

ISSUED BY THE

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AUSTRIA'S OBLIGATIONS

As our readers see from the statement by Dr. Nahum Goldmann printed on this page (col. 3), the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria has had to discontinue the negotiations with that country in view of the clear lack of any good will on the part of the Austrian Government to arrive at a settlement.

The Federal Austrian Chancellor and other members of the Austrian Government untiringly and vociferously demand justice for their country. On the other hand, what is the record of Austria? A country demanding justice for itself, but not exercising that very virtue in providing compensation for the victims of Nazism in that country.

The Austrian Government is of the opinion that Austria is not at all responsible for what happened after the so-called "Anschluss," yet those of us who were in Vienna in the March days of 1938 very well remember the unbelievable scenes of enthusiasm welcoming the German troops. On March 14, 1938, *The Times* reported that flowers were strewn in the path of the rumbling German tanks and armoured cars. No adjective sufficed to describe the jubilation which greeted Hitler in Linz. On March 15, 1938, *The Times* reported from the capital of Austria:—"Vienna, as it awaited the arrival of Herr Hitler, resembled a town which has just received news of a great victory and is preparing to welcome the returning troops. They are no signs of a people bowing unwillingly to a foreign yoke. On the contrary, every Viennese seems to wear a Swastika brassard or to carry a Swastika flag."

Profiteering from Jew-baiting

Large sections of the Austrian population participated willingly in the excesses against the Jews and benefited from the anti-Jewish measures. Apart from the fact that Hitler was an Austrian, there were Reichsministers of Austrian origin appointed after 1938, and a number of Gauleiters who were also former Austrian nationals. They made a reputation for themselves of particular brutality.

Not only did Austria do nothing to compensate the victims of Nazism who had to flee in order to save their lives and many thousands of whom have found refuge in this country and have since become British citizens—on the contrary, a number of discriminatory measures against those victims were introduced by Austrian post-war legislation. Those who were forced to emigrate were excluded from the benefits of the Law for the Care of Victims ("Opferfuersorgegesetz"). Civil and other public servants with many years of loyal service to their credit did not

receive pensions, and emigrants were also deprived of their pension rights under the Austrian Social Insurance Scheme, to which they had contributed for many years. The Austrian Government repeatedly promised to withdraw all those discriminatory measures. In patient negotiations, the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria succeeded in persuading the Austrian Government to remove some of the most blatant discriminations. Others still remain, and there is no sign of willingness on the part of the Austrian Government to abolish them.

Unwilling to Compensate

No progress at all was made regarding some minimum of compensation for Jewish victims of Austria, whose furniture, valuables, lifetime savings and insurance policies were confiscated and who were subjected to special levies and imposts. A considerable amount of Jewish assets are still in Austria, but cannot be restituted in accordance with present legislation. What the Jewish bodies demanded was only a fraction of the values of those assets. Nevertheless, the Austrian Government was not willing to pay even this fraction, in spite of the fact that the Austrian economic position is extremely sound, that the gold and foreign exchange reserves of the National Bank of Austria have increased enormously during the last two years and now cover the currency almost 100 per cent.; in spite of the fact that everywhere in Austria buildings are being erected by the State and other public bodies, banks and insurance companies, which are most sumptuously appointed. Compare any of the London terminals with the newly erected West Railway Station in Vienna! There is nothing like it in Europe.

At the same time, the Austrian Government, usually so boastful of its economic attainments, contends that Austria is too poor to meet the Jewish requests. Surely, the payment of pensions to civil servants and under the Social Insurance Scheme cannot be considered an additional expenditure at all. Those pensions would have had to be paid in any case, if the persons in question had not been forced to emigrate.

As regards, however, compensation for losses sustained by individuals and for heirless property, it has repeatedly been stated by the Jewish delegates that they would be prepared to agree to a payment in yearly instalments. The burden on the Austrian Treasury would not involve it in expenditure of any significance at all.

Austria has received from the U.S.A., under Marshall Aid, etc., no less than \$1,500 million since 1945, although the Austrians fought the Allies on the side of

FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS

Statement by Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
Chairman of the Committee for Jewish Claims
on Austria

On November 19, 1954, after a Jewish delegation had met with State Department officials and Congressional leaders, Dr. Nahum Goldmann made the following statement:—

"On the eve of the arrival in this country of Dr. Julius Raab, Chancellor of Austria, speaking for the major Jewish organisations in the free world and for the indigenous Jewish communities in Austria, I feel duty bound to place before the American people and world public opinion the facts about the Austrian Government's lamentable failure to solve one of the most poignant legacies of Nazi rule—the claims of the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in Austria. A large section of the Austrian population participated in the spoliation of Jewish property under Nazi rule.

"Nazism was routed in 1945. Yet it was only in 1953 that the Austrian Government finally extended an invitation to Jewish representatives to negotiate a settlement of the claims of the Jewish victims. These negotiations have been under way, intermittently, for one and a half years. Twice the Austrian Government suspended these talks. Throughout the discussion was hampered by Austrian insistence on details and legal objections which could easily have been overcome. Finally, the Austrian Government promised to make a definite offer for a settlement by the end of October, 1954. No such offer has been made. The press has recently carried reports of an impending Austrian offer. The terms, as reported in the press and through semi-official channels, are totally unacceptable.

"What have we requested of Austria?"

"We requested, first, that Austria pass legislation, the kind that has been in effect in Western Germany for several years now, that would provide minimum compensation to the tens of thousands of victims of Nazi persecution in Austria, to men of all religious persuasions. We ask that this legislation embrace Nazi victims wherever they may now reside and whatever their present nationality may be. Indeed, many might not have survived at all had they remained in Austria or retained Austrian nationality under Nazi rule.

continued on p. 2

the Germans. Apart from that, Austria received considerable grants-in-aid from this country. It is time that Austria, which is so anxious to indemnify her former Nazis, should show some good will also with regard to the victims of Nazism and use a small percentage of the funds lavished upon them by the Western Allies for the victims of racial and religious persecution, thus closing the chapter of the tragic events which occurred during the "Anschluss" period.

Something to that effect has been promised by Chancellor Raab in a statement issued recently in New York. We have heard such promises in the past: we can only express the expectation that this time the promises will be redeemed by action.

We are aware that H.M. Government show full sympathy for the claims of the victims of the Nazi regime and have repeatedly expressed their interest in a successful outcome of the negotiations. We sincerely hope that the British authorities will take the necessary steps to urge the Austrian Government to change their callous attitude.

EINE WICHTIGE ERGAENZUNG ZUR BERLINER RUECKERSTATTUNGS-ANORDNUNG

ENTZIEHUNG VON WERTSACHEN, BANKKONTEN UND SONSTIGEN VERMOEGENSWERTEN IN BERLIN

Wie bereits in der vorigen Nummer von "AJR Information" erwahnt wurde, ist eine Novelle zur Berliner Rueckerstattungs-Anordnung (REAO) ergangen, die unter bestimmten Voraussetzungen fuer Personen von Bedeutung ist, die Gold- und Silbergegenstaende bei der Berliner Pfandleihe in der Jaegerstrasse (jetziger Ostsektor) abliefern mussten, oder deren Konto bei einer im jetzigen Ostsektor gelegenen Bank eingezogen wurde, oder denen sonstige Vermoegenswerte (z.B. Mobiliar) im Ostsektor entzogen worden sind. Die Novelle bestimmt, dass in diesen Faellen ein Schadensersatzanspruch dann besteht, wenn die Geschaedigten oder

Continued from page 1

ihre Rechtsnachfolger ihren Wohnsitz in Westberlin oder im Gebiete der jetzigen Bundesrepublik hatten.

Die Novelle ist als "Anordnung BK/O (54) 15 betr. Rueckerstattungsansprueche gegen das Deutsche Reich" am 15. November 1954 ergangen und im Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt fuer Berlin vom 27. November 1954, S.642 abgedruckt. Sie bestimmt in Artikel 1, dass dem Artikel 27 der REAO, der die Schadensersatzpflicht fuer den Fall regelt, dass die entzogenen Vermoegensgegenstaende verloren gegangen sind, der folgende Absatz 3 zugefuegt wird:

Our second request was for a settlement of the vast amount of property belonging to over 60,000 Jews in Austria who perished leaving no heirs or claimants. Much of this property is not now—sixteen years after the Nazi regime coming to power in Austria—traceable. Most of it has disappeared into the Austrian economy and still benefits that economy. The claims of the Committee in this regard were obviously not measured by the vast sum which has thus disappeared. An advance in the amount of 150,000,000 Austrian schillings—little more than 5,000,000 dollars—was discussed, but even this moderate claim has not been met.

" Sind Vermoegensgegenstaende, die verloren gegangen sind, durch das Deutsche Reich innerhalb der in Artikel 4 der Berliner Verfassung von 1950 festgelegten Grenzen (d.h. innerhalb von Gross-Berlin-Die Red.), aber ausserhalb der jetzigen Westsektoren von Berlin entzogen worden, so gilt die Entziehung als innerhalb des Geltungsbereichs dieser Anordnung (d.h. der Berliner Rueckerstattungs-Anordnung—Die Red.) vorgenommen, wenn die Personen, denen die Vermoegensgegenstaende entzogen wurden oder deren Rechtsnachfolger zu irgendeinem Zeitpunkt waehrend der nach Absatz 1 des Artikels 1 dieser Anordnung massgebenden Zeit (d.h. zwischen dem 30. Januar 1933 und dem 8. Mai 1945—Die Red.) in dem Gebiet der jetzigen Westsektoren von Berlin oder innerhalb des Geltungsbereichs des Grundgesetzes (d.h. innerhalb der Deutschen Bundesrepublik—Die Red.) einen Wohnsitz oder dauernden Aufenthalt oder eine geschaeftliche Hauptniederlassung hatten."

Es sei besonders darauf hingewiesen, dass ein Anspruch demnach auch dann besteht, wenn zwar nicht der Verfolgte, wohl aber Erben ihren Wohnsitz in Westberlin oder im Gebiete der Bundesrepublik hatten. Andererseits bezieht sich die Novelle nur auf sogenannte bewegliche Vermoegensgegenstaende, nicht hingegen auf Grundstuecke.

Soweit bisher in den durch die Novelle geregelten Faellen keine Rueckerstattungsansprueche erhoben waren, sind diese bis zum 15. November 1955 bei dem Zentralmeldeamt, Berlin, W.30, Nuernberger Strasse 53-55, anzumelden. Einer Anmeldung im Rueckerstattungsverfahren bedarf es auch dann, wenn der Anspruch bisher nur als EntschaeDIGungsanspruch auf Grund des Berliner EntschaeDIGungsgesetzes oder des BundesentschaeDIGungsgesetzes angemeldet worden war.

Ist ein Anspruch der vorgenannten Art bereits fruher angemeldet, jedoch abgelehnt oder zurueckgenommen worden, so kann der Berechtigte diesen Anspruch erneut durch Antrag bei dem Direktor der WiedergutmachungsaeMter (Berlin - Schoeneberg, Martin-Luther-Strasse 61-66) bis zum 15. November 1955 geltendmachen.

Our third request was for measures to aid the pitifully small remnant of the once large and prosperous Jewish community of Austria. These included funds for the rebuilding of synagogues, housing assistance to those who lost their homes or apartments during the Nazi regime. Here also there has been no measurable progress.

" While these claims on behalf of victims of the Nazi regime have been postponed, the Austrian Government has repeatedly introduced legislation for the benefit of convicted Nazis. One such measure was vetoed as early as 1952, when United States High Commissioner Donnelly declared that measures for the relief of Nazi victims should precede measures for the benefit of the former Nazis. On subsequent occasions, similar measures had to be vetoed—the last time in August, 1954, when measures which would have remitted fines and restored salary rights to convicted Nazis were unanimously vetoed by the Allied Control Council. Conversely, it is reported that by administrative action the Austrian Government has in fact accomplished what the veto of the Allies sought to deny.

" We must keep in mind also that Austria cannot honestly claim inability to meet our demands. At no time in the past 50 years has Austria been so prosperous as today. Austria has surpluses in the European Payments Union, has more than balanced her budget, has drastically reduced unemployment, and is planning to reduce taxes. The amount we are requesting would place no burden upon the Austrian economy.

" We do not hold the present leaders responsible for the horrors perpetrated against the Jews under Austrian Nazism. But it is a fact that the Jews were pillaged and exterminated; it is a fact that elements of the Austrian population participated in and benefited from these crimes. It is therefore the moral obligation of the Austrian people and their government, especially when their country is enjoying unprecedented prosperity, to make at least some amends by meeting the modest demands of the Jewish victims of Nazi rule in Austria. We cannot fail to note the striking difference between the attitude and actions of the Federal German Republic and those of Austria in negotiating Jewish claims.

" Under these circumstances, and in the absence of an Austrian proposal which meets minimal requirements which have long since been made known to the Austrian Government, we can see no basis for continuation of the negotiations. The record is clear. The conclusions to be drawn are self-evident."

CONFERENCE ON LEGISLATION

On December 14 a Conference took place at the Ministry of Finance in Bonn to discuss with representatives of the persecutees and of the Claims Conference the draft of the law governing the liabilities of the Federal Republic for assets confiscated by the former Reich ("Rueckerstattungs-ergaenzungsgesetz"). On behalf of the Council of Jews from Germany two delegates participated in the deliberations. Good progress was made. The promulgation of the law, however, cannot be expected before the late spring or early summer.

TAX LIABILITY OF FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

As stated in the previous issue of "AJR Information" the AJR, in conjunction with other interested bodies, had drawn the authorities' attention to the hardships suffered under the existing Income Tax law by former German Public Servants who receive arrears of their pensions within one or two taxable years. In a memorandum the AJR asked that these payments should be treated as though they had been taxable for the previous years to which they are attributable. Readers will have seen from the statement of Mr. Butler published in the last issue that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is in principle prepared to accede to this request. There are, however, some points which still call for clarification. These have been submitted anew by the AJR in conjunction with the other interested bodies and it has also been asked to include in the proposed legislation former Austrian Public Servants and others in receipt of similar payments from public funds. Any further progress will be reported in this paper.

DEUTSCHE STEUERFREIHEIT VON WIEDERGUTMACHUNGSLEISTUNGEN

Nach der bisherigen Rechtslage war die Befreiung von der deutschen Steuerpflicht auf solche Wiedergutmachungsleistungen beschaenkt, die fuer Schaden an Leben, Koerper und Gesundheit und durch Freiheitsentziehung gewahrt wurden. Diese Beschaenkung ist durch ein am 16.12.1954 ergangenes Gesetz (Bundesgesetzblatt No. 41 vom 17.12.1954, S.373) aufgehoben worden. Die einschlaegige Bestimmung des Einkommensteuergesetzes hat nunmehr folgenden Wortlaut: "Steuerfrei sind: Geldrenten, Kapitalentschaedigungen und Leistungen im Heilverfahren, die auf Grund gesetzlicher Vorschriften zur Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts gewahrt werden."

Diese Vorschrift ist erstmals fuer den Veranlagungszeitraum 1955 anzuwenden.

Das Gesetz bestimmt ferner: "Die Steuerpflicht von Bezuegen aus einem aus Wiedergutmachungsgruenden neu begruendeten oder wieder begruendeten Dienstverhaeltnis sowie von Bezuegen aus einem fruheren Dienstverhaeltnis, die aus Wiedergutmachungsgruenden neu gewahrt oder wieder gewahrt werden, bleibt unberuehrt."

AJR PROTESTS AGAINST AUSTRIA'S FAILURE

On the eve of Chancellor Raab's visit to France the AJR sent the following telegram to the French Prime Minister, M. Mendes-France: "On behalf of Jewish victims of Nazism from Austria entreat your intercession with Chancellor Raab in support of compensation claims for wrongs suffered. Refer to the historic fact that large part of Austrian population took willingly part in anti-Jewish measures of Nazi regime and that Jewish persecution in Austria exceeded in brutality even tragic events in Germany. Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain, Dr. Hans Reichmann, Dr. Rudolf Bienenfeld, Dr. Paul Abel."

Die neue Verordnung trifft eine besondere Regelung in Bezug auf entzogene Vermoegenswerte von Personen, die in Westberlin oder im Gebiete der jetzigen Bundesrepublik gewohnt haben oder ihr Geschaeft hatten. Damit ist noch nicht entschieden, ob und inwieweit Artikel 27 Platz greift, sofern der Verfolgte oder seine Erben ausserhalb der genannten Gebiete gewohnt haben; so bleibt es z. B. Aufgabe der Rechtsprechung, bezueglich dieser Personengruppe zu entscheiden, ob Artikel 27 der Berliner Rueckerstattungs-Anordnung Anwendung findet, wenn deren Bankkonten von Westberliner Depositenkassen gefuehrt wurden.

THE RESTITUTION SUCCESSOR ORGANISATION AND EQUITY CLAIMS

It will be welcomed that an amicable settlement has been reached between JRSO (the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation for the American Zone of Germany and the American Sector of Berlin) and the Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany. It would be out of place and time to expand on differences now settled. However, it is necessary to clarify one point which has been of some importance in the past and which must not lead to difficulties in the future.

One of the arguments put forward in the course of the negotiations with the Council was that JRSO had already given not less than 13 million DM to Jews from Germany by the settlement of "equity" claims. It is certainly true that JRSO as well as its corresponding organisation in the British Zone, the Jewish Trust Corporation, have reassigned a considerable number of claims to "equity claimants"; neither is there any reason to query the figure given by JRSO. Yet the facts behind this argument call for an explanation.

The Restitution laws stipulate that claims which have not been lodged in time by the original owners or their heirs can be submitted by the so-called Successor Organisations; the assets recovered in this way have to be used for charitable purposes which in the case of formerly Jewish property means for Jewish relief and rehabilitation.

There are some who maintain that the Successor Organisations act as trustees of the original owners and that they should therefore turn over such property to the original owner or successor-in-title whenever he applies for it. This view is not shared by the Court of Restitution Appeals for the American Zone at Nuremberg, nor by the majority of lawyers. The Successor Organisations are considered to have acquired the "heirless or unclaimed" property in their own right. They certainly act as trustees, but as trustees for Jewish survivors in general. However, it was soon recognised that the problem could not be tackled satisfactorily under merely legal aspects. Quite a few previous owners and an even greater number of heirs had missed the time limit because they had not been aware of their rights or because they did not know that of their deceased predecessor's property. The Successor Organisation realised that it would be unfair to retain such property instead of restoring it to the original owners or their heirs.

COMPENSATION TO STATELESS NAZI VICTIMS

Asked by Captain Ryder whether the Foreign Secretary was satisfied that German compensation law is dealing with all categories of victims of Nazi aggression, and especially with stateless persons, Mr. Turton, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, declared that this was not the case and that the matter had been the subject of representations to the Federal Government by the Allied High Commission.

Captain Ryder especially demanded to investigate the position of those members of various underground movements who appear to be excluded from any benefit.

BONN PARLIAMENTARIANS CRITICISE INDEMNIFICATION DELAYS

At a recent Session spokesmen of several parties strongly criticised the delay in implementing the indemnification of victims of Nazism. The debate was introduced by Dr. Adolf Arndt, Social Democrat, who demanded that next year's Government grant for indemnification purposes should be increased from 160 million DM. to 250 million DM. Dr. Arndt asked why, 18 months after the promulgation of the law, the supplementary regulations on compensation for loss of career had not yet been issued. Dr. Hans Reiff demanded that all claims should be dealt with immediately and generously. Professor Franz Boehm, who was the head of the German Delegation in the Hague negotiations, urged that the administrative supervision of the indemnification programme should be taken away from the Ministry of Finance which, due to its special function, was necessarily reluctant to part with money. Winding up the debate Secretary of State Dr. Hartmann admitted that complaints were justified. He described the suggested amount of 160 million DM. as sufficient, but added that his Ministry would make further allocations, if necessary.

A procedure developed under which the reassignment of the property could be claimed from the Successor Organisations, though not by right, but as a matter of "equity." The Successor Organisations only made deductions as a recompense for the work they had done—quite rightly, because otherwise the expenses for the proceedings from which the claimant benefits would fall on the charitable funds of the organisation.

However, an "equity" claim was and is not recognised in every case. There are certain limitations, referring mainly to the following three categories of claims:—

1. An "equity" claim is not recognised if the individual victim intentionally omitted to lodge the claim in time. Indeed, there would be no equity for a case like this. "He who goes to Equity must come with clean hands," says an old English ruling. It is not pleasant (but it happens unfortunately) that people who just did not take the trouble of establishing their claim later on wish to benefit from the labours of a charitable organisation.

2. The right to claim "in Equity" is, e.g. according to the rules of the Jewish Trust Corporation, also denied to persons who would have been heirs under German law who are, however, not close relatives of the original owner, but, e.g. cousins. This limitation is based on the assumption that an owner would certainly have wished to leave his property to his wife, children, brothers or sisters, but that instead of leaving it to distant relatives he would rather have bequeathed it to Jewish charities. It may be difficult to draw the border line in each case, but the principle underlying can hardly be contested.

3. The third limitation refers to cases in which claimants, after having failed to submit their claims in time to the Restitution authorities, also missed the time limits stipulated and announced by the Successor Organisations for equity proceedings. This is the most controversial limitation and often gives cause to complaints. To avoid real hardship, an informal agreement has been reached between the Jewish Trust Corporation, operating in the British Zone, and the Council of Jews from Germany according to which the Jewish Trust Corporation will waive its right to apply the time limit in exceptional cases, i.e. if the claimant is a needy person and was prevented from starting equity proceedings even during the prolonged period of time. It seems that JRSO upholds the same principle and also recognises cases of hardship, at least in Berlin, though it may no longer be able to do so in Southern Germany because, by way of global settlements, it had to reassign its remaining claims to the German Laender.

Whilst there are certainly cases in which complaints are justified, it can be stated that, generally, the Successor Organisations have acted fairly and "equitably" when dealing with "equity" claims. This is only what was to be expected from a Jewish charitable organisation. However, if anybody should claim that by reinstating owners or their heirs into their rights, JRSO has made a gift of many million DM to Jews from Germany, the answer can only be: "Thank you for nothing."

W. BRESLAUER

MEXICAN BONDS

In the October issue of "AJR Information," reference was made to the difficulties encountered by former German Jews who held Mexican bonds. According to a letter of the Mexican Secretary of State, published in "Investors' Chronicle" of December 4, the registration of the bonds has now been approved whenever holders prove that they were deprived of their German nationality or that they were during the war residents of Allied countries or else, having remained in their countries of origin, were deprived of their liberty or interned in concentration camps.

Fuer Ihren Grundbesitz in Deutschland
(Rheinland, W.-Berlin, Hamburg)
empfehle ich meine

HAUSVERWALTUNG

Gewissenhafte und individuelle Bearbeitung
und Beratung f. Devisentransfer, Steuern,
Wiederaufbau etc. durch Sachverstaendige.

C. C. LOWITZ,

Bonn/Rh., Im Tannenbusch 3

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Vote on Germany

When the House of Commons voted on the issue of German rearmament, the Labour Party had made support a matter of discipline. Only one of its 15 Jewish members, Mr. S. S. Silverman, defied the whip, risking excommunication. The rest abstained from voting, one of them stating that in the circumstances this was the only way of registering his unquestioned disapproval. The Manchester branch of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen passed a resolution expressing disappointment.

An uncompromising statement on Germany was made by the President of the Anglo-Jewish Association, Mr. R. N. Carvalho, who told their annual meeting that acceptance of German reparations to build up Israel should not be interpreted as a sign of Jewish forgetfulness or even forgiveness.

Tribute to Sir Winston

A formal tribute to Sir W. Churchill was paid by British Jews, who launched a project, to which he agreed, of establishing in the New Technion City, about to be constructed on the slopes of Mount Carmel, Haifa, a group of buildings which will bear the Prime Minister's name.

The project was launched under the auspices of the British Committee for Technical Development in Israel. Its President, Sir Louis Sterling, marked his own 75th birthday by giving £200,000 to charities, half of it to Jewish causes.

The annual parade and remembrance service arranged by the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen was this time inspected by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder.

Meeting of Chief Rabbis

Twelve Chief Rabbis and spiritual leaders from various countries, representing over 5,000,000 orthodox Jews, assembled in London to consider ways of combating the Indian-sponsored scheme now before the United Nations to reform the calendar. This, the first meeting of its kind ever held in Britain, was convened by Rabbi Brodie because of the presence in London of the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Dr. I. Herzog.

"Very serious financial problems" are confronting the United Synagogue. Its President, the Hon. E. E. Montagu, O.C., who voiced the warning, named three of their foremost worries—new building schemes, salaries of the officials, and the cost of religious education.

A "drift to bankruptcy" was reported by the chairman of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education, Mr. S. S. Levin.

A Jew, Jeremy Israel Isaacs, was elected President of the Oxford Union Society. Another Jew, Michael Winner, was chosen editor of the Cambridge University undergraduate paper *Varsity*.

Antisemitism

A "racism which never stops until it becomes antisemitic" was detected in the "horror comics" which are to be the subject of legislation; some of them are said to be presenting the "Streicher stereotype of Jew."

RABBI DR. MAX ESCHELBACHER 75

Former German Jews in this country and everywhere in the world will happily join in the good wishes to Dr. Eschelbacher, formerly of Dusseldorf, on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday on January 14, 1955. He is a religious leader in whom we recognise, with respect and love, what the intellectual climate of German Jewry produced. In Anglo-Jewry the difference is often made between an "old-time" Rabbi and a "modern" minister. This differentiation has no application to the rabbinical figure of Dr. Eschelbacher. He is both, rooted in the Jewish past—his father was a Rabbi, like himself—and at home in all the modern subsidiary branches of Jewish theology. As a preacher and as a lecturer he is not forgotten and as a theological writer he is of enduring importance. He has the good luck of having a wife, a "Rebbetzin" cut out for this female Jewish vocation. Dr. and Mrs. Eschelbacher are united not only as man and wife, but as two companions in the holy office of the rabbinical profession. In this tragic generation, which has witnessed the Third Destruction, God has been kind to them and the family. With gratitude to God we express our congratulation to a man who is a religious personality of great stature.

IGNAZ MAYBAI

Otto Zarek (Berlin):

BERLIN REDISCOVERS ALFRED KERR

Professor Dr. Tiburtius, the West Berlin Senator for Culture and Education, welcomed Mrs. Julia Kerr, Alfred Kerr's widow, as the Guest of Honour at the opening session of the conference of literary advisers to the West German theatres (*Dramaturgen-Konferenz*), which took place in the assembly room of the British Centre on the Kurfürstendamm. The opening session was entirely devoted to a lecture on "Alfred Kerr and the importance of literary criticism for the dramaturg's work," delivered by Dr. Gerhard Hering, a well-known producer and writer. In a free speech, studded with gems of wit (remarkable in a German philologist) and based upon a comprehensive knowledge of every minute detail of Kerr's life and work, Dr. Hering drew a picture of that man who was destined to become—in the lecturer's words—"not only the most important and creative critic of our age (in Germany) but one of the greatest stylists of the German language whose prose has influenced, and will influence, generations of German writers." Dr. Hering did away with the common misunderstanding of Kerr's literary position that placed him in the neighbourhood of Heinrich Heine, only because he, too, was a Jew and prone to hitting at his adversaries with all the force of his brilliant *esprit*. In point of fact—so the scholar proved convincingly—the literary ancestors of Kerr were the German romanticists. He was the first to analyse and to understand "Romantic irony" as the very essence of that School, and he was perhaps the last, in our time, to follow their example. But there is one essential characteristic in Kerr's work that reminds one of Heine—his unbounded "love of life," of life in all its forms and manifestations, taking in the good and the bad, the facts of perennial importance and those of fleeting unweightiness ("Was das Schönste ist? Kindern Gutenacht sagen!"). Because he loved—and understood—life in its fullness, he was able to understand the theatre and drama. It was symbolic that Kerr's last essay (for his criticisms had the lasting quality of essayism!) written in Berlin, in February 1933, shortly before he fled, was a criticism of "Faust II," wherein he summed up the problems of producing this most difficult of all dramatic works.

Condemned for his Courage

"Writing criticism means making enemies for oneself"—and Kerr was one of those who learned the truth of this sentence more than any of his contemporaries, for he was more outspoken than they. He loved the theatre—that is why he despised every abuse of its potentialities. But he never hated, never attacked an actor or producer *qua persona*—and he was, therefore, surprised when he felt that one of them whose performance had suffered the fate of being negated, and thus destroyed, by his killing pen, turned his back on him when they "met Unter den Linden," or at Kempinski's (which was more likely). He never could understand why an actor like Werner Krauss, of whom Kerr had said that "he had no heart" and that he left the spectators "ice-cold" (a judgment to which I, personally, would not subscribe at all)—should harbour a personal hatred against him—a hatred which, I would add, might have become the nucleus of Werner Krauss's anti-Semitic attitude later shown in his interpretation of Shylock and Jew Süß.

For his courage and uncompromising statement of the truth—the truth as he saw it—he was condemned by many to whom the theatre, and culture in general, had not the same meaning. Kerr, the late heir of German Romanticism, strove, like Fichte, for the "objective truth" in the realm of *Schönheit*; but there were moments of scepticism when he, as Dr. Hering quoted, realised that "also the critic can err, or indeed, *must* err—for values change with the times." An Einsteinian insight into the relativity of the "eternal laws" even in the spheres of the Mind?

He was not less outspoken and courageous when it came to taking sides in politics. He was one of the first Germans who fully understood the danger emanating from that small, unknown political party that called itself "National Socialist," and Führer, a certain Adolf Hitler. He was one of the first to warn: "The Dictatorship of the 'boots'." *Die Diktatur des Hausknechts*, as the German *uns*, published in the 'thirties, in Luxemburg, he had become a refugee, summed up what

he had written in the "Berliner Tageblatt" as early as in 1925. But then he was heeded by no one, and laughed at by many even of his German-Jewish readers, whose favourite he was. The Nazis, however, did take note of his attacks and ranked him as a dangerous opponent, among the seven of their most hated enemies whom they would hang on the first day of assuming power. It was in the last days of February that the Berlin police gave Kerr a hint of things to come: his arrest and his subsequent "liquidation"! He took this warning seriously (there were many such acts of sympathy for the intended victims of Nazism in Berlin!) and fled, first to France and eventually to England. The B.B.C.'s German Section availed itself of his services as a speaker who knew how to address German audiences in war-time and afterwards. Through this medium he directed his ever-sharp, sarcastic pen at his listeners. There unsparingly he unmasked the fellow-travellers of Nazism including Gerhart Hauptmann, who had been his friend and literary companion of almost a lifetime, and whom he had now to scold for his lack of *Zivilcourage* and cowardly submissiveness.

"I fought for a Dream"

Kerr's greatness, however, did not lie in his powers of attack and of polemics, but in his artistic sensitivity, his responsiveness to every nuance and his deep insight into the hidden meaning and aesthetic qualities of a play and its production. All this was enhanced by his incomparable faculty of expressing the most subtle of his aesthetic judgments in poetic language. Dr. Hering compared his style with Hesse's "Glasperlen"—each word is recreated, a shining, colourful, glittering pearl, and each sentence a string of pearls.

Dr. Hering reminded us that it was none less than Theodore Fontane, who discovered Alfred Kerr (as he discovered Otto Brahm), and who took the young student from Erich Schmidt's Seminary under his protecting wing. He introduced him to the "Vossische Zeitung," then the leading Berlin paper. Thus, the lecturer concluded, the friendship that existed between the Grand Old Man of German letters and the young critic symbolises the "Germanity"—the deep-rooted *deutsche Wesen*—in Alfred Kerr, the writer who so vividly described the German landscape in his impressionist style, never concealing his love for the country and its people. This love, not unnaturally, turned into hatred in the days of Nazism, but underneath his love was still burning. It was his ardent desire to see "his" country again, to sit again in one of its theatres and to hear, from the German stage, German plays enacted. The British Government sent him out to visit Germany and to make a survey on the German theatre. Kerr left, at the age of 81, by plane—he who had never before travelled by air. He arrived in Hamburg, badly shaken from the flight, but insisted on going to the Thalia-Theater, the first German theatre he would visit. There he had a stroke. For three weeks he fought with death, but his heart failed him. He died in a Hamburg hospital.

"What have I fought for—but for a dream?" he once asked. It was the dream of beauty, the dream of life—life, whose richness and splendour and spiritual grandeur he saw and sung.

IFFLAND RING FOR WERNER KRAUSS

Werner Krauss, who played the leading part in Veit Harlan's "Jud Süß" film, was awarded the Iffland Ring, the greatest distinction for German-speaking actors. The previous holder was the late Albert Bassermann, who handed it over to the Wiener Burgtheater under the condition that it should only be disposed of with the consent of the directors of all important German theatres.

REFUGEE'S PAINTING AT TATE GALLERY

The Tate Gallery has acquired a painting by the artist Martin Bloch, who recently died in London and who was formerly President of the "Berliner Neue Seession." The picture is entitled "The Mississippi at Minneapolis," and was conceived when Mr. Bloch was holding a post-graduate course in painting at the Walker Art Centre in Minneapolis in 1948.

LETTER FROM JERUSALEM

The constant changes on the Israel scene—the growth of the cities, the rise of new villages, the erection of more factories—may convey the impression that at last building has caught up with the demand, and that the housing problem in Israel, so pressing during the years of mass immigration, has been solved. Such a conclusion would be erroneous.

The 700,000 immigrants, who have come since the establishment of the State, need approximately 200,000 housing units; in addition, another 8,000 units are required per annum for the natural increase of the population.

What is on the credit side?

Public companies have built about 100,000 housing units since 1948, private contractors a further 25,000 housing units, and approximately 40,000 units became available in abandoned Arab houses. Without taking into consideration the slums of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, we arrive at a deficit in housing for the present year of over 80,000 units.

Facts easily support this estimate: even today almost 16,000 families live in tents or quonset huts mostly in the ma'abarot, and about 20,000 in wooden barracks, and the density in certain parts of the cities exceeds 2.8 persons per room. Of course, the liquidation of the ma'abarot is high on the agenda. If current plans are realised, the present number of 16,000 families in these temporary camps will be reduced to a total of 5,000 by the end of 1955. This will be the outcome of a public building programme devoted to the development of agricultural settlements and of new urban centres. In the year 1954, building was begun of 2,500 units in kibbutzim and 1,500 in new moshavim, and 22 Kafrei Avoda (work villages) are planned in the Galilee to absorb the new influx from North Africa.

However, the main lot falls to the towns. The national institutions have always served as moderators in the field of housing. By allocating land at a nominal cost to public and semi-public companies, e.g. the Keren Kayemeth, has made possible low-cost urban and suburban housing on a large scale, without which the anti-inflationary measures in Israel would have been abortive. In most countries rent generally represents one-fourth of the average monthly budget—in Israel an average wage-earner pays only one-tenth of his salary.

The national housing programme aims at the prevention of slums and overcongested areas. Another object is the even distribution of the population throughout the country; an exaggerated concentration on the coastal plain is undesirable from a political and security point of view. Jerusalem, the north and south, have therefore been given prominence.

Kiryat Yovel, a garden city on national land near Jerusalem, now with a population of almost 10,000 people, will be considerably enlarged when final plans are realised. Next to it, another garden city, Ir Ganim, is to arise on an area of 2,550 dunams to accommodate 1,000 families. In the south, special emphasis is being given to the development of Beersheba, the capital of the Negev, which will be enlarged by 1,000 housing units; 400 units will be added to Migdal Ashkelon, and Rishon Le Zion will be almost doubled. In the north of the country housing projects are being started near Safad and Tiberias.

One must not forget that in the first few years after 1948, when approximately 30,000 people came into the country month after month, 10,000 housing units had to be built a month, i.e., 300 units per day. There was not enough organisation, not enough skilled labour and materials to cope with that impact. Now these shortcomings are gradually being repaired and a national housing programme is being put into operation which replaces makeshift arrangements by long-term planning.

H. F.

GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP

German experts and skilled workers have been sent to Israel for the installation of complicated plants delivered by Germany under the Luxembourg Agreement. The head of the Israel Mission in the Federal Republic (Cologne), Dr. F. E. Shinnar, described this arrangement as a further step towards the normalisation of the German-Israeli relationship.

Hans Jaeger:

TWO GERMAN PUBLICATIONS

Hans Hellmuth Kirst, Null Acht Fuenfzehn. The adventurous revolt of the lance-corporal Asch. A novel. Kurt Desch, Munich. 398 pp.

This novel which has nothing to do with war but only with life in the barracks, has caused so much indignation among German nationalists and militarists that soldiers' associations have threatened to boycott the bookshops which sell it. This reaction, remarkable though it is as a political barometer, is amazing only because Himmelstoss was much worse than any character in this book. It indicates the touchiness of certain quarters who obviously think that strong protests against calumnies and insults inflicted on the Wehrmacht (and by a bold twist they transform all war criminals into victims of these "calumnies") might overshadow the memories of a bad past and change the trend of public opinion. The book is rather tame and moderate, and the author tries to be objective. It is difficult to understand what all the excitement is about. Public discussion in Germany went as far as to declare that this book might prejudice the readiness to accept the German defence contribution which, in any case, is meeting with resistance from the younger generation. Even this point is wrong. Kirst concludes that this "spirit," which was prevalent in the barracks, must go, and his criticism is constructive. In fact, he suggests no more than what the office of Theodor Blank promised to do. Thus anyone who criticises the book from that point of view must be taking a stand against these reforms or never took them seriously.

It has been said that Kirst himself was Nazi. That is as may be. But objections to the reappearance of former Nazis apply to those who never gave any evidence that they in any way regretted their past, thinking that joining a democratic party was in itself a sufficient alibi. They cannot apply to people who make it evident that they did learn something. A man who now writes a book castigating a system of militarism (which Blank and his friends also want to abolish) with its violence, corruption, brutality, moral rottenness under a thin surface of discipline, loyalty and devotion, is certainly no opportunist. Six or nine years ago it would have been different, but not now when periodicals compete in glorifying the "great past."

It cannot be denied that this novel has tension, sense of humour, atmosphere, and brings to life various types extremely well. In some cases the motives are psychologically weak. The literary value might be controversial in some respects, but this novel is more than mere entertainment. The mere fact of its publication is worth notice, and it is a counterbalance to the flood of books praising generals and admirals, pilots and parachutists. After Renn and Remarque, it appears like an anticlimax. But so are so many things we experienced after the second world war, compared with the period after the first one.

Arnold Bronnen gibt zu Protokoll. Rowohlt Verlag, Hamburg. 495 pp.

Rowohlt always looks for what is controversial, no matter where it comes from. So it was with Ernst v. Salomon's "Fragebogen," which Bronnen's book immediately brings to mind, in spite of many differences. Perhaps it is asking too much from a writer to keep silence for reasons of good taste after all that has happened, including too many unpleasant things. The book is a strong piece of self-centred exhibitionism though it cannot be denied that, in this way, we have got a document of our times which gives us many details on literature and policy, theatre life and persons of our time, with a deep insight into the machine of the Ministry of Propaganda. Bronnen does not have the indifference of v. Salomon. He indulges in self-accusations reminiscent of Dostoyevsky, and tries to defend himself, if not too convincingly. He even makes an attempt to conceal a certain nihilism which was so strong in the twenties (and had a completely different flavour from Brecht's). But when he ends with the motto that only he who really loves his human brothers should be allowed to be creative in the cultural sphere, he leaves us to our doubts. Not everybody is mentally such an acrobat as to jump like him from here to there, not allowing himself time in his restlessness to convince us.

Anyhow, to be fair one must say that in this chaos there is a certain consistency. The man who was flirting with Moscow and adoring the strength emerging from the East had in himself the brutal elements which pointed to Fascism. The man who despised the bourgeoisie for its helplessness, looking at the workers (as Ernst Juenger also did for some time in spite of his aristocratic approach) as the only force which could help, already stood at the crossroads; either to follow the Communists who, contrary to Marxism, also tried to outdo the rightists in nationalism, or the Fascists who wanted to win over the workers. In the NSDAP this restless man who had the irresistible desire to meddle in politics also pursued his special line. It was his illusion (p. 264) "to split away, with the help of the SA, the North German Nazis from Munich and to create, with Goebbels (!) at the top, a big right radical movement of renaissance with Eastern tendency and in position against the Western Imperialism." Bronnen, who already manifested his nationalism in his novel "O.S." (which was praised by Juenger and sharply rejected by Tucholsky) says of himself that the Nazi party did not release its grip on him though he never actually joined the party (p. 276). But he still believed in the strength of a "national socialism which might get rid of the evil of National Socialism and give Germany the position of a saviour among the nations," as he was convinced that there was something special in the German race (p. 284). There was one man who distrusted him (long before Goebbels dropped him). That was Rosenberg, who obviously smelled the "National Bolshevik" in him, and, with strange foresight, felt that this man could not be loyal to any organisation. When the forces were unfettered which he, too, had helped, to set free he was in a panic (p. 290). From then he was wavering between co-operation and opposition (which is, in itself, an interesting psychological picture). This study in "partial resistance," in application of "antimoral methods in an antimoral order," is as illuminating as his self-characterisation as *enfant terrible* of National Socialism who still felt only a difference in tactics and methods and for a long time saw the possibility of changes only from inside of National Socialism. Gradually he slipped—always adapting himself to his environment—into the resistance movement and became 1945 Mayor of Goisern, in the Salzkammergut, enjoying the confidence of the Communists (which he is eager not to mention). It is a pity the book ends here. We might ask: What next?

BERLIN NEO-NAZI RALLY

Asked by Mr. Emrys Hughes to what extent anti-semitic propaganda was now allowed in West Berlin, Mr. Turton, on behalf of the Foreign Secretary, declared:—"It was laid down in the Berlin Constitution that racial persecution and any manifestation of national or religious hatred are contrary to its spirit and are to be made punishable."

Mr. Hughes referred to a recent meeting in Berlin Sportpalast under the auspices of the "Deutsche Partei," in which the Jews were told they would not escape the gas chambers next time. Asked whether Her Majesty's Government was not going to take any action, Mr. Turton replied that this was a matter of the Berlin authorities and that these were fully aware of their responsibility.

OPEN LETTER TO DR. ADENAUER

In his paper "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung" of the Jews in Germany the editor, Karl Marx, publishes an Open Letter to Chancellor Adenauer in which he refers to the rally under the auspices of the Deutsche Partei in Berlin's Sportpalast. At this rally stewards resembled in dress and behaviour the former S.A. Saalschutz; several people were attacked, and words like "Judensau," "Judenschwein" and "It is time that you were in the Concentration Camp again" were shouted. One of the speakers at the rally was Federal Minister Dr. Seehofer. Herr Marx also refers to anonymous threatening letters sent to leading personalities of the Berlin Jewish Community. He appeals to the Chancellor to strengthen the genuine democratic forces in their fight against the danger of neo-Nazism.

Contents of the "Open Letter" have been published in several papers outside Germany.

Old Acquaintances

Journey into Fear:—Last month your columnist spent a few days in Hamburg and Berlin and found the atmosphere greatly changed. Not far from the main railway station in Hamburg is a restaurant called "Lilli Marlene," featuring the brass band of the late "Afrika-Korps" where people listened to military marches enthusiastically. The similarity to Berlin's "Wilhelma" in the 'twenties was unavoidable, and we had the feeling: once it started like that. The full house re-lived the good, old times to the music of the glorious army. Perhaps still more dangerous is the film "08/15" after H. H. Kirst's much discussed best-selling novel, which a cinema in the neighbourhood showed for two months, and we had to buy our tickets in advance to get in. It shows life in the German peace-time army shortly before the outbreak of war and is vulgar and brutal. People laughed from the beginning to the end and left with the feeling: it was terrific fun and a great joke to have been a soldier. Like "Drei Tage Mittelarrest," this new picture prepares the Germans beautifully for rearmament. No wonder Ernst von Salomon, who was involved in the murder of Rathenau and is author of the anti-American "Fragebogen," wrote the script of that film. The town is full of affairs and scandals. Newspaper attacked an editor of radio station "Freies Berlin," who once praised the anti-semitic "Jud Sues" film, while his boss, Intendant Alfred Braun, even helped to direct that ill-famed picture. The two are, of course, still in their jobs.

Some returned:—The success of Elisabeth Bergner, who toured Germany with Rattigan's "Deep Blue Sea," and gave 175 performances in sold-out theatres, brought a lot of other actors back from exile. Grete Mosheim played "The Heiress" in Berlin's Komodie, and next door in the Theater am Kurfuerstendamm, Molnar's widow, Lilli Darvas, appeared in "Die Moewe." Oskar Karlweis adapted "The Teahouse of the August Moon" himself and played the lead at the Renaissance-Theater; that comedy, a great success all over Germany, was directed by Leo Mittler, who, meanwhile, produced "The Caine Mutiny," another American success on every German stage, in Hamburg, and Polgar's "Defraudanten" in T.V. He is the travelling director and will go to Zurich and Vienna next. Lucie Mannheim from London is playing Hauptmann's "Ratten" in Wuppertal, and, altogether, returnees seem to be having a wonderful time. John Hanau also came from England to produce H. I. Rehfisch's new play, "Kassenarzt," in Berlin's Schlosspark-Theater. We saw a few performances and even if they couldn't measure up to the London standard, compared with the home-made productions they were very good.

Meeting Old Friends:—In Hamburg we had a chat with Arthur Hellmer, who returned from London shortly after the end of the war and used to run the Schauspielhaus there. Nowadays he lives as a private citizen and works only in an honorary capacity for the association of directors, being compensated for the loss of his theatres by the city of Frankfurt. We also met Walter Mehring in Hamburg, where he works for publisher Ernst Rowohlt, who is not in the best of health. Willy Haas settled here with Axel Springer's "Welt." He writes daily about the theatre and people he meets and many readers only subscribe to that paper because they want to read Haas' article. In Berlin we encountered Erich Burger, who returned from the States on a visit to report for American magazines. Formerly on the staff of the "Berliner Tageblatt," he spent many years in Trinidad before reaching New York.—Also Dr. G. H. Wilk, once one of Paul Levi's bright young men, returned to his native city on a short visit from New York. He is now writing radio features and articles and is legal adviser of American companies.

Obituaries:—Fred Berger, aged 64, died in London; the Austrian born comedian often appeared in cabaret and on the English stage.—Siegfried Trebitsch's wife, Tina, died in Zurich.—Composer Karol Rathaus, aged 59, died in New York; before 33 he lived in Berlin and was a pupil of Schreker.—Viennese tenor Max Willenz, a darling of the Austrian operetta after the first war, died in Hollywood, where he drove cars.

Rabbi Dr. B. Italiener:

A NEW TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE

The history of Religion is closely connected with the history of its holy writings and particularly with their translations. Never, for instance, would Christianity have been so successful in its missionary activities had not the Septuagint, the oldest Biblical translation into Greek, given the first Christians the means to spread their Gospel to the Heathen when Greek was the international language. Similarly, later, the Vulgate, the translation of the Bible into Latin, proved an indispensable tool for the conversion of the Latin speaking world. To give an example from times nearer to us. The victory of Protestantism in Northern Europe was essentially due to Luther's translation of the Bible into German.

As to Judaism, the so-called modern times started with Moses Mendelssohn's translation into High German. It was in his own words "the first step towards modern civilisation." It should be noted that Mendelssohn himself translated only a few parts of the Bible, such as the Torah, the Psalms, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs, whilst the remaining books were done by other scholars. The enormous influence exercised by this translation upon the spiritual life of Jewry is well known; here it can only be mentioned that almost all later translations into German done by Jews, the latest one discussed here included, accept the rendering of the proper Biblical name of God, "Adonai," translated by Luther "der Herr," as "der Ewige."

Mendelssohn's work was followed by one of the most popular translations of the Bible by the founder of the "Wissenschaft des Judentums," Leopold Zunz in 1838, 18th edition in 1889. Also done by a team of scholars, the value of this translation is that to overcome the tremendous difficulties by which every translation of the Eternal Book is faced, it makes as much use of the classic Jewish commentaries of the past as of the results of general Biblical research of that time.

Prof. Torczyner's Venture

It was the example of Leopold Zunz which inspired the editor, Prof. H. Torczyner, when, in the second decade of the 20th century, he undertook the translation of the Bible into German, sponsored by the "Juedische Gemeinde Berlin." The first part, the Torah, appeared in 1934 at a time when unfortunately forebodings of hard times already darkened the life of German Jewry. This translation was symbolic, it was like the last sunset glow of a religiously most fertile period of the Jews on German soil which preceded the disasters beginning November 1938. This period is illustrated, for instance, by the Buber-Rosenzweig translation of the Bible which started to appear in 1926; by the publications in the Schocken library of most valuable books dealing with a wide scope of Jewish learning; by the oral and printed teachings of the spiritual leader of German Jewry Leo Baeck; by the prayer-book (Einheitsgebetbuch) published by Caesar Seligmann together with I. Elbogen and H. Vogelstein; and last but not least by the different academies (Lehrhaeuser), founded in greater and smaller communities.

It was an excellent team which set to work on the translation. In the meantime many of them have unfortunately passed on. Only a few may be mentioned here: Hermann Schreiber, who produced a remarkable translation of the Torah; Benno Jacob, a master of Biblical research throughout his life, to whom the Books of Kings were entrusted; and Emil B. Cohn and Caesar Seligmann, who for their poetical gifts were chosen respectively for the translation of the Psalms and the Books of Lamentation and Ruth.

It testifies to the youthfulness of the editor who is now a man approaching the Biblical age, that he embarked upon a revised edition of his work with the same enthusiasm as twenty years ago. Dr. N. H. Tur-Sinai, as Prof. Torczyner of the University of Jerusalem, now calls himself, together with the "Schweizer Israelitische Gemeindebund" and the Jewish Publishing House Ltd. (Jerusalem) are to be congratulated on the first part, the Torah, just published.*

Of about the same size as the well-known

*28/- Sole distributor for Great Britain, M. Jacobson, "Shalva," 13 Rondou Road, London, N.W.2. (See enclosed leaflet.)

Roedelheim-prayerbook, the new book has the familiar appearance of former school editions of the Torah: on the one side there is the Hebrew text and opposite the translation, both in bold clear type. The spirit in which the whole enterprise has been executed is most aptly described in two prefaces, one in Hebrew and one in German. The translation aims, as far as it seems possible at all, to penetrate to the inmost meaning of the holy text without ever attempting to replace the study of the Hebrew. It wants rather to induce the reader to delve into the contents of the original, to try to grasp its meaning, and thus to learn to appreciate its beauty. Particular care is taken as much as possible to preserve the specific Biblical style. Accordingly the parts in prose rendered in their plain and simple style, differ much from those written in poetry. In this respect the differently printed prose and poetical passages are a help.

Most valuable as the contributions of individual scholars are, the responsibility for the whole is assumed by the editor himself. This he undertook already twenty years ago, when a distinguished scholar in Biblical research, he was chosen by a special committee headed by Rabbi Dr. L. Baeck, to be the editor of the holy work. In the meantime new publications have added to Professor Tur-Sinai's reputation as a scholar. The fruits of his studies as well as his personal experiences in the birthland of the Bible have been so much used in the new edition that the translation in several instances deviates from that of twenty years ago. These changes are sometimes puzzling; now and then one is tempted to wonder whether they are correct. But as we are promised "notes" to be published at the end of the whole work, it is a matter of course to refrain now from any criticism. Biblical research to-day is international and inter-confessional. It is therefore to be hoped that Biblical scholars all over the world will benefit by the publication of this great and painstaking work and not least those of the English-speaking countries. At the same time this new translation meets a vital demand of Jews from Central Europe wherever they may live now.

THE CONFUSION OF BABEL

Israel's Linguistic Problem

Israel has, among many others, a linguistic problem. Hebrew is, no doubt, the undisputed official language and the vehicle of a new culture, but the fact is that 45 per cent of the population do not understand it yet. Before the establishment of the State, this percentage was only 19.8; however, with the influx of newcomers from fifty-four countries the confusion of Babel has correspondingly grown.

The fact that only half of the one and a half million Israelis can participate in Hebrew activities has, of course, a limiting influence on the cultural life. Nevertheless, in the Jewish year that has now come to an end, 1,200,000 spectators went to the theatres, which roughly means that each Hebrew speaking Israeli—above the age of twelve—visited the theatre twice during that time. This is very much, considering that 99 per cent of the new Oriental immigrants have never seen a theatre before and are now coming for the first time in contact with the world of Shakespeare and Molière. There were forty-four different plays performed in the four permanent theatres with a total of 1,587 performances, among them twenty-eight original plays by Israeli authors.

Linguistic difficulties are among the causes which contribute to the high cinema attendance. English-speaking films are shown with Hebrew and French sub-titles and are thus intelligible to practically the entire population. In the past twelve months, twenty-five million people went to 140 cinemas, i.e., each inhabitant went twice a month to the pictures—at least, according to the statistics. With 202 out of 230 films, Hollywood dominated the market.

Under these circumstances, the publishing trade has a very difficult task. The average edition of a

FROM THE JEWS

IN GERMANY

JEWISH WOMEN'S RALLY IN BERLIN

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Jewish League of Women, an impressive meeting took place in Berlin, at which the main address was given by Dr. Eva G. Reichmann (London). "Whilst it is to be welcomed," the speaker said, "that the Jewish women in post-war Germany have re-established the organisation, we must not forget that there is an abyss between the previous times and our days. Only if we realise that, in fact, we do not celebrate a jubilee, we can justify a meeting like this. On the other hand, the great tradition of the past should be an inspiration for the League's present activities."

Other speakers were the Chairman of the Jewish League of Women, Dr. Kaete Weinberg (Cologne), Mrs. Ruth Galinski and Mrs. Jeanette Wolf (Member of the Federal Parliament).

CONSECRATION OF SYNAGOGUES

In the presence of representatives of the German authorities a "Betraum" was consecrated in Kassel. A new Synagogue will be erected in Offenbach. The site and a subsidy of 110,000 DM. have been allocated by the Municipality. The previous Synagogue has been converted into a theatre by the Nazis.

FRANKFURT BRANCH OF ZIONIST ORGANISATION FOUNDED

The first West German Branch of the Zionist Organisation was founded in Frankfurt where Karl Marx, editor of the "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung" of the Jews in Germany, gave a detailed report about his recent visit to Israel. The meeting was also addressed by representatives of the Jewish Agency, Dr. Fritz Rosenthal and S. Abravanel.

JEWISH MEMBER OF HESSE PARLIAMENT

A Jewish Social Democrat candidate, Max Lippmann, won a seat at the recent elections for the Hesse Parliament.

book in Israel reaches no more than 3,000 copies, and the costs of production are therefore much higher than those of the American mass editions with which they have to compete. In the past year, 990 books were published in Israel by 120 publishing houses. Only sixty firms published more than five books.

With the mass immigration, illiteracy has risen. While in 1948 only 4.6 per cent of the population were analphabet, the percentage has now increased to over 25 per cent. The problem is therefore not only the knowledge of the Hebrew language, but also the capacity of reading and writing altogether. This problem is being tackled in three ways:—

Compulsory schooling till the age of fourteen; adult education sponsored by the State, the Municipalities, the political parties and the trade unions, in which every month an average of 30,000 people participate, and which is practically free of charge; and the Army. The Army as "school for citizenship" has a tremendous importance. As every Israeli has to enter military service for two and a half years at the age of eighteen, it affords the possibilities to weld the heterogeneous human material into one people with a common cultural denominator. A recruit receives, immediately after joining the Army, sixty lessons of Hebrew within the first two weeks; afterwards one lesson per day till he is able to pass a test. On the average, new soldiers require 200 lessons of Hebrew tuition over a period of four months.

In this way it will be possible to lead the people from the confusion of Babel to the language of the Bible.

HERBERT FREEDEN

C. C. Aronsfeld :

German Jews in Manchester

(Continued)

Nathan Meyer Rothschild

The majority of businessmen were probably drawn to Manchester by the example of the greatest of all German Jews to settle in England—Nathan Meyer Rothschild—who established himself in Manchester in 1797 as a manufacturer of cotton goods, exporting to his father in Frankfurt. He once told the story of his early experiences to an English friend, Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, the famous champion of the slaves, who left the well-known record:—

"There was (Rothschild said) not room enough for us all in Frankfurt. I dealt in English goods. One great trader came there who had the market to himself: he was quite the great man and did us a favour if he sold us goods. Somehow, I offended him, and he refused to show me his patterns. This was on a Tuesday. I said to my father, 'I will go to England.' I could speak nothing but German. On the Thursday I started. The nearer I got to England the cheaper goods were. As soon as I got to Manchester I laid out all my money, things were so cheap, and I made good profit. I soon found that there were three profits—the raw material, the dyeing and the manufacturing. I said to the manufacturer, 'I will supply you with material and dye, and you supply me with manufactured goods.' So I got three profits instead of one, and I could sell goods cheaper than anybody. In a short time I made my £20,000 into £60,000."

Nathan Meyer left Manchester for London in 1802, having realised a fortune of £200,000.

Pioneers of the Chemical Industry

The reference in Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton's record to the dye trade is interesting because dyes were then little known in Britain, and their manufacture, indeed the best part of the chemical industry, was introduced by Jews from Germany. Three of the most important ventures started in Lancashire. In 1862 Ludwig Mond came to Manchester with his invention of recovering sulphur from alkali waste. Out of the original invention arose the greatest and most powerful industrial combine in Britain, the Imperial Chemical Industries.

Only little less imposing was, in a kindred field of action, the achievement of Ivan Levinstein, who did much to advance Britain's aniline dye industry.

"UNITY IS NECESSARY"

A few weeks ago an article by Bruce Rothwell on the delay in indemnifying victims of Nazi persecution was published in the *News Chronicle*. Extracts from a letter sent to the editor by the AJR were published in one of its next issues. Shortly afterwards, the AJR received the following letter:—"I read the article in the *News Chronicle* with great interest and I felt—if only one could do something towards speeding up compensations. I wish to join your organisation because I feel that unity is necessary and that a body like yours has more power to achieve something than an individual." Will others follow this example?

ADOPTION OF ORPHANS

The AJR Social Services Department has received several inquiries from families who wish to adopt orphans from the Continent, either babies or children between five and ten. The AJR would be grateful for any suggestions.

SELF AID CONCERT

This year's well attended Self Aid Concert at Wignore Hall kept up a tradition by which these annual functions have become an artistic and social event of the Community. The artists were Franz Osborn and the Amadeus String Quartet and the climax was a delightful performance of Schubert's piano quintet, "The Trout." The concert was honoured by the presence of the Earl and the Countess of Harewood.

AVIGDOR SCHOOL FUNCTION

At the Chanukah Celebration under the auspices of the Agudist Women's Group, the Avigdor Secondary School Orchestra, conducted by the School Music Master, Mr. D. Tichauer, gave a very good performance, which was greatly enjoyed by the large audience.

As the head of Messrs. L. J. Levinstein & Sons, who produced sulphur acid and naphthalene at Blackley since 1865, he brought several actions to stop the practice by German chemical firms of taking out patents in the United Kingdom in order to close the British market to all except the patentees and their licensees. His efforts secured in 1907 the Patents and Designs Act which established the principle that a patent should not be granted to a foreigner unless the patent was operated in Britain. The achievement drew a handsome tribute from Mr. Lloyd George, then President of the Board of Trade, who complimented the "real author of the Act" on his tenacity and courage in carrying on the agitation for over twenty years.

Levinstein's success did more than score a legal point. It helped to strengthen Britain in her competition with the powerfully rising Germany as Britain had taken comparatively little part in the growth of modern industrial chemistry and was thus disastrously dependent on Germany for chemicals of all kinds, not only dyestuffs but also fertilisers and explosives. The forceful initiative displayed by Ivan Levinstein was particularly appreciated during the war when, of course, the firm did work of the utmost national importance.

Much of the same kind of work had already been done by a Jew from Alsace, Dr. Charles Dreyfus, founder and director of the Clayton Aniline Dye Company, who came to England in 1869, at the age of 21. It was Dreyfus who employed Dr. Weizmann, in 1904, as a research chemist, and it was he who arranged the providential meeting between Weizmann and Balfour at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, in 1906. For he was chairman of the local Zionists as well as President of the East Manchester Conservative Association. He also founded and long presided over the Manchester Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital.

Hallé Orchestra

Commerce among German Jews has always been combined with culture, and so it was in Manchester, too, where they showed a particular concern for music. Indeed, according to Mr. Neville Cardus, the critic, "Manchester received the foundations of its music from German Jews". It was their cultural interest which made it possible for the German Charles Hallé to establish his famous orchestra in Manchester. He had been invited, in 1848, "on behalf of many devoted lovers of music," especially in the "prosperous and important German colony," by a German Jewish friend, Hermann Leo, a calico-printer, who, according to Hallé, "held a good position in Manchester and as far as music was concerned was looked upon as an authority, and deservedly so." Hallé soon gathered together a band of Jewish artists, some of whom Mr. Cardus has counted among "the first pillars of the city's edifice of music".

The orchestra's first leader was Siegfried Jacoby. He was succeeded, from 1872 till 1888, by Ludwig Straus, a Hungarian (later "solo violinist" to the Queen). Adolf Brodsky, a Russian, founder of the celebrated Quartet, was the concert master (later temporary conductor). Well known were Carl Fuchs, the violoncellist from Offenbach, Edward Hecht, the chorus master, Willy Hess (Straus' successor), Isidor Cohn, Max Mayer and Simon Speelmann (from Amsterdam). But frequently, too, the orchestra was honoured by the presence of Josef Joachim, who, in fact, appeared more than forty times at Hallé concerts in Manchester.

After the great conductor's death, in 1895, it was Gustav Behrens, a son of Louis, who secured the survival of the orchestra by launching the Hallé Concert Society. With another German Jew, Henry Simon, who had endowed the chair of German at Manchester University, Behrens also arranged for the eminent Hans Richter to come to Manchester as Hallé's successor for about ten years.

(To be concluded)

"WE ARE SQUARE"

Statement by Federal Minister Oberlaender

At a meeting in Kassel Federal Minister Theodor Oberlaender stated: "By the expulsion from the formerly German Eastern Territories all German war crimes have been made up for. Morally we are absolutely square."

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AJR MESSAGE TO SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

The AJR sent the following message to Sir Winston Churchill on the occasion of his eightieth birthday:—

"On this happy day, Britain's new citizens who came to this country as Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria, feel united with all those who wish to convey to you their gratitude and admiration. You proved your statesmanship by recognising earlier than many others the political dangers of National Socialism. To you as to us Hitler was not merely an enemy but a fiend. You castigated the cruelty of which we were the first victims and made us feel that in these islands humanity had indeed found a sure haven. To your leadership in war we owe our survival. We proudly remember the tribute you paid to those in our midst who through their scientific or scholarly contributions have been able to repay part of the debt we all owe to this country's generosity. Our community joins all those whose sincere wishes go out to you today."

GERMANY'S LOSS— SOUTH AFRICA'S GAIN

Some time ago a group of former German Jews in South Africa published a booklet to mark the opening of a synagogue for their 18-year-old Etz Chaim congregation at Johannesburg. The compiler, Mr. Felix M. Rosenthal, editor of the "Jewish Family Magazine," collected many fine contributions which between them made up a worthy memorial to German Jewry.

The *South African Jewish Times* took the opportunity of complimenting the German Jewish community on their achievement in a new country. "Germany's loss has been South Africa's gain" (the widely-read paper wrote). "With their skill and application they have made a signal contribution to South Africa economically, and at the same time they have enriched Jewish life and standards here with the spiritual legacy they brought with them. They have made their contribution to communal activity in general and in their own specific undertakings they have to their credit a thriving B'nai Brith lodge and an Our Parents' Home, which is in many ways a model sanctuary for the old and disabled. The Etz Chaim congregation are a reinforcement of our spiritual and religious life."

SWISS PERIODICALS' JUBILEES

In these days two Swiss periodicals celebrated jubilees which deserve to be noted beyond the circles of their regular readers, and especially by survivors from Nazi persecution. With the weapons of satire and wit, the weekly "Nebelspalter" has, for eighty years, fought against pomposity and insincerity. Less cosmopolitan and polished than the "Simplicissimus," it has maintained a remarkably high artistic and moral level. More than most serious journals, it has effectively and earnestly influenced Swiss public opinion. Its opposition against Fascism and Nazism has always been most outspoken; it is still watching lest crypto- and neo-Nazis and their friends begot the Swiss mind.

The Social Democratic daily *Volksstimme* of St. Gall is comparatively young: it has just reached its fiftieth year of existence. It is a provincial paper, but its outlook has never been a narrow one. While at times others preferred to adapt themselves to the big and menacing German neighbour, the *Volksstimme*, under the inspired editorship of Franz Schmidt, remained the fearless champion of the victims of totalitarianism. Schmidt died in 1947; his successors endeavour to live up to the high standards set by him.

F. L. B.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On January 29, Mr. Richard Chotzen, of 58 Belsize Park, London, N.W.3, will celebrate his birthday. Many people from Berlin will remember the former Deputy Director of the Darmstaedter- und National-Bank, and later of the Dresdner Bank, who, through his ability, hard work and sense of duty had attained this responsible position in the banking world and had gained the high esteem and confidence of his superiors and clients alike. He had almost reached pensionable age when the Nazi laws compelled him to resign his post.

A man with such wide interests in the arts, a pianist with a deep understanding of music, might have found many ways to use this enforced period of leisure in a gratifying manner. Hitler's concentration camp, however, drastically terminated the short spell from business duties. He left it, burdened with haunting memories, which followed this man of deep kindness and humanity into this country, where he and his wife found refuge and hospitality.

It is said that life starts at 40. But for him life, that is to say an entirely new life, when he had to try and find a livelihood again, began at a much later age. Sustained by the untiring energy, cheerfulness and courage of his wife, he gave a hand wherever it was needed and maintained his equanimity and sense of humour in all vicissitudes of refugee life. He never complained, and the way in which he adapted himself with dignity to circumstances so strikingly different from his former life proved his serenity and wisdom.

For the last five years he has been the most popular member of the staff of the AJR, whose accounts he keeps. Time has treated him gently and he has remained efficient like a man in the prime of his life, young in body and spirit.

May we now reveal that the birthday Mr. Richard Chotzen is celebrating is his 85th? It is, though nobody will believe it.

The AJR, its staff and the URO staff, to whom he is not only a colleague but a fatherly friend, extend to him their most cordial greetings and wishes for many happy returns of the day.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Mr. Eduard Cohn (formerly Berlin) died in Brussels on December 3 in his 83rd year. Deeply mourned by his wife, son and two daughters—Elsa Cohn, née Schaefer, of 23 Av. Dailly, Brussels; Hilde Cronheim, née Cohn, 4 Howitt Road, London, N.W.3. Cambridge and Montreal.

Mrs. Else Marcus, née Braun, born in Niedermarsberg, Westfalen, passed away peacefully on November 28, 1954, at the age of 68, deeply mourned by her daughter, Miss L. S. Marcus, 2 Northwick House, St. John's Wood Road, N.W.8.

Mr. Joseph Heymann (formerly Cologne), of 23 Bracknell Gardens, London, N.W.3, passed away peacefully on November 27, at the age of 67, deeply mourned by his wife Luise, née Tietz, and four sons.

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PERSONALIA

On January 22 the well-known scholar and writer, Dr. B. Schidloff (Epsom), will celebrate his 85th birthday. The AJR joins his many friends in extending to him its heartiest congratulations.

Professor Otto Haas-Heye (5 Thurloe Square, London, S.W.7) recently celebrated his 75th birthday. In Berlin, Professor Haas-Heye was associated with the "Kunstgewerbeschule." At the same time he became famous as a costume and stage designer for theatre and ballet. Professor Haas-Heye's knowledge of fashions in the past and present is unsurpassed. In this country, too, he has built up a reputation for himself, especially by his weaving designs. All those who have the privilege of knowing this versatile and amiable man sincerely wish him many happy returns of the day.

OBITUARY

Rabbi Dr. J. Bergmann (formerly Berlin) passed away in Jerusalem at the age of 80. In Berlin Dr. Bergmann was highly respected as an outstanding Rabbi, teacher and preacher. He mainly officiated in the Fasanenstrasse and Levetzowstrasse Synagogue, and many of his congregants felt a deep personal attachment to him. In 1933 he retired and went to Israel. Throughout his life, Rabbi Bergmann was also actively engaged in Jewish research, especially on Jewish folklore. The results of his studies are reflected in several books and many articles. By the dignity he gave to his office and by his widespread knowledge, Jewish and secular alike, he was the embodiment of those fine qualities by which German rabbis excelled. He will be gratefully remembered by all those who knew him.

Dr. Albert Lewkowitz, formerly lecturer of Religious Philosophy at the Breslau Jewish Seminary, died in Haifa, aged 72. As an eminent scholar Dr. Lewkowitz was the author of several standard works on Jewish religious subjects.

Mr. Wilhelm Marcus passed away in New York on November 20. Prior to his emigration he was the President of the "Zentralverband juedischer Handwerker in Deutschland." At a time when Jewish communal life was directed mainly by professionals and businessmen, he worked for the recognition of the special position due to his fellow artisans. At the same time, already before 1933, he realised the dangers of the unhealthy and onesided vocational trends in German Jewry. His widespread experience became particularly beneficial when, after 1933, German Jews had to be trained or retrained so as to be made fit for emigration. Wilhelm Marcus also promoted constructive schemes by his activities under the auspices of the "Juedische Darlehnskasse" and "Juedische Kreditverein fuer Handel und Gewerbe." He was a member of the "Repraesentantenversammlung" and took a leading part in the work of the Berlin Jewish Community. His interests in the wellbeing of the Jews from Germany continued after he had settled in U.S.A. He was a Board member of the American Federation of the Jews from Central Europe and was active in the Jewish Congregation "Habonim."

While on a visit to Berlin, the well-known Jewish publicist, Mr. Moshe Waldmann, passed away. He was 70. Until 1933, Moshe Waldmann was one of the editors of the "Juedische Rundschau." He also took an active part in the work of the Jewish Community as a member of the "Repraesentantenversammlung." He went to Israel in 1933 and, during the past years, was the Paris correspondent of several Israeli papers.

It is learnt with deepest regret that Mrs. Gertrude Weis suddenly passed away, only 52 years old. Mrs. Weis, who was the wife of the Director of JRSO (Berlin), Dr. George Weis, leaves a wide circle of friends in this country and in Germany. Many of them met her in conjunction with Dr. Weis's Jewish activities, with which she felt closely associated. They mourn the death of a gifted and kindhearted woman and express their sympathy to her husband.

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MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries from AJR
Daughters of Dr. Moritz Pfaelzer (Weinheim), Erica (married name Mendel) and Edith (married name unknown), for Helene Arnheim, Germany.

Weiss, Eugen, born 1885 in South Africa, studied law in Germany, for AJR.

THE AJR BOARD MEETS

The essential function of the AJR Board was reaffirmed at its latest meeting on November 28. The Board acts as a kind of parliament and forms a link between the Executive and the members.

In his introductory remarks, the Chairman, Mr. H. Reichmann, congratulated the Board Member Mr. A. Reimann on the occasion of his recent eightieth birthday and also welcomed the newly elected Executive and Board members Mr. H. Bendhem, Mr. E. Berent, Mr. M. Blank, Mr. H. Hirsch, Mr. L. Loewenthal, Dr. A. Wiener and Mr. F. J. Wittelshoef.

Mr. A. Dresel, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, reported on the agreement with JRSO, contents of which were published in the previous issue of "AJR Information." Though, Mr. Dresel pointed out, the agreement did by no means fulfil all the hopes of the AJR, at last, for the first time, JRSO had given a definite undertaking. With regard to the establishment of Homes in Great Britain, Mr. Dresel reported that the property for the first Home (14 Netherhall Gardens, formerly Winter's Hotel) had been acquired and that everything would be done to have the necessary building work carried out as speedily as circumstances permit.

Mr. W. Breslauer, Vice-President of the Council of Jews from Germany, described the recent developments in the field of restitution and indemnification. He stressed that indemnification payments should be treated as the fulfilment of legal obligations and not as welfare grants: the authorities concerned should be always kept aware of this principle.

Mr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the AJR, pointed out that the preparation of a comprehensive Social Programme, both for Great Britain and abroad, and the preparatory work for the establishment of Homes in this country, had played a great part in the recent activities of AJR Headquarters. A special committee had been set up to deal with taxation questions arising out of

German restitution and compensation payments. This year's advertising drive, he said, was not combined with a concert, but with the publication of a booklet which, it was hoped, would be ready soon. The work of the Social Services Department, of which Miss A. Levy is in charge, had been intensified, e.g., by an increasing number of visits to refugees in hospitals. Applicants to the Old Age Home would be visited by voluntary helpers and it was to be expected that in cases in which admission to the Home was not possible or advisable, a different kind of help might be necessary for many lonely members of the community with whom the Department would thus come in touch.

A vivid discussion ensued, in which the following executive and board members took part:—Mr. P. Abel, Mr. F. E. Falk, Mr. M. Deutschkron (Birmingham), Mr. L. K. Sonneborn (Manchester), Mr. M. Levy (Leicester), Mr. L. Ullmann, Mr. H. Bendhem, Mr. B. Woyda, Dr. H. Fleischhacker, Rabbi M. Eschelbacher, Mr. M. Pottlitzer, Mr. J. Auerbach, Mr. S. Bischheim, Mr. H. Hirsch, Mr. A. Kaufmann, Mr. H. Blumenau, Mr. F. Godfrey, Mr. K. Bernstein, Mr. M. Blank, Mr. A. Straus (Edgware), Mr. P. Johnson (Chairman of the "Hyphen").

In the discussion many instances were quoted which reflect the tragic effects of the delay of indemnification, especially on the great number of old Nazi victims. With regard to the Old Age Homes in Great Britain, the Board considered it essential that the AJR should play a decisive part in the management of the Homes. Various members also commented on plans of the AJR and the Council of Jews from Germany in the cultural field. Most of the speakers, recognising the specific role of German Jewry in Jewish history stressed that before it was too late, everything should be done to preserve the precious heritage of German Jewry.

With regard to organisational questions, Board members pointed out that the reports and the

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THE HYPHEN
 The Hyphen is a group of young people, mainly between the ages of 21-35, mostly Continental and Jewish, who get together for cultural, educational and social activities. Among other things this month, there will be a Political Forum on Sunday January 23 at 57, Eton Avenue, N.W.3, at 7.30. (The charge to visitors is 1s. 6d.) On Saturday, January 29, a dance will take place at the Regal Ballroom, Finchley Road, N.W.3.
 For further details please contact Miss Helen H. Eisner, 26 Arthur Court, Queensway, W.2, enclosing stamped addressed envelope.

discussion had again revealed the need of an independent representative organisation and the manifold tasks to be accomplished by it for a long time to come. Therefore, the organisation should be strengthened by new enrolments and the enlistment of more helpers, especially among members of the comparatively younger age groups, i.e., those between 35 and 50 years. In this connection several Board members suggested that the question of a change of the Organisation's name should be considered again.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Reichmann promised that all the suggestions would be dealt with by the Executive and thanked the Board members for their great interest in our common cause.

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