: Mr. S. Boehm, Dr. J. Bondi, Dr. R. Bright, Mr. L. Eschwege, Mr. V. E. Hilton, Dr. A. R. Horwell, Dr. H. Neufeld, Mr. P. E. Shields, Mr. G. L. Tietz, Mrs. H. Witton, Dr. Leon Zeitlin.

In the second part of the meeting a report on current legislative questions of compensation and restitution was given by the Vice-Chairman of the A.J.R., Mr. A. S. Dresel, who, on behalf of the Council of Jews from Germany, had just taken part in important negotiations conducted in Germany. Mr. Dresel gave details about the draft of the amendment to the Federal Indemnification Law; the draft of the Federal Government, which has not yet passed the Bundestag visualised a number of important improvements though, in certain points, it did not yet meet the demands put forward on behalf of those we represent.

Mr. H. Reichmann was in the Chair.

### SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Chanukah Bazaar.** Two weeks ago, we started our Chanukah Bazaar, at which articles made by about 40 elderly and disabled persons are on sale. The full proceeds of the sale will be passed on to the vendors. The bazaar will be open until December 21. We should be grateful if A.J.R. members and their friends took a look at it and bought their gifts here. Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 10-1 and 3-6, Friday 10-1.

**Library of German Books.** Our Library has started a self-service so that callers who want to borrow books need not wait to be served. The number of regular readers has considerably increased.

**Visits to sick people.** In the winter months the number of sick persons is bound to grow. Quite a few elderly and lonely people do not know that in such an emergency situation we can help them by visiting and advising them. Any requests should be brought to the notice of our Social Services Department. MAI 4449.

### CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Under the auspices of Zion House a Chanukah Celebration will be held on Sunday, December 11th, 1955, at 3.30 p.m., at St. Pancras Town Hall. The artists will include the television star David Berglas. Tickets 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. at 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3. PRI 5275.

**Dr. William Kochmann** (15 Hylgrove Road, London, N.W.6) recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Dr. Kochmann, who formerly lived in Berlin, is a chemical scientist who has several inventions to his credit. We extend our sincerest congratulations to him.

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