

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NEW TASKS

A.J.R. Board Meeting

The characteristic of a healthy organisation is that it is constantly open for new tasks. That the AJR stands this test was confirmed at its last Board meeting on May 19th. The fact alone that these meetings are composed of a cross-section of the community for which we work is also an important asset. In this way, those responsible for the work can always be sure that the tasks are carried out in accordance with the intentions of the community. Thus Board meetings also give encouragement and incentive to those responsible for the day-to-day work of the organisation.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Dr. H. Reichmann, who paid tribute to the memory of our late Executive member, Mr. Arthur Wechsler, whose death has been a grave loss to us. The Chairman welcomed the new Board members, who were present for the first time.

Mr. A. S. Dresel, the Vice-Chairman, gave the first report, and told the meeting that the building of the two Homes at Hampstead Garden Suburb and Kew Gardens was making satisfactory progress. He also gave an interesting description of the corresponding schemes in Paris, which he had recently visited on the occasion of the opening of a new Home at Limours (reported elsewhere in this issue).

Dr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the Association, reported that during the period under review it had been possible to intensify individual relief work in the provinces, in co-operation with Self-Aid. The Revolving Fund, set up to help needy persons whose compensation claims were not yet due, had so far allocated loans of about

£6,000. In the social services sphere the main problem was accommodation for people still able to care for themselves. The AJR Employment Agency was also faced with new tasks arising out of the arrival of the refugees from Hungary.

Dr. F. E. Falk, a member of the Executive, dealt with the questions of taxation arising out of indemnification payments. At present, only current payments based on the Federal Indemnification Law in respect of damage to body and health were exempted from taxation. Efforts were now being made to obtain exemptions for current payments in respect of loss of life or damage to career. The matter was still in abeyance.

The Leo Baeck Institute

As an innovation, the cultural tasks of our community were dealt with in a comprehensive and interesting talk by Dr. R. Weltsch. He described the unique position of Jews in German-speaking countries, who, after the Emancipation, were gradually integrated into their environment, with all the positive and negative effects involved. It was the object of the Leo Baeck Institute to record the history of Jews in German-speaking countries from the Emancipation to 1938.

Regarding the organisation of the Institute, Dr. Weltsch said that its headquarters had been set up in Jerusalem, with offices in New York and London. A long-term research programme had been started, and a number of scholars were already actively participating. The first visible outcome of the Institute's work was the "Year Book 1956", and the second volume was in the course of preparation. An organisation to be known as the "Friends of the Leo Baeck Institute" was to be set up, to enlist the co-operation and support of people in this country, and the details would be announced as soon as possible.

A lively discussion on the reports followed, to which the following members contributed: Dr. E. Gould, Dr. M. Deutschkron (Birmingham), Mr. H. Freyhan (Bedford), Mrs. M. Jacoby, Mr. F. Wittelschhofer, Miss A. Feuermann (Glasgow), Mr. A. Straus, Mr. O. Winter (representative of "The Hyphen"), Mr. F. Godfrey, and Mr. G. Streat.

Both the appreciation and the constructive criticism of the speakers will help to stimulate the work of the organisation.

W.R.

Final Announcement

Applications for grants from the
AUSTRIAN HILFSFONDS

must reach the office of the Fund (Hilfsfonds, Postfach 87, Wien 56) not later than

JUNE 10, 1957

Application forms are obtainable from
URO, 183/189 Finchley Road, London,
N.W.3 (KILburn 0021).

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

HEADING FOR HEAVY WEATHER

"Life here is exciting, stimulating, thrilling—I wish it were dull and boring," said my tailor when I passed his shop as he stood outside, warming himself in the spring sun. "Every morning when I open the newspaper, I'm trembling: U.N. against us or for us, Russia threatening or bluffing, America moralising or constructive—and each of the headlines affects my daily bread. I wish the papers had nothing else to report but football matches and gossip."

Security in Israel is something very tangible and concrete. It does not merely concern the military and the police as in "normal" countries, but permeates the daily life of every citizen, as does foreign policy with all its economic implications.

Restrictions began immediately after the Sinai campaign. Cars, taxis, trucks, and vans were allowed to move in not more than one district, and this only on six days of the week. More serious, electricity, both for domestic and industrial consumption, was severely curtailed. The number of unemployed soared to 20,000, which affected at least 80,000 people—5 per cent of the population. In addition, there are thousands of social cases not registered with the labour exchanges and, therefore, not listed as unemployed, as well as newcomers who have just arrived in the country.

Credit for industry is at a premium, and although officially the rate of interest must not exceed 10 per cent, there are cases where hard-pressed business men pay as much as 20 per cent "under the counter". Other measures are new defence levies and still more indirect taxation. The citizens, already groaning under the burden of taxation, face a drastic lowering of their standard of living—and this is just what the Government wants. Some consumer goods, such as butter, have disappeared from the shops; meat, milk, and woollen clothes were first among the essential commodities to go up in price. New duties have been imposed on cigarettes and liquor, and luxuries such as cars, refrigerators, and motor-cycles have become more expensive. Goods are being drawn away from the home market and earmarked for export.

This policy is based on one assumption: that the wage earners will be content to forgo the automatic link between their wages and the rising cost of living, so far jealously guarded by the Histadruth. But here, too, the Government holds a strong card: higher wages would mean inability to compete on the world market and would thus destroy exports, which would result in the closing down of factories and in unemployment. The choice is, therefore, between unemployment and a lower living standard.

The Government also contemplates cutting down on expenditure. Among the suggestions are the reduction of compulsory education from eight to six years and the contraction of health services. The Ministries concerned are still fighting the proposals, but dismissals in the civil service seem to be unavoidable. As a last measure there is the possibility of currency devaluation. The Finance Ministry has warned that the Israeli £ may have to be devalued by the end of the year, should effective counter-measures to the planned price increases fail.

Everything seems set for severe cuts; everything but immigration, which, in the current year, may reach the enormous figure of 100,000, with the majority from European countries. If it is taken into account that immigrants at the beginning are always unproductive and live on public means, then it is no exaggeration to say that Israel's economy is heading for heavy weather.

BUNDESRUECKERSTATTUNGSGESETZ NOCH NICHT IN KRAFT

Wie in der vorigen Ausgabe von "AJR Information" mitgeteilt wurde, war das Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetz, das die rueckerstattlichen Geldverbindlichkeiten des fruheren Deutschen Reichs regelt, am 5. April vom Bundestag angenommen und danach an den Bundesrat weitergeleitet worden. Die Erwartung, dass der Bundesrat das Gesetz ebenfalls annehmen wuerde, hat sich jedoch nicht erfuehlt. Vielmehr hat der Bundesrat auf seiner Sitzung vom 3. Mai die Annahme des Gesetzes in der vorgelegten Form abgelehnt und den Vermittlungsausschuss angerufen. Die Einwendungen des Bundesrates sind rechtstechnischer Natur und duerften die im Gesetzentwurf vorgesehenen materiellen Anspueche der Berechtigten nicht beruehren. Andererseits hat die Anrufung des Vermittlungsausschusses eine Verzoegerung der endgueltigen Verabschiedung des Gesetzes zur Folge. Es wird jedoch damit gerechnet, dass diese Verzoegerung nur geringfuegig sein wird und dass das Gesetz im Laufe des Monats Juni in Kraft tritt.

Eine Sonderbeilage zu "AJR Information", die den Inhalt des Gesetzes ausfuehrlich behandelt, ist bereits in Vorbereitung. Sollte das Gesetz rechtzeitig vor Drucklegung der naechsten Nummer in Kraft treten, so wird sie dieser Nummer beigelegt werden. Andernfalls wird in der Julinummer eine Notiz ueber den Stand der Angelegenheit erscheinen.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

DESECRATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES

Salzgitter

In the cemetery for foreigners in Salzgitter-Lebenstedt, Lower Saxony, 78 out of 120 Jewish graves were badly damaged and the monument for the Jewish dead was destroyed. 2,000 Victims of National Socialism from 11 countries and of all creeds are buried in the cemetery. On the big cross which stands amongst the Christian tombs, a straw effigy with a swastika was suspended with a notice reading: "Deutschland erwache—Israel verrecke".

On 20th April, the "Fuehrer's" birthday, the rostrum from which he used to address the N.S.D.A.P. congresses at Nuremberg, was decorated with three swastika flags. At about the same time at Bayreuth several window-panes of the mortuary of the Jewish cemetery were smashed.

The Federal Minister of the Interior has offered a reward of DM 10,000 for any information leading to the arrest of the criminals of Salzgitter. In co-operation with the Minister of the Interior in Lower Saxony he has ordered the police to investigate the crimes. The Land Lower Saxony has added another DM 3,000 to the reward and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Braunschweig has added DM 2,000.

There have been many protests against these acts of vandalism. The Arbeitsgemeinschaft der politischen Hochschulgruppen at Bonn University has sent telegrams to the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland, the chief of the Israeli mission and to the Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden. The Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund and the Press Secretary of the S.P.D. expressed their abhorrence. The Zentralrat has sent a letter to the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Many German newspapers condemned the crimes in strong terms.

On the eve of the First May, 2,000 young engineers walked in a torchlight procession to the cemetery at Salzgitter-Lebenstedt, carrying banners with the inscription "Protect Democracy from its Enemies". Wreaths were placed at Jewish and other monuments.

The pupils of six Protestant schools in West Berlin expressed their sympathy with their Jewish fellow-citizens by placing a wreath in the Jewish section of the cemetery. The 2,300 pupils of the Church schools in Berlin collected money towards the restoration of the Jewish graves.

Luebeck

Graves in the Jewish cemetery of Luebeck-Moisling were again damaged. Eighteen-year old Hans Heinrich Hertz was arrested as the perpetrator. He declared that he had done it to take his revenge upon the cemetery's keeper.

FOEHRENWALD DISSOLVED

The last D.P. camp in Western Germany, Foehrenwald, near Wolftrathshausen, has been definitely dissolved. 124 inmates, for whom permanent accommodation had not been found, were distributed amongst several refugee camps near Munich. 280 Flats have been built for Stateless foreigners.

ANTI-SEMITIC PAMPHLET CONFISCATED

The Federal Republic authorities have started an investigation against Friedrich Nieland, of Hamburg, who distributed an anti-Semitic pamphlet entitled "Wieviel Welt—(Geld)—kriege muessen die Voelker noch verlieren?". It is alleged that the booklet had an edition of 2,000, most of which was sent to Ministers and Members of Parliament. The Hamburg police confiscated 111 copies.

PENSIONS FOR GESTAPO AND S.S.

The Federal Constitutional Court has decided that the exclusion of former Gestapo officials from Fuersorgeleistungen under Clause 131 of the Constitution, is not a contradiction of the Constitution. The Bundessozialgericht has ruled that pre-war service in the S.S.-Leibstandarte is not military or similar service, according to the Versorgungsgesetze.

INQUIRY ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM

In its series, "Der Hoerer hat das Wort", the West German radio afforded its listeners a chance of airing their views on the problem of anti-Semitism. The repercussions have caused no little consternation, for the percentage of letters which attacked the Jews was higher than expected. Even in some of the pro-Semitic letters completely erroneous ideas appeared about Jews and Judaism. The *Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* states: "There is no doubt that hatred of the Jews lurks under the surface. It would certainly not be useful to exaggerate its size nor to dramatise its symptoms. Yet it would be fatal if we were to watch quietly and in false security the continued existence of a mentality which furnished the alibi for a crime of gigantic dimensions."

GRUENWALDER KREIS

The Gruenwalder Kreis, an association of democratic writers and publicists in the Federal Republic, held its fourth congress in West Berlin. Hans Werner Richter, the writer, declared at the congress: "As in the times of the Nazis the extreme right-wing smears every opponent as a Bolshevik. Behind these attacks are high officials of the Third Reich who again indulge in political activities. None of them has publicly repented of his former politics." Richter emphasised: "During this year (there will be elections for the Bundestag in autumn 1957) our political parties are ready to make concessions to these former National Socialist forces, which we do not understand and against which, if necessary, we must defend ourselves."

JEWISH MEMBER OF BERLIN PARLIAMENT

S. Weltlinger, for many years *Senatsbevollmaechtigter fuer juedische Angelegenheiten* in Berlin, has become a member of the Berlin Abgeordnetenhaus. At the same time he had to give up his position with the Senate. Weltlinger, who belongs to the CDU, will be the only Jewish member.

TOLERANCE

The "Arbeitsgemeinschaft christlicher und juedischer Jugend-Drei Ringe" held its first meeting at the Jugendhof Vlotho in Westphalia. Under the motto "Common Responsibility Today and Tomorrow", four problems were discussed: The Three Religions; The Crisis of Faith; The State of Israel; The Idea of Race. The common denominator was the effort to overcome the prejudices of the past and to build the future in mutual understanding. The speakers were Landesrabbiner Dr. Fritz Bloch, Stuttgart; Pfarrer Dr. Busch, Muehlheim; Pastor Gattwinkel, Wuppertal, and others. The representative of the Bundeszentrale fuer Heimatdienst in Bonn, Dr. C. C. Schweitzer, spoke on the characteristics of group prejudices, their present existence and the efforts of the Federal authorities to counter them. The Arbeitsgemeinschaft will meet several times this year in many parts of Western Germany.

JEWISH YOUTH MEETS AT WEMBACH

At the Henrietta-Szold Heim in Wembach, Black Forest, a further course was held for the training of Jewish youth leaders. Among other speakers, Dr. F. M. Friedmann from the Carmel College in Wallingford, Berks, lectured on Rathenau and Disraeli as Jewish statesmen.

RABBI FOR WEST BERLIN

The Jewish community in West Berlin has appointed Dr. Goldstein as its Rabbi.

DEATH OF DR. EWALD ALLSCHOFF

Dr. Ewald Allschoff, Chairman of the Jewish communities in Hesse and one of the most effective leaders of post-war Jewry in Germany, died in Frankfurt in his 62nd year, after a long illness. Dr. Allschoff, who, before the war, practised medicine in Essen and later in Berlin, was a survivor of Auschwitz, where he lost his wife and relatives.

In Parliament

ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA AMONG HUNGARIAN REFUGEES

In the House of Commons, Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P., asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he would have inquiries made about the Nazi indoctrination and actions of persons applying for admission to the United Kingdom, with a view to preventing the admission to this country of persons responsible for the teaching and spreading of such doctrines here. He also referred to a considerable amount of anti-Semitic propaganda of the Nazi type in refugee camps and other places.

On behalf of the Home Office, Miss Hornsby-Smith replied that, within the law as it stands, action against such propaganda would be taken.

COMMONS DEBATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BILL

A Bill aiming at the elimination of racial discrimination was introduced to the House of Commons by Mr. Fenner Brockway. In supporting the Bill during its second reading, Sir Leslie Plummer (Labour) said: "The Bill here is born out of necessity. The fact is that there is racial discrimination being practised against our fellow citizens in this country to an extent which demands that Parliament should now come to the protection of people who are, to a very large degree, unable to help themselves."

He went on to say that many of the people of this country, suffering the disabilities which the Bill is designed to refute, are victims of the most gross and horrible tyranny which has taken place in this world in the last 2,000 years. They had been driven out of their own land and had come to Britain and benefited Britain by their contributions to our economy, science, literature and music. "It is intolerable", he said, "that these people, because they are refugees and because they happen to be Jews, are denied access to hotels and social gatherings of people in this land."

Mr. Ronald Bell (Conservative), in opposing the Bill, said there was probably no country in the world where there was less feeling on account of race than in Britain. He attributed this to the fact that this country had had the wisdom not to make specific laws enforcing that attitude.

ANTI-SEMITIC PAMPHLET

A pamphlet entitled "Fuer Wahrheit und Recht", which was printed in Vienna, is now circulating in the Federal Republic. It contains quotations by Goethe and Schiller together with anti-Semitic contributions by Friedrich Lenz, Pater Reichenberger and the editor, Viktor Werbig. It states: "The Jews have contributed towards causing wars and chaos so that, in the end, they may obtain world domination. Our slogan must be: 'all elements of foreign races must be eliminated, step by step, from all important offices'."

STIRRINGS ON THE EXTREME RIGHT

At a meeting of the Deutsche Block in Munich, the former Austrian "Nationalrat" Fritz Stueber, said that young people should no longer be told "atrocious stories" of six million murdered Jews. This figure was at least three times too high. He said that very many things in National Socialism were good and excellent. The Chairman of the D.B. called the "Woche der Bruederlichkeit" a "Woche der Widerlichkeit".

The Bavarian Prime Minister commented that anti-State activities would not be tolerated.

WAR DECORATIONS

The Bundestag Committee for the German Administration discussed the law concerning the wearing of war decorations. It recommended that decorations of the two world wars should not only be worn without any Nazi emblems but also without the black-white-red ribbon. A black-red-gold ribbon should be worn instead. It further recommended that "unworthy" persons, e.g. war criminals and leading Nazis, should be deprived of their decorations by means of legal proceedings.

BEHANDLUNG VON KRIEGSSACHSCHAEDEN IN RUECKERSTATTUNGSFAELLEN

Die 11. Verordnung ueber Ausgleichsleistungen nach dem Lastenausgleichsgesetz vom 18.12.1956 (vgl. AJR Information Maerz 1957) enthaelt in Art. II § 3 Bestimmungen ueber *Kriegssachschaeden*, durch die einige Fragen, die sich in der Praxis ergeben hatten, geklaert worden sind.

Es handelt sich zunaechst um die Frage, wer im Sinne de Bestimmungen des Lastenausgleichsgesetzes (LAG) und des Feststellungsgesetzes als "unmittelbar Geschaedigter" anzusehen ist, der die Ansprueche wegen Kriegssachschaedens geltend machen kann, wenn das Wirtschaftsgut (Grundstueck oder Betriebsvermoegen) entzogen war und nach den Bestimmungen der Rueckerstattungs-gesetze der Rueckerstattung unterliegt. In den Faellen, in denen das Wirtschaftsgut diesen Bestimmungen gemass *zurueckerstattet* worden ist, gelten als unmittelbar Geschaedigte derjenige, der im Zeitpunkt der Entziehung Eigentuemer war, oder dessen Erben (§3 Abs. 1). Dies gilt auch dann, wenn der Rueckerstattungsanspruch von einer Juedischen Nachfolgeorganisation geltend gemacht und das Wirtschaftsgut in dem sogen. Equity-Verfahren dem Verfolgten oder seinen Rechtsnachfolgern herausgegeben worden ist.

Wenn degegen der *Erwerber*, sei es auf Grund einer im Rueckerstattungsverfahren ergangenen Entscheidung, sei es auf Grund eines Vergleichs, das Wirtschaftsgut *behalten hat*, so gilt dieser oder sein Rechtsnachfolger als unmittelbar Geschaedigter und somit als Antragsberechtigter (§3 Abs. 4). Es ist anzunehmen, dass eine etwa im Vergleich getroffene, hiervon abweichende Vereinbarung wirksam bleibt.

In der 11. Verordnung ist ferner eine Bestimmung vorgesehen, die den Zweck verfolgt, unbillige Haerten zu vermeiden, die sich bei der Feststellung der *Hoehe* der Entschaeidigung fuer Verfolgte oder deren Rechtsnachfolger ergeben koennen. Nach §249 Abs. 1 Nr. 1 LAG ist der Grundbetrag der

fuer einen Kriegssachschaeden zu leistenden Entschaeidigung insoweit zu kuerzen, als sich durch seine Zurechnung zu dem Vermoegen des unmittelbar Geschaedigten am 21.6.1948 eine Summe ergeben wuerde, die 50 % des Anfangsvermoegens des unmittelbar Geschaedigten uebersteigt, wobei als Anfangsvermoegen die Summe des Schadensbetrages und des Vermoegens am Waehrungsstichtag (21.6.48) gilt.

Fuer Verfolgte des Nationalsozialismus oder deren Rechtsnachfolger wuerde eine unbillige Haerte bestehen, wenn diese Vermoegen nach der Entziehung, *im Ausland* erworben haben und eine Entschaeidigung insoweit nicht in Frage kommen sollte, als durch sie das am Waehrungsstichtag vorhandene Vermoegen auf ueber 50% des fruheren Umfangs wieder "aufgefuellt" wuerde. Demzufolge ist in §3 (3) bestimmt, dass, wenn als unmittelbar Geschaedigter der Eigentuemer im Zeitpunkt der Entziehung gilt, bei Anwendung des §249 Abs. 1 Nr. 1 LAG als Vermoegen am Waehrungsstichtag das nach der Entziehung erworbene, ausserhalb des Geltungsbereichs des LAG belegene Vermoegen nicht zu beruecksichtigen ist.

Nach den bisherigen Bestimmungen des LAG war die *Frist* fuer die Anmeldung von Anspruechen wegen Kriegssachschaedens abgelaufen. Gemass §11 der Verordnung kann in den Faellen dieser Verordnung der Antrag auf Schadensfeststellung bis zum 31.12.1957 gestellt werden.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF IMPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS

An English translation of the three Implementary Regulations to the Federal Indemnification Law is now available, at 12s. 6d. per copy, plus postage, from the United Restitution Organisation Ltd., 183/189 Finchley Road, London, N.W.3 (phone: KILburn 0021).

SHADOWS OF THE PAST

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP GUARDS

Witnesses Required

Proceedings have been started against two former guards of the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, Gustav Sorge and Wilhelm Schubert. There is reason to believe that some former internees of the camp who were exposed to atrocities by these two guards or who could testify accordingly, now reside in this country.

Proceedings have also been started against Artur Gosberg, who was attached to several concentration camps in Germany including Mauthausen and Buchenwald, and in Poland.

Any information should be sent to the following address: Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Verfolgten, Berlin politisch, rassistisch und religiös Verfolgter, Berlin W.15, Joachimsthaler Str. 13.

HANS GRIMM AGAIN ACTIVE

Hans Grimm, the notorious Nazi author, published "Warum, Woher? Aber Wohin?" in the Klosterhaus-Verlag Lippoldsberg. 45,000 Copies of the book, which praises Nazism, have now been printed.

MAX AMMANN DEAD

Max Ammann, manager of the Voelkische Beobachter and supervisor of the German press under Nazism, died in Munich at the age of 66. A German Denazification court had sentenced him to 10 years in a labour camp

PRACTISING DOCTOR WAS NAZI MURDERESS

Dr. Herta Oberheuser, who in 1947 was sentenced by an American military court to twenty years' imprisonment for medical torture in the women's concentration camp at Ravensbrueck but was released in 1951, was permitted to practise medicine, in spite of her past record. The local District Court at Kiel and the State Medical Association have refused to take action against her.

"BLUT UND BODEN"

In the famous and, on the whole, excellent series "Kroeners Taschenausgabe", a dictionary of folk-lore first published in 1936 has been co-edited. The editor of the new edition, who was co-editor in 1936, has left many articles unchanged. Race and blood continue to be the basis of Volkstum, this article's bibliography contains the most outrageous Nazi literature without any comment or warning.

S.S. MEETING AT KARLBURG

The Hilfsgemeinschaft ehemaliger Angehoeriger der Waffen-S.S. is to hold a mass meeting at Karlburg, Unterfranken. The neighbouring town, Karlstadt, recently refused permission for this rally.

S.S.-BRIGADEFUEHRER DEMANDS FULL PENSION

Johannes Engel, the former Nazi Statrat fuer Verker in Berlin and founder of the Berlin Transport-Corporation, Nationalsozialistische Betriebsorganisation, has asked a Berlin Denazification Court for his complete rehabilitation, his full State pension and his Heimkehrerentschaedigung. Engel had the rank of S.S.-Brigadefuehrer.

OTTO BRAEUTIGAM

The former chief of the Eastern Department in the Bonn Foreign Office, whose complicity in the liquidation of Jews was investigated, is again active as a journalist. He published a book review in the monthly "Aussenpolitik."

PARENTS AGAINST NAZI TEACHER

In Berlin-Steglitz, parents protested against a teacher who had taken a leading part in the pogroms of the Kristallnacht 1938, and had boasted about it. The Steglitz education authorities declined to take steps as "the teacher will retire soon."

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Britain and Israel

The ninth anniversary of the Jewish State was celebrated in London at a representative service of rejoicing and thanksgiving, as well as at dozens of gatherings all over Britain. At an Independence Day Dinner, appeals for a renewal of the ties of understanding between Britain and Israel were made by three prominent M.P.s—Mr. Walter Elliot (Conservative), Dr. Hugh Dalton (Labour), and Mr. Clement Davies, the former Liberal leader.

The press paid tribute to Israel's achievements. *The Times* commended "this dourly unaffrighted people" who, having performed "incredible" feats, were now "sturdily consolidated". The *Daily Telegraph* insisted that the country's "future existence must no longer be questioned".

Labour's "warmest feelings" for Israel were stressed by the Party's Chairman, Miss M. Herbison, M.P., who had just visited the country. There was a great responsibility on every Socialist throughout the world, she said, to see that Israel should live to work out her way in peace.

Appointments

There is another Jewish judge of the High Court—Mr. Cyril Barnett Salmon, Q.C., Recorder of Gravesend since 1947. There were also two Jews among the 16 new Q.C.s. Miss Ruth Cohen, Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, and Lecturer in Economics at Cambridge University, was appointed Chairman of the Committee on the Provincial Agricultural Economics Service in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Maurice Edelman, Labour M.P., was elected Chairman of the Anglo-Jewish Association's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ex-Servicemen

The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen is "flourishing", it was stated at their tenth post-war annual meeting, which revealed an increase in membership, expansion of welfare activity and closer contacts with their Israeli counterpart.

Disillusioned Communist

What was described as a "political H-bomb" was dropped on the Communist Party Congress by one of the Party's prominent Jewish members, Hyman Levy, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, Imperial College of Science, who said that on a visit to Russia last year he had found "great positive achievements coupled with cast-iron bureaucracy, terror and fear, a form of gangsterism battenning on a socialist economy". Denouncing Stalin's crimes, he suggested that the Party's leader had known what was going on and kept quiet about it, especially about the persecution of Jews which Professor Levy had already denounced last January. The irregularly published Communist *Jewish Clarion* has, for the time being, ceased to appear.

Anti-Semitism

Some anti-Semitic propaganda of the Nazi type among Hungarian refugees in Britain was brought to the Government's notice by Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P. The Home Secretary promised to keep a watchful eye on a certain objectionable refugee journal. Mr. R. A. Butler gave the same promise when apprised of small-scale activities in Britain of the Ku-Klux-Klan, whose local chief, a former propagandist of the Arab League, assured the Jewish public that he "aimed solely at Communism" and "at no time referred to Jews or coloured persons".

A clause debarring Jews and coloured people from a £50,000 bequest to St. John's College, Cambridge, was held, in the Chancery Division, to be void. On behalf of the College it was declared that they would decline the gift so long as it was founded on any condition relating to parentage, race, colour or religion.

The Late James de Rothschild

The death occurred of Mr. James de Rothschild, elder son of Baron Edmond, of Paris. Naturalised after the first war, he was Liberal M.P. for the Isle of Ely from 1929 to 1945. He was widely accepted as a representative of Jewish opinion, particularly when the subject of refugees was debated as, for example, on the historic occasion in December 1942, when the whole House rose to express its sympathy for the persecuted.

THE VOICE OF RUDOLF BORCHARDT

On June 9th, Rudolf Borchardt would have been eighty years of age. As his friend Rudolf Alexander Schroeder expressed it in the preface to Borchardt's collected works*, he was "not a much read author, but an orator much asked for and, as such, a teacher of youth."

Borchardt preferred lecturing without notes (for which reason not all his lectures have been preserved). With his unfailing sense of style he knew about the difference of the species, and only unwillingly did he take the trouble to change the spoken word into the written word.

Power of Words

Schroeder's description brings back to my memory Borchardt's unique gift of speech and power of words as experienced by me once in the Auditorium Maximum of Berlin University: "As if by magic, after a second's delay, the speaker's figure stretched as though, in that moment, both the course and the aim of his speech, illuminated in a flash, appeared before his mind as a whole and he could trust the current of his eloquence. He went from one compact sentence to another, now attacking, now demanding, and now conjuring up; without pausing, without patched-up phrases, without unnecessary repetition, even without anacolutha, until the main idea, after however difficult but persuasive arguments, had been developed and almost impressively elucidated."

The word "Dichten" is borrowed from the Latin "dictare"—to speak, not to write. To use a pun seriously, Borchardt was also a "dictator," though, of course, the opposite of a demagogue. He was a man of great will-power, who ordered his muse, and he almost fulfilled the "dear plan

NEWS IN BRIEF

ARNOLD ZWEIG ELECTED PRESIDENT OF EAST GERMAN PEN CLUB

The East German PEN Club has elected Arnold Zweig, the well-known novelist, as its President. Before 1933 Arnold Zweig was one of the leading left-wing authors fighting for freedom of thought. At the same time he was a conscientious Jew, and belonged to the Zionist movement. In 1933 when the Nazis came to power, he emigrated to Palestine. He returned to Germany after the war and took up residence in Eastern Germany.

KLEMPERER AT SALZBURG FESTIVAL

On the advice of his doctors, Bruno Walter has cancelled all his engagements in Europe, including his appearance at the Salzburg Festival. In his place, Otto Klemperer will conduct the first concert of the Viennese Philharmonic orchestra during the Festival, on 28th July.

EDITOR OF JEAN PAUL'S WORKS

Dr. Eduard Berend, the famous expert on Jean Paul and editor of the great critical edition of his works, who had to leave Germany in 1939, has been asked by the Deutsche Schillergesellschaft to return to Western Germany. He arrived in Germany from Switzerland with all his records. He will continue his research at the Literatur-Archiv of the Schiller Museum at Marbach. The "Jean Paul Archiv", which is in his care, is the greatest collection of Pauliana in existence.

ANNE FRANK

Performances in Spain

The Teatro Espanol in Madrid has staged "The Diary of Anne Frank" with great success. The play also drew full houses in Barcelona.

Youth Centre in Amsterdam

An Anne Frank Foundation has been set up in Amsterdam. The aim of this new organisation is to make a youth centre out of the house where Anne lived in hiding, and to propagate the ideas expressed in the "Diary".

of his life" to give examples of all legitimate types of poetry—poems, epics, anecdotes, short stories, novels and drama. He was also an expert translator of the ancient poets in more modern times. Immermann was one of his favourites, particularly his verse drama "Merlin." This is in a way surprising, for though his predilection for the poet is most understandable, Borchardt could not have been blind—or rather deaf—to the weakness of Immermann's dramatic verse, however beautiful in detail. The splendid conception of this "Tragedy of Contradiction" must have appealed to him, for it was his own tragedy, and there was some unity in his contradictions.

Born in Königsberg, Rudolf Borchardt was a representative of humanism as it developed in Eastern Prussia. The tribes inhabiting the districts East to the River Elbe, tried to prove again and again how "German" they were—a tendency very much manifest in the writings of the Romantic poets. Classicist Rudolf Borchardt has this feature in common with German Romanticism. The fact that he belonged to a Protestant family of Jewish origin intensified this Romantic impulse in him, sometimes expressed in queer nationalistic utterances. Borchardt, the patriotic politician, was as often misunderstood as he was himself mistaken.

Attitude to Judaism

Much has been written about Rudolf Borchardt's alleged indifference, and even animosity, towards Judaism. But are we justified in criticism when the conversion of his family dates back as far as that of Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Rahel Varnhagen? And what is the evidence of his own writings?

He once crossed swords with Friedrich Gundolf because this—unbaptised—Jew wrote some remarks about Martin Buber, which, to Borchardt's mind, had a slightly anti-Semitic ring. And in his "Epilegomena to Dante" we have what might almost be called a "Confessio Judaica." In the individual fate of the Italian the same thing occurred, to a lesser degree, as in the ancient fate of the people of Israel, when the saga of the absolute monotheism became law and dogma. The ageing Dante might himself have drawn this parallel when he made his Beatrice speak, in the "Purgatorio," in the angry and prophetic tone of an Isaiah. However, monotheism never came ready-made into the world—it is a spiritual treasure fought for and gained, throughout history, in banishment and by untold suffering.

Throughout his life Rudolf Borchardt was a "caller in the wilderness." His collection of German poems from medieval times to the present century is entitled "Ewiger Vorrat deutscher Poesie", and is meant to set the highest standard of literary appreciation. It is a rather self-willed selection, but there can be no doubt that only what is really perfect has been included. His verdict on Heine is hard and prejudiced, but he included six poems by him, only two less than by Hoelderlin. Borchardt may not have had much sympathy with Heine as a character, but he did justice to him as a poet.

The title of one of Borchardt's tales, "Das hoffnungslose Geschlecht," could be applied to almost all his works. The poet endeavoured to show a world of order, and to establish a sense of values in our age of anarchy. His was a conservative mind, and though he was not the esoteric nor the æsthetic he appeared to be to many of his contemporaries, it was not his style of life when he made his living as the owner of a boarding house in Lucca before he was deported on Hitler's orders.

At the end of his life the fate of his ancestors overtook him, and it is not by chance that his "Buch Joram," a story written in the spirit of the Old Testament and rendered in the style of Luther's Bible, contained the verse anticipating his own destiny:

"Lebe nur—es ist Passion!"

* Eight volumes are planned by Ernst Klett Verlag, Stuttgart, with the support of the Rudolf Borchardt Society.

SOME AUSTRIAN LITERATURE

The old and rather futile controversy on the existence of a specific Austrian literature need not be revived if the fact is recognised that the writing of Austrians is distinguished by their style and atmosphere in a way which cannot be easily defined.

The Jewish "re-migrant" Hans Weigel, who has established himself in the post-war years as Vienna's leading, but not at all generally liked, critic in matters cultural, has produced an amusing book "O du mein Oesterreich" (Steingruenen Verlag, Stuttgart) which, according to its subtitle, is an "Essay of a Fragment of an Improvisation for real and would-be Beginners." A shorter and more straightforward essay in understanding is Joerg Mauthe's "Wiener Knigge" (Andermann Verlag, Vienna). Both experts are agreed that "Gemuetlichkeit," the charming and irritating happy-go-lucky muddling through, is not an essential feature of the Austrian character. Behind the surface of cheerfulness there lies, clearly discernible, a melancholic and deeply pessimistic attitude which is strangely combined with an often callous disregard for other people's suffering. This trait is not noted by either Weigel or Mauthe. It is significant that, in sketching the background of the present Austrian scene, both refer only in passing to the seven years of Austria's belonging to the "Third Reich," and appear to ignore the lasting changes caused by the elimination of the Jewish element in the social and cultural make-up of the country. The desire to avoid facing unpleasant facts and accepting responsibility is, of course, not an Austrian peculiarity, but nowhere has it become so strong a feature of the mental habits and actual behaviour of a people.

Yet it is only too obvious how much poorer Austria has become, especially in the sphere of literature, by losing her writers of allegedly alien race. The office for Culture and Adult Education of the City of Vienna has during the last three years published three weighty volumes, "Lebendige Stadt—Literarischer Almanach," which aim at assembling "all literary forces living in the capital or belonging to its cultural environment." On a more modest scale the annual "Zeitbilder" presents "Socialist Contributions to Contemporary Writing" (published by the Wiener Volksbuchhandlung, Vienna). There is only occasionally a voice in the large chorus which attracts attention—and more often than not it belongs to Austrians of Jewish extraction like the playwright Fritz Hochwälder, or the lyric poet Theodor Kramer.

More than an indication of the severity of the loss suffered, not only by Austria through her cultural pauperisation during the Nazi era, is a collection of poems by 109 authors who would in the official language qualify as "victims of persecution on racial, religious or political grounds." Rudolf Felmayer, the editor of the book "Dein Herz ist deine Heimat" (Amandus Verlag, Vienna) has performed a real service for those young Austrian intellectuals who wish to re-establish a link with a period of literature of which they have only scanty knowledge. The work is also a memorial to those who died in the concentration camps or on the gallows, such as the socialist lawyer Heinrich Steinitz, or the Catholic priest Roman Scholz. Their poems, written in captivity, are amongst the most touching contributions in this valuable book.

It is no coincidence that all these anthologies contain poems penned by Theodor Kramer. If there is a writer whose work is genuinely rooted in the soil of the Austrian country, it is this poet who came to England in 1939.

Kramer has, during the years of exile, maintained his crisply clear personal and truly Austrian style and his attachment to the ordinary people, with whose feelings and troubles he identifies himself with uncanny insight and without any trace of superiority. There is not even a hint of facile "Gemuetlichkeit" in his work. His basically pessimistic outlook has even been strengthened and is given unequivocal expression in the poems written since he had to leave Austria. Some of them have been incorporated in the slim volume "Vom Schwarzen Wein" (Otto Mueller Verlag, Salzburg), a selection made with tact and understanding by Michael Guttenbrunner, ranging from Kramer's first book "Die Gaunerzinke" up to his not yet published "Praise of Despair." This voice of an Austrian poet of integrity deserves to be hearkened by those who earnestly care for German poetry.

F. L. BRASSLOFF.

THE OVERSEAS SCENE

NASSER'S ADVISERS

The French newspaper *Le Figaro* published details about former Nazis now employed by the Egyptian Government. Dr. Johannes von Leers, a leading Nazi and author of anti-Semitic books, directs Egyptian propaganda against Israel and is supposed to help with the drafting of Nasser's speeches. The former chief of the Gestapo in Düsseldorf, SS-Obersturmbannführer Johannes Daemling, prepares "special missions" of the Egyptian police, which he reorganised. At the same time he is responsible for the setting up and supervising of concentration camps and "people's courts". *Le Figaro* states that the former leader of the Swiss Nazis, Georg Oltramare, is in charge of the department for anti-Semitic propaganda in the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior.

BRENTANO PUTS CAIRO IN ITS PLACE

When Radio Cairo announced that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic and Israel would have "consequences", the Federal Foreign Minister, Dr. von Brentano, replied that the Federal Republic would not allow itself to be put under pressure. Diplomatic relations with Israel would not threaten anybody. On the contrary, they could help to loosen tension in that area.

NEW DIRECTOR OF AUSTRIAN JOINT

The director of the Austrian Joint, Fred Ziegelhaub, has been appointed director of the Joint for Germany. His headquarters will be at Frankfurt. His predecessor in Germany, Theodore D. Feder, who worked in Austria from 1952 to 1955, will go to Vienna, where he is well known and liked.

TRIALS IN GERMANY

S.S. OBERSTURMBANNFUEHRER KRUMEY

Krumey, who was Adolf Eichmann's deputy and who was in charge of the extermination of the Jews, was arrested in Frankfurt a.M. He was responsible for the murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Hungary. His name appeared in a trial in Austria and the German authorities were informed. A Denazification court classified Krumey as a Minderbelasteter, partly on account of the evidence of Rudolf Kastner, who was recently shot dead in Israel. Kastner had negotiated with Krumey about the saving of Jews and had declared that Krumey saved the lives of thousands of Jews. As a member of the Gesamtdeutscher Block, Krumey was a deputy in the Kreistag of Korbach (Hesse).

It is recalled that Joel Brand had talks with Krumey about the release of Jews against the delivery of vans and the payment of money.

The executive of the Sudetendeutsche Landsmannschaft in Waldeck refused to drop Krumey's case before a court of law decided whether the charges against him were justified.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg Chief Rabbi Against Synagogue Colour Bar

In an article published in the *Zionist Record* (Johannesburg), Chief Rabbi Rabinowitz declared that "despite the fortuitous fact that we have no Native (coloured) Jews in South Africa, the synagogues are open to everyone of any group or colour. Natives would be admitted to services in exactly the same way as Europeans". He went on to say: "We have Jews of every shade of colour, Bnei Israel Jews and the black Jews of Cochin, dark-skinned Yemenite Jews, the negro Jews of Harlem and the Falashas of Abyssinia. No one who has visited Israel can fail to be impressed by the complete absence of colour bar in that country."

Champion Against Apartheid

The new Minister of St. George's Settlement Synagogue East is Rabbi Dr. André Ungar, until recently Minister of the Port Elizabeth Reform Congregation whence he was expelled by the South African Government. In his first sermon here, he criticised South African Jewry for remaining "wholeheartedly in the white camp", but he also pointed out that of all those who protested against Apartheid a very significant number were Jews.

MISSION TO INDIA

Ministerialdirigent Werner von Bargaen of the Bonn Foreign Office was sent to India as head of a trade mission. A Bundestag Committee stated in 1952 that von Bargaen was in every respect unfit for the foreign service as he had taken part in the deportation of Jews.

CLAUBERG

The Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Justice announced that the trial against Professor Clauberg, charged with having carried out experiments on female K.Z. internees, has had to be postponed as his counsel asked for a preliminary investigation. In the meantime the Polish Government and the Czechoslovak Military Mission in Berlin have aided the Prosecutor by naming witnesses or putting documents at his disposal. The Russians have, however, refused to co-operate, as Clauberg was pardoned in the Soviet Union.

The Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of the Interior ordered that Clauberg must not practise as a doctor for the time being.

SCHLUETER'S IMMUNITY

The Landtag of Lower Saxony having refused to raise the immunity from D.R.P. member Waldemar Schuetz and F.D.P. member Leonhard Schlueter, the request of the Federal Prosecutor has now gone back to the Committee for Immunity.

Meanwhile Schlueter's "Goettinger Verlagsanstalt" has published a biography of Goering by the Irishman Charles Bewley, justifying and praising National Socialism.

Old Acquaintances

Karl Otten's new novel:—A year ago, an international jury gave half of the first Albert Schweitzer Book Prize to Karl Otten, the German-born author living in London. "Die Botschaft", now published by Hermann Luchterhand-Verlag, is the novel he got the award for. It is, so to speak, a spiritual sequence to his script for "Kameradschaft", on which G. W. Pabst once based his classic picture. Set in the frontier district between France and Germany and written in wonderfully poetic German, "Die Botschaft" tells the story of a teacher, a very passive hero, driven by his conscience into the resistance movement during the last war. The deeply felt conflict of human beings in war time vividly comes to life. Karl Otten, handicapped by bad eyesight, is a writer who sees more than many others; his novel is beyond hatred and pity, but it is written with compassion and understanding for his fellow human beings. I strongly advise you to read his book, which is obtainable in London.

This and that:—On his 65th birthday, Fritz Kortner received the highest German decoration. Austria, his fatherland made no recognition.—The Jewish community of Berlin appealed to radio and theatre not to overlook composer Hugo Hirsch, who has now returned to Germany.—At the annual meeting of the British actors' union, Nellie Arno said: "There is a French invasion in the theatre; we British are wanted nowhere". She is, of course, herself just naturalised.—Erika Mann takes a bow wherever the film "Felix Krull", based on her father's novel, is shown in Germany; she has a small part in it.

News from Everywhere:—German film star Maria Schell married director Horst Haechler in Munich.—Billy Wilder will start producing "Witness for the Prosecution" with Marlene Dietrich and Tyrone Power in Hollywood.—Walter Slezak successfully played in "The First Gentleman" on Broadway, but Maria Fein, who went to New York especially for the show, was taken out.—Heinrich Fischer introduced the French film "Nacht und Nebel", about concentration camps, when it was shown on Munich's TV.—Ernst Deutsch toured Germany with "Nathan".—Eric Burger is adapting the Broadway hit "Visit to a Small Planet" for the German stage.—Sonja Wronkow made a radio appearance in Israel.—Gustaf Gruendgens produced "Faust" in Hamburg and himself took the part of Mephisto, with Quadflieg as Faust and Antje Weissgerber as Gretchen.—In France, Richard Oswald's son, Gerd, is directing "Paris Holiday", with Bob Hope and Anita Ekberg.—Leopoldine Konstantin and Curt von Wolowsky appeared at a ball for the German press in New York.

Milestones:—In London, Rudolf Bernauer's widow, Emmy, celebrated her 70th birthday.—In Munich, Trude Hesterberg and Olga Tschechowa both confessed to having reached their 60th birthdays.—Michael Bohnen, the once famous opera tenor who has now retired, is 70 and lives in Berlin.

Obituaries:—Ernst Morgan, brother of the late comedian Paul Morgan, died in New York at the age of 54.—Berlin's opera solo dancer, Jockel Stahl, died aged 45.—In Boston Ernst Possony, the Austrian singing teacher who lived in London during the war, died at the age of 72.

Home News:—Red-headed actress, Wanda Rotha, has gone to Munich to star with Hans Albers in his new film, "Der tolle Bomberg".—Dr. Bruno Richter, press attaché to the German Embassy, married Hazel Stephen. The couple have left for Australia where Dr. Richter is to take up the same post there. Dr. Hans Scherer, formerly London correspondent of *Die Welt*, has taken over his position.—Dr. Paul Czinner, husband of Elisabeth Bergner, showed the film of the ballet "Giselle", with Russian prima ballerina Galina Ulanova. The film was shown for charity, at the Royal Festival Hall.—The German Ambassador gave a reception after the opening of the German film season at the National Film Theatre. The Festival opened with Kaentner's "The Devil's General", based on Zuckmayer's play.—The Royal Photographic Society showed an exhibition of Dr. Erich Salomon's work, in memory of the first press photographer with the "invisible" camera, who perished in Auschwitz.

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C. C. Aronsfeld

GERMAN JEWS IN BRITISH MUSIC

THE notable promotion of Mr. Rudolf Schwarz, conductor of the Birmingham City Orchestra, who was recently appointed conductor of the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, is another instance of the fine record held by German-born and German-trained Jewish immigrants in the musical life of England. Perhaps it is more precisely a record of Germans generally, for Germans were long regarded in England as the masters of music. Such, indeed, was the Victorians' respect for them that a British Prime Minister, A. J. Balfour, declared: "If the music of all other nations were destroyed we should be the poorer by many great masterpieces, but we might get on. If the music of Germany were destroyed, we could not get on." Englishmen keenly felt the slights occasionally dished at their "Land ohne Musik" and Carlyle was as usual on the side of the Germans as he mocked, 100 years ago, that "for a Mozart we only have a Mr. Bishop."

Yet good music never went unappreciated in England as has been found, much to their delight, by a host of foreign artists. Bruno Walter, who was the first to open the German season at Covent Garden after the First World War, relates how he always strongly believed in the English sense of music, and he recalls the "inextinguishable impression" created in him by the story of the Royal Philharmonic Society's gift to the dying Beethoven. This memorable gift was due to the good offices of an outstanding Jewish musician whose fame spread far over the Continent both during and after his quarter century in England.

Ignaz Moscheles

Ignaz Moscheles (1794-1870) had known Beethoven long before he settled in London in 1822, and Beethoven set great store by his friend's patronage who, he wrote, had "not only an extensive acquaintance in London but also the greatest influence with the Philharmonic." Moscheles was indeed a prominent figure in English music. He gave his own concert every year, and his polished performances were much in demand all over the country. Elected director of the Philharmonic Society, he was the first to conduct in England Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, and though others had conducted the Ninth Symphony before, it was to him, said *The Times* in 1841, that the public owed in large measure the appreciation of the work's majestic grandeur. "As a conductor," *The Times* remarked, "Moscheles surpasses almost all our musicians, for whenever he swings his baton he leads the orchestra, whereas others are led by it." The suggestion was made (though not pursued) that Moscheles be appointed permanently since "nothing would so much tend to elevate the character of these (British) concerts."

While feeling thoroughly at home in London, Moscheles kept an open house for foreign guests, and most artists from the Continent came with letters of recommendation to him. In May, 1827, he so received his wife's kinsman Heinrich Heine who often invited himself to dinner and was once obliged with a pair of shoes and socks to brave the English spring. Invariably, too, Moscheles put his art at the service of charity. He readily gave a concert in aid of the newly opened German Hospital, Dalston, and in 1842 he similarly took up the cause of those who had suffered in the great fire of Hamburg.

One of his last feats in England was to direct the grand musical festival at Birmingham in 1846

where his friend, Felix Mendelssohn, conducted his own "Elijah." Thereafter he returned to Germany as head of the Leipzig Conservatory where his pupils later included Arthur Sullivan. His departure was keenly regretted by the London press which deplored the loss sustained by British art, but was regretted, most sincerely, by himself. "Parting from . . . the English nation (he confessed) will cost us a bitter pang, for 24 years of unswerving kindness have laid upon us obligations which we can only pay with lifelong gratitude."

By the time Moscheles left, another Jewish conductor from Germany had begun to make his mark in England. Julius Benedict (1804-1885), a banker's son from Stuttgart, came to England in 1835, a disciple of Beethoven and Weber and with some experience of Paris. He "asserted his position at once" (Moscheles found) "as an excellent musician and pianoforte player." He also produced an abundance of fashionable compositions, few of which have stood the test of time except perhaps one opera, "The Lily of Killarney," which was once enormously popular.

But his characteristic contribution to English music, which won him a knighthood in 1871, lay in conducting, not so much in London where he performed at Covent Garden and Drury Lane and in 1844 organised the first concert ever given by Joseph Joachim (then the "Hungarian Wonder Boy" of 14) but in the provinces. For more than 30 years Benedict conducted the Norwich Festival; he took a prominent part too in the Birmingham Festival, and from 1876 to 1880 he was in charge of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society.

In 1850 he accompanied Miss Jenny Lind, the celebrated singer, to the United States where he directed most of her concerts, until ill-health and financial disappointments forced him to return and he was succeeded by a 25-years younger rival from Hamburg. Otto Goldschmidt had come to England in 1848, and he now not only conducted Miss Lind's concerts but actually married the "Swedish nightingale." "He has won a great prize," Moscheles wrote in 1852, "and she has given her hand to a man of high honour; he is a thorough musician and aspires to all that is best and purest in art."

Royal Academy Vice-President

Goldschmidt was in 1863 appointed Vice-President of the Royal Academy of Music, London. In 1875 he and his wife founded the London Bach Choir for the purpose of studying and performing Bach's B Minor Mass, which up to that time was almost entirely unknown in England. Goldschmidt added some accompaniments of his own and conducted the Choir during its first ten years.

Another important feature in London's musical life was the work of George Henschel (1850-1934), a native of Breslau, who in 1886 launched, and for eleven years maintained, the London Symphony Concerts. Their value was at once perceived by a sharp-eared critic, George Bernard Shaw, and his judgment has been upheld for the best part of half a century. Grove's Dictionary of Music now commends the "most noteworthy feat of pioneering which created the praiseworthy tradition of good orchestral playing continued in London by Sir Henry Wood." Henschel himself, a business man as well as a sound musician, was pleased with the success achieved (he pointed out) "at a time when there was no opportunity of hearing orchestral music during the winter season in London proper."

But it is chiefly as a singer, one of the finest baritones of his day, that Henschel gained distinction (including his knighthood in 1914). When he appeared for the first time in an oratorio at Manchester (which he confessed had become a "second London" to him), the *Manchester Guardian* "questioned whether a finer display of finished dramatic singing has been heard during this generation," and today Grove's, looking back, finds that his "genius impressed itself on the public for nearly sixty years."

There are many more, if minor, names, well known in their day, among the erstwhile German-born Jewish musicians in England.* It is not very

* Great and lasting too, has been the influence of those who only came as visitors, notably Felix Mendelssohn and Joseph Joachim. It is hoped to tell their stories in another article.

BRUNO WALTER ON GUSTAV MAHLER

When great musicians—composers or interpreters—speak of their art, we are bound to pay extreme attention, no matter to what degree they are or are not masters of the spoken or written word. It is all the more fortunate if they can give adequate expression to their ideas. More than this can be said for Bruno Walter. He, the friend of Thomas Mann and other famous writers, himself commands a literary style which gives full effect to the significance of his thoughts. His discipleship of Mahler and his authoritative interpretations of the composer's works, have become musical history; they single his book* out from other literature on Mahler.

In his preface to the new edition, Walter confesses that time has only intensified his nearness to the master. It is characteristic of the artist in Walter that he has nevertheless decided to leave the book itself, which was written twenty years ago, unchanged in order to maintain its unity—a unity which sprung from the poignant memories then invoked by the 25th anniversary of Mahler's death.

Bruno Walter, writing in 1956, contemplates the fate of Mahler's music against the background of world events. He makes the point that, during Mahler's Vienna period, the relatively calm political atmosphere then prevailing enabled the Austrian public to concentrate on artistic problems. Indeed, he associates Mahler's music itself, notwithstanding its bold innovations, with this "healthy" epoch before the two world wars. We note, though not entirely without some doubts, Walter's conception of Mahler's "sound" art, as compared with later developments such as atonality, dodecaphony, etc., for which obviously the great conductor holds no brief. Walter regards Mahler as a "kuehner Spaetling". Mahler's art was, indeed, "fin de siècle", and it is a matter of approach whether, with the representative of a transition period—for such was Mahler—emphasis is placed upon his links with the past or with the future.

When writing of "Das Lied von der Erde", which he considers as Mahler's most personal creation, Walter pays a moving and, I think, unsurpassed tribute to Kathleen Ferrier, whose art he ranks amongst the greatest experiences of his musical life. His words reveal a profound insight into the mystery surrounding this great singer, and the beauty of her whole being, which can only be done justice to by a full quotation.

Not only from this but from the whole book are we made aware of the visionary power that is Bruno Walter's, and we are reminded that no real artist can be without this. It is at the root of Walter's inner existence, and his own account makes obvious the grace of fate which brought out the latent greatness of the young conductor through his early and decisive encounter with Mahler's overwhelming personality and work. For Walter, who was so different from Mahler in many ways, this has remained one of the fundamental experiences of his whole life. Even now, half a century later—and we have to imagine the changes wrought by such a span of time in so sensitive an artist—he can say that his attachment to Mahler, the man and the musician, has become still closer.

Whilst refraining from technical analysis, the book gives much more: it captures the writer's unique relation to Mahler, and thus becomes an indispensable supplement to Walter's interpretation of Mahler on the rostrum. And last, but not least, the book conveys more than an autobiography about Bruno Walter himself could, being as it is a true "Bruchstueck einer grossen Konfession".

H. W. FREYHAN.

* "Gustav Mahler. Ein Portrait von Bruno Walter." S. Fischer Verlag, 1957. (An English translation is about to be published.)

long since one of the old generation died—Hermann Grünebaum, assistant conductor and chorus master at Covent Garden from 1907 until 1933, organiser (with T. C. Fairburn) of the London School of Opera, a man who probably did more than anybody else to raise the standard of opera in England.

Large also is the number of Anglo-German Jewish cultured and public-spirited business men

(Concluded on p. 10)

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FOCUS ON SOME NIGHTMARISH BOOKS

If, as we are told, we seem to be approaching an era when the reading of papers may become a profitable concern, I am afraid that literary reviewers, professional or amateur, will hardly agree that the perusal of the innumerable books still directly or indirectly concerned with Hitlerism is likely to justify a similarly optimistic view. Meticulously compiled, documented and annotated as they may be, they cannot, in the last analysis, explain the inexplicable. And the impression left by all these publications, which recall the by no means forgotten methods of terrorism and brutality used by Hitler and his henchmen, is primarily one of disgusting monotony.

True, the psychologists may well be fascinated because of the amazing variety of human deprivations manifested. Strange as it may seem, this dark chapter of history does not cease to cast a somewhat macabre spell on historians, politicians and sociologists alike. It must be admitted, however, that much courage is needed by a contemporary historian of integrity to attain and to keep his perspective.*

An Alibi for the Germans?

This applies perhaps particularly to the contemporary critic who is at pains properly to digest the wealth of material he is inundated with, and who is exposed to the danger of falling into the ideological trap of resentment, especially as far as the first three of the books under review are concerned. No one, for instance, can fail to admit that Gerald Reitlinger, in his stupendous and, in a way, unique book, "The S.S.—Alibi of a Nation", has decidedly succeeded in proving the correctness of his thesis, according to which the rule of the S.S.—and for that matter of the Gestapo too—was, indeed, much more than an "historical accident". The author demonstrates,

* The S.S.—Alibi of a Nation, by Gerald Reitlinger (Heinemann), 35/-; Gestapo—Instrument of Tyranny, by Edward Crankshaw (Putnam), 21/-; Hohes Haus in Henkershand, by Walter Hammer (Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Frankfurt/Main), DM14.80; Denk ich an Deutschland—Ein Kommentar in Bild und Wort, compiled by Juergen Neven and Michael Mansfield (Verlag Kurt Desch, Munich), DM13.80.

unequivocally, the whole system of the most tyrannical and cruel expression of "methodical" bureaucracy in politics. The acts of tyranny, pillage and racial murder committed by the S.S. and the Gestapo from beginning to end of the Dritte Reich do not provide an alibi for the complete innocence of the German people. Mr. Reitlinger has thoroughly destroyed any attempts to constitute these acts as valid alibi. But the reader cannot help a growing feeling of intense horror and even hatred, as the story moves from its squalid origins to its supremacy as the most horrid instrument of political, bureaucratic and military terror history has known.

When Mr. Reitlinger, however, in a stirring post-mortem on the S.S., draws a distinct and uncompromising line of demarcation between the endless series of abominable misdeeds for which the S.S. will for ever be remembered, and between the mystical idealism which shrouded it, this mysticism fails to appeal either to the spiritual or to the intellectual. Then the crucial question still remains unanswered: where is the *prima causa* to be found by which a perverted mystique doped and duped almost the whole German nation?

The "Heroic Myth"

In the latest issue of "History Today" (March, 1957) an historian, Mr. Robert Koehl, fully conversant with this particularly murky chapter of the history of Nazism, argues quite convincingly that the symbols of a "manly" religion for which the Nazis were searching might be found in the Cathedral of Quedlinburg. He points out that the personal qualities of Henry I, Duke of Saxony and founder of the Cathedral, very likely impressed Heinrich Himmler, the organiser of the S.S. The Duke, first of the Saxon rulers of Germany, was indeed a remarkable type. It is true all religious "Schwärmerei" was alien to him, but his word and his bond could be relied on and in courage, stature and wisdom he far surpassed his followers. But although the heroic myths associated with Henry I appealed to the Nazis, it can hardly be said that these were the outstanding qualities of Himmler.

It is therefore significant that Himmler, whilst celebrating in 1936 the millennium of the Quedlinburg Cathedral, used a "kind of primitive and symbolic magic to endow the S.S. with the supposed prowess of Henry I". Himmler's personal ambition led him to seek the not very heroic rôle of the German policeman and executioner. And very soon the S.S. "flung off domination by the romantic enthusiasts in exchange for practitioners of naked power like Heydrich". The consequences of this were to be seen in Auschwitz! There can be but little doubt that any attempt to revitalise Nazism would automatically revert to a similar horrid perversion of the romantic, idealistic and mystic aspects of the German mind.

The main object of Edward Crankshaw's history of the Gestapo is to establish what this "instrument of tyranny" did and did not do, and to examine the characters of many of its leading figures. In this respect, students of the history of the Dritte Reich are indebted to Mr. Crankshaw for his choice of the Gestapo as an excellent example of that purposeful confusion which, like a smokescreen, covered the most terrible activities of the Nazi régime. But it is doubtful, and in any case irrelevant, whether he has succeeded in explaining why the Gestapo has, in Germany, come to serve as a kind of universal scapegoat, though this distinction is but partly due to Himmler's organisation.

The Rôle of the Gestapo

Does it really matter whether the Gestapo is responsible for all the atrocities which horrified the world or for part of them only? Even if the activities of the Gestapo, as Mr. Crankshaw maintains, ended more or less at the gates of the concentration camps, it remains an undisputed and indisputable fact that the Gestapo was behind the blackest deeds committed by the Germans all over Europe. There is no explaining the inexplicable, unless we are prepared to interpret what happened

as romanticism gone perverse or, as Mr. Crankshaw puts it, "idealism gone rotten".

These remarks would be incomplete without a reference to a remarkable feature of the Nuremberg trial, manifest in the striving of various counsel for the defence to "saddle each other's clients with the blame". This applies, in the first instance, to the military. As Mr. Crankshaw convincingly demonstrates, in the last analysis it was the army which gave Himmler the opportunity to develop the Gestapo into an all-powerful monstrosity. The generals, in their attempts to vindicate themselves, conveniently forgot that Hitler—and Himmler in his wake—would never have come to power without their approval and support, though they despised him as an upstart.

With the birth of a new German army, it might be timely to recall Clemenceau's gibe—or rather statesmanlike wisdom—to the effect that war (and, it should be added, peace too) is much too serious a matter to be left to the generals!

Not only from our own experiences but also through the medium of literature, day by day growing, we know most of the terrible story of how Hitler set out to reach his megalomaniacal goal of the complete destruction of democracy. But Mr. Walter Hammer's unique "The Reichstag in the Executioner's Grip" deserves a special niche in this library of horrors. Here, in 535 short biographical sketches, the tragic fate of these courageous and steadfast men rises before our eyes. Frequently, their *via dolorosa* led them to execution after torture; oftener to death from exhaustion, starvation and misery and to perish in hiding or exile; but always to physical and spiritual suffering which few had the stamina to survive. Among these few, we meet those who hope that the new and democratic Germany, risen from the ashes, will again attain the standards she has lost.

Almost all these victims of Nazism listed in this "Directory of Lest We Forget" were members of the German Reichstag or of the Länder-Parliaments. It proves that, irrespective of the political parties to which they belonged (though the majority of them were naturally members of the Social-Democratic, the Democratic, the Zentrum and the Communist parties), from the beginning a spirit of resistance existed in Germany in all walks of life. Mr. Crankshaw is therefore far from wrong when he emphasises that it is this spirit of "civil courage" for which he searched in vain in the ranks of—the generals.

Anti-Nazis Commemorated

The title of the fourth book under review is, significantly, chosen from one of Heinrich Heine's best-known quotations: "Denk ich an Deutschland in der Nacht . . .".

"Denk ich an Deutschland" is indeed a remarkable publication. Not only does it herald an original and admirable technique and make-up—the visual literature of the future—by contrasting relevant quotations from German newspapers and periodicals with illustrations in photo-montage. Still more, this bold cross-section of life in Germany today attains an extraordinarily thought-provoking effect by the way it is featured in all its phases. There is scarcely anything which has escaped the attention of the sharp-eyed critics, which they feature in dark relief against the bright background of the "German miracle". Whether the self-justification of former high-ranking Nazis who have succeeded in again attaining responsible positions is demonstrated; whether the bad taste and tactlessness of the *nouveau riche* is ridiculed; whether the "citizens in uniform" of tomorrow are compared with the jack-boot automatons of yesterday, or whether the platitudes of politicians both in Western and Eastern Germany are derided, it is a grave reminder that by no means have all the ghosts of the latest past still causing sleepless nights been laid, and the book should not be lightly dismissed.

From the pages of this stirring commentary, in pictures and words, it can easily be grasped that material reconstruction is not the only thing that matters. Much still remains to be done before the Bundestag—the new "Hohe Haus"—and the German people can be satisfied that their "never-never" vow has been fulfilled, both in the material and the spiritual sense.

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FROM MY DIARY

This column has been absent from AJR Information for several years. What was the reason for this, especially as Narrator is still alive and kicking? Was it lack of imagination, lack of opportunity, lack of time or lack of space? Perhaps it was a combination of all four reasons.

And yet, when some years ago we launched a "Gallup Poll" among our readers to find out what features of this journal they preferred, the answer in many instances was "From My Diary". Unhappily, we were forced to ignore our readers' wishes, but those who showed preference for this column were certainly right. The mysteries of the "Lastenausgleich" and other restitution news are of vital importance to our community whose members, through force of circumstance, have become more or less conversant lawyers. There is also much to be said for delving into ideological and literary problems connected with our specific position. But just because of the unavoidably heavy weight of such items, there should be some sort of counterbalance of a lighter and more personal vein. So, after several years of silence, Narrator comes to the fore again and, without committing himself to regular appearances, will do his best to narrate his little stories, at least from time to time.

"Theodor Herzl" Launched

The feel of a ship's deck underfoot is thrilling enough, even if one is not travelling. It is still more thrilling if it is a brand-new ship. But to tread the deck of a brand-new Israeli ship is a unique experience. This experience was offered to us recently when the "Theodor Herzl" docked in London Port, where she had arrived from Hamburg prior to her maiden voyage to Haifa. We were the guests of Shoham Maritime Services, who are the managing agents for the ZIM Israel Navigation Company, for whom the ship was built under the German reparations scheme.

The "Theodor Herzl" is different to any other ship. Her public rooms, which are at the disposal of all 550 passengers, are extremely comfortable and tastefully designed. They depict the local colour of the land of Israel in one way or another. The Herzl Room, serving as a writing and reading room, commemorates the spiritual founder of the Jewish State by a display of various documents on Herzl's life. The communal rooms—the main lounge called Altneuland Hall and the Miriam Hall among others—are adorned with beautiful pictures and sculptures, and the "Gallery" is the first floating art exhibition of its kind.

It is not surprising that the more expensive cabins are the *dernier crie* of luxury. However, the less expensive lower-deck cabins are also well and adequately designed. They are not the tiny, stuffy cabins so often associated with cheaper travel. Whatever their capacity may be, each cabin provides sufficient space and one does not get a sense of claustrophobia. There is also a synagogue in the ship.

A sister ship of the "Theodor Herzl", the "Jerusalem", has just been launched in Hamburg, also constructed for the Israel merchant marine under the reparations pact.

Peter Zadek's Production of "The Balcony"

Peter Zadek, whose production of Genet's "The Balcony" (Arts Theatre Club) recently made the headlines, is no stranger to these columns. As a translator, and in various other ways, he has during the last few years been a free-lance collaborator in the preparation of this journal.

The fact that, shortly after the first night of his production, he was given an opportunity of publishing a remarkable article on Jean Genet in *The New Statesman and Nation*, indicates how very much he has come into the limelight, partly as the result of a backstage row which resulted in the banning of Genet from attendance at the performances of his own play.

Not only general approval, but also controversy, may be an important step towards final recognition and success in the world of the arts.

Peter Zadek has already started directing another French *avant-garde* play, to open at the Cambridge Arts Theatre on June 3rd. It is "Amédée" by Eugene Ionesco (author of "The Bald Prima-donna" and "The Chairs") and will have décors by Feliks Topolski.

All those who know this gifted and undauntedly optimistic member of a generation whose recognition has long become due, hope that Peter Zadek's rôle in the theatrical world will be one of success and yet greater success.

Ambitious Opera Production

Another young producer who is also one of our community, will demonstrate his mettle in the course of the next few days. Peter Foster, of the Revival Opera Company, is the producer and designer (and incidentally is responsible for the English translation) of François Halévy's "La Juive". This opera will be presented by the Revival Opera Company at the Rudolf Steiner Theatre from 12th to 15th June inclusive.

It is the Company's ambition to revive the more spectacular stage works of the 19th century, which

have dropped from the repertoire partly because of their scale and partly because Hitler burnt many scores in Central Europe. (The scores for the opera had to be specially reprinted in Paris last October, through the kind intercession of the French Embassy.) The choice of Halévy's melodious and dramatic work is a particularly happy one, especially as it offers opportunities not only for soloists but also for chorus team work. The principal parts will be taken by professionals, and the chorus and ballet are composed of advanced students and talented amateurs.

The writer had the pleasure of attending a rehearsal of the production. It was great fun and there was all the enthusiasm of "Let's Make an Opera". He was particularly impressed by the unobtrusive way in which Peter Foster guided the artistes who seemed to consider him both a friend and an authority.

We can definitely look forward to an enjoyable performance of high standard, and we have every reason to hope that the tremendous labours involved in this ambitious venture will be adequately rewarded.

NARRATOR.

A WELL-DESERVED TRIBUTE

Festschrift for Karl Marx

To mark the 60th birthday of Karl Marx, editor of the "Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland", an impressive Festschrift has been edited by three of his collaborators, Marcel W. Gärtner, Dr. Hans Lamm and Dr. E. G. Lowenthal.

More than forty personalities who, in one way or another, are connected with Karl Marx's efforts, have contributed to the publication, and both the selection of authors and the level of their articles makes this 118-page volume a well-deserved tribute.

In the personal manner which always distinguishes his written and spoken word, Bundespräsident Heuss again reveals his deep insight into the complexity of the Jewish position. Both he and Bundeskanzler Adenauer evaluate Marx's work in post-war Germany.

Among the other public figures in Germany who have contributed are Fritz Steinhoff and Karl Arnold, the present and former Minister-Presidents of North Rhine-Westphalia; Dr. Walther Hensel, Oberstadtdirektor, Düsseldorf; Federal Minister Ernst Lemmer and Erich Ollenhauer, Chairman of the German Social Democratic Party.

Dr. Franz W. Engel, now a lawyer in Düsseldorf, recalls the war years in London when he worked in a Hampstead "factory" for mops, of which Karl Marx was the foreman.

The position of the Jews from Germany in Israel is vividly described by Dr. Herbert Freeden, who stresses that restitution and compensation payments have proved most essential for many immigrants in solving their accommodation problems, by enabling them to acquire flats. The corresponding article dealing with the former German Jews in Great Britain is written by Dr. Werner Rosenstock.

The entire change in the German-Jewish position is reflected in an article by Dr. Berthold Simonsohn, who states that, today, at least one-third of the Jews in Germany are of East European origin.

Some basic spiritual problems of modern Jewry are dealt with in an article by Robert Weltsch under the heading "The Jewish Press Thirty Years Ago." The striking difference between the Jewish press in Germany before 1933 and at present is illustrated by Dr. Alfred Wiener, who recalls that, before 1933, the most widely read Jewish paper, the "Israelitische Familienblatt", was almost exclusively read by Jews, whereas Karl Marx's "Allgemeine" is also widely read in non-Jewish circles. Dr. Bruno Weil brings interesting material to light on the Dreyfus Affair.

It is impossible to enumerate all the articles and their authors, let alone the contents of the beautifully made up Festschrift, which bears the well-chosen title "Vom Schicksal gepregt". However, these few examples given at random will indicate that the editors have succeeded in bringing together a wide selection of subjects and viewpoints, and their efforts have resulted in a publication which, apart from being a tribute on a special happy occasion, is of value as a spectrum of our time.

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WIENER LIBRARY

New Temporary Offices

The Wiener Library has moved from its old home at 19 Manchester Square, W.1. After a prolonged search, temporary offices have been found at 18 Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.2, where the Library is already established.

Dr. Wiener hopes that a permanent home will be secured by the time the present six months' tenancy has expired. In an interview with us, he referred to the great encouragement and support he had received during the trying months of uncertainty. A letter in "The Times" signed by Jewish leaders and distinguished historians had been a considerable help. He also felt indebted to the many friends who had written to *The Jewish Chronicle* and the *Jewish Observer*. Whilst grateful for their tokens of goodwill, Dr. Wiener hoped that indulgence would be shown if, as seemed inevitable, delays occurred in the Library's services during the present period of transition.

CENTENARY OF FEUCHTWANGER BANK

The private banking firm of J. L. Feuchtwanger, Munich, would now be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation had it not, as a Jewish enterprise, been forced into liquidation in 1936.

The firm was established by the brothers Jacob Loew and Moritz Feuchtwanger. In the course of its 79 years of existence, it played an important part in German economic life, especially in the financing of chemical, milling and brick and tile enterprises in Bavaria. The expansion of the Tivoli-Kunstmuehle and the Heufeld chemical factory (today known as the Sued-Chemie A.G.) was mainly due to the firm's efforts. After the First World War, one of the firm's partners was also a member of the Board of the Munich Stock Exchange.

Jacob Loew Feuchtwanger was succeeded by his sons, Angelo and Lothar. Their sons, Theodor and Jacob Loew, joined as partners in 1920. Jacob Loew now lives in London, where he takes

OBITUARY

Dr. Joseph Heller

Dr. Joseph Heller, whose death at the age of 69 occurred recently in London, was born in Lithuania but lived in Germany until his arrival in this country. He was a graduate of Heidelberg University and, between the two wars, was co-editor of the German-language Jewish encyclopaedia published in Berlin. He took a leading part in the educational work of the Zionist Federation in this country. Dr. Heller was also a lecturer in the Hebrew Department of University College, London from 1949 to 1953, and was on the teaching staff of the Jewish Theological College of the Association of Synagogues in Great Britain, which was opened last October.

Mr. Alexander Wetzlar

Mr. Alexander Wetzlar died suddenly at the age of 64 on Thursday, May 16, at his desk at Chatsworth Manufacturing Co. Ltd. He came to this country from Munich in April, 1939, as a refugee from Nazi oppression. In Munich he was a partner in the well-known and distinguished silversmith firm, M. T. Wetzlar, established by his father in 1875.

In the First World War he fought with the German forces as an officer. In the Second World War he joined the Royal Pioneer Corps in 1940, and was promoted sergeant when he sailed with the invasion army to fight Hitler.

Mr. Wetzlar's untimely death comes as a great shock to his family and his friends. He was loved by all for his great kindness and straightforward nature, and admired for his thorough knowledge of all spheres of life.

an active part in the work of the AJR and other Jewish organisations.

Their brothers, Ernst and Dr. Leo Feuchtwanger, were for many years managers of the firm. The latter is one of the founders of I. L. Feuchtwanger Bank Ltd., in Israel, to which country he emigrated.

Letter to the Editor

THE LATE MR. JAMES A. DE ROTHSCHILD

Sir,

We wish to pay homage to the memory of the late Mr. James A. de Rothschild. In the troublesome days of 1939, through his kindness and generosity a country home was equipped on his estate in Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire, which received all the boys as well as the warden and family of the Flersheim-Sichel Stiftung in Frankfurt a/M—at that time the overcrowded refuge of many orphaned and needy children. At Waddesdon the children were given an excellent home and education, generously financed by Mr. de Rothschild, although it was never given publicity.

He took a great personal interest in every one of the children and, right up to his death, he followed their careers and eagerly received news, through the warden's widow, of her former charges, all of whom are now firmly rooted in Israel, the United States and England.

Mr. James de Rothschild's death is the heartfelt personal loss of a guardian in the finest meaning of the word. A guardian who will be remembered with affection and gratitude by every member of that community and their children.

On behalf of the many who were given a refuge and home at "The Cedars".

Mr. Hugo Rosenstock

The sudden death at the age of 61 of Mr. Hugo Rosenstock, of 4 Brunswick St. E., Hove, is announced with regret. Mr. Rosenstock took an active interest in the efforts of the AJR, of which he was a member since its foundation. Whilst still in London, he was also a member of the Board. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his widow and to his family. He will be remembered with affection and gratitude by all those who knew him.

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GERMAN JEWS IN BRITISH MUSIC—(continued from page 6)

who fostered a love of music in England. Sir Edgar Speyer, the banker, enabled Henry Wood (by covering the never-changing deficit) to turn the "Proms" into the national institution they eventually became, and his namesake Edward, son of Wilhelm Speyer, the Lieder composer and organiser of the Mozart Foundation at Frankfurt-on-Main, once ranked high among British concert promoters.

Especially in the provinces these men found fertile ground. In Manchester, for example, they were responsible for the coming of Charles Hallé; in fact, says Mr. Neville Cardus, the city "received the foundations of its music from German Jews," and in Bradford they stood out among those who founded the Festival Choral Society, e.g., Otto Goldschmidt's brother Emil, also Martin Hertz, a noted amateur, who in 1849 conducted the first performance there of Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

Most of these musicians were indifferent Jews, and not a few, e.g., Benedict and Goldschmidt, were baptised. But others were confirmed Jews and possessed of Hebrew learning. They brought the treasures of liturgical music, some of which they composed themselves, and there can be few synagogues in Britain that did not, at one time or another, engage a chazan from Germany. Some names are still more or less distinctly remembered—Arthur Friedländer, choirmaster of the Bayswater Synagogue; at the Hambro the Revs. S. Landeshut and S. M. Gollancz, a native of Posen, father of Sir Israel and Sir Herman and grandfather of Victor, the publisher.

But the most significant among them, whose writ ran far across the seas, was Israel Lazarus Mombach (1813-1880), from Pfungstadt, the Hesse village, at whose Orthodox Jewish boarding-school

Dr. Weizmann once taught. He came to England in 1828 as a boy, through the good offices of the Rev. Enoch Eliasson, formerly of Darmstadt, then chazan at the Great Synagogue who, with his son, at one time Director of Concerts at the Lyceum Theatre, took care of the boy's education. As Choirmaster of the Great Synagogue since 1841 (until his death), Mombach composed nearly all the music sung in the "German" synagogues of the British Empire. His style became fashionable first (writes Mr. Israel Finstein, the Anglo-Jewish historian) "because it was in harmony with the mind of those who controlled the community and who, like the Queen and most public figures, respected most things German, and later because it became the style of the 'established' United Synagogue."

Today, 75 years after his death, opinions are somewhat divided on Mombach's merits. His "sacred musical compositions" which were published in 1881, are regarded by Dr. Israel Feldman as "the basis of the Anglo-Jewish tradition in synagogal music." At the same time so competent a critic as the Rev. G. Boyars, of the Hampstead Synagogue, thinks little of Mombach's "dry, tasteless melodies, based largely on old German folk-tunes" which, he says, "can no longer make the slightest appeal to the musical tastes of the present generation."

Perhaps this is a matter—the appreciation of art—where controversy is difficult to avoid. But whichever way judgment may turn, the achievement to which it refers is, indelibly, a part of history, and the labourers, in the Jewish field as much as on the wider stage, may rest assured that, in their day and generation, they wrought faithfully and well.

ACTIVITIES OF LONDON GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL

The London German Welfare Council (Deutscher Sozialausschuss), which cares for German residents in this country, has published its annual report for 1956. This reveals that during the year under review, more than 10,000 labour permits were issued to Germans, against 9,000 in 1955 and 7,600 in 1954. About half of the permits were for domestics. Describing the cultural and social activities of the Council, the report, inter alia, states that some domestics asked for transfer to other families, as they had not sufficient opportunity to speak English in their present posts.

OPENING OF FRENCH REFUGEE HOME

At the opening ceremony of the Home in Limours, reported elsewhere in this issue, the Council of Jews from Germany and the AJR were represented by Mr. A. S. Dresel and Dr. H. Reichmann.

THE HYPHEN

As most readers of AJR Information know The Hyphen is a group of young people of 21 and over. The Hyphen provides for cultural and social activities, such as lectures, visits to theatres, museums and art galleries, rambles etc. Anyone wishing to receive further information and programme, please write, enclosing s.a.e., to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Brigit Cassel, 20 West Heath Court, North End Road, London, N.W.11.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birth

Schubert.—A son, to Monica Schubert (née Kohsen) and Jossi Schubert, and a brother to Jonathan.—P.O.B. 610, Jerusalem.

Weddings

Nathan : Gordon.—The marriage of Gisela Nathan, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Nathan, 253 Woodcock Hill, Harrow, Middx, to Herman Gordon will take place on June 9, 1957, in Toronto, Canada, at Congregation Beth Yitshak, 119 Barse Street.

Leyser : Kester.—The marriage will take place on Sunday, June 30, 1957, at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue, Norrice Lea, London, at 2.30 p.m., between Stefanie Carol Leyser, only daughter of Mrs. Paula Leyser (née Sommerfeld) and the late Mr. Martin Leyser, of B.8. Calthorpe Mansions, Birmingham, 15 (formerly Chemnitz), and Simon Kester, son of Mrs. Ethel Katz and the late Mr. J. Katz, of London.

Announcement

Stein : Salzberger.—The date of the marriage between Dr. Sam Stein, M.D., and Miss Isca Rahel Salzberger, B.Com., has been postponed.

Silver Wedding

Mr. E. and Mrs. M. Rich (née Gottleu), of Bohun House, Hallow Road, Worcester, celebrated their Silver Wedding on May 4, 1957.

Death

Mrs. Else Alfermann-Pflaum.—We announce with great sorrow the death in May, 1957, of our dear mother, Mrs. Else Alfermann-Pflaum (née Baruch).—Margot Schweitzer (née Pflaum), London; Max O. Plowden, London; Hiram Peri, Jerusalem.

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WIDOW, good-looking, independent, wishes to become acquainted with well-situated gentleman in the early 60s. Object matrimony. Box 200.

YOUNG MAN, 26, farming in Kenya, of German-Jewish origin, would like to meet young girl of similar background with view to marriage. Please send photograph. Box 203.

MIDDLE-AGED widower (no children) young in heart and mind, wishes to meet cultured lady, view marriage. Replies to Box 204.

MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries by AJR

Mr. Alexander Engel, publisher, children, Anton, Marianne, Tjine, and Lisa.

Dr. Abrahamsohn, lawyer, and wife, Kate, and daughters, Ilse and Ruth.

Robert Heinemann, leather merchant, wife Bella, children Effi, Rita, and Hermann.

Miss Helene Meyer, formerly Lehrerin der Juedischen Maedchenschule Berlin, Oranienburgerstrasse.

Miss Fuld, formerly manageress of "Hauspflegeverein" der Juedischen Gemeinde, Berlin-Wilmersdorf.

Mr. Erwin Reichenbach, formerly proprietor of the Café Tempo, Breslau.

Mr. Irving Strauss, deceased, last address: 53 Brunswick Square, Hove, Sussex. Heirs are required to contact AJR.

Personal Enquiry

Dr. Ernst Blumenthal, wife Dorothea, and children Margit and Steffi, wanted by Anna Lampe, geb. Tschoepe, Berlin-Friedenau Odenwaldstr. 14.

Steffi Fischl, aged about 70, who came to this country from Vienna, is wanted by Miss Marg. Collin, 136 Cholmley Gardens, N.W.6.

Alfons Rosenberg

A REFUGEE HOME IN FRANCE

Every visitor to France will remember the chateaux which dot the countryside. Most of them are of red brick and stand in their own splendid grounds. On Sunday, May 5th, I had an invitation to exactly such a chateau in the beautiful valley of the Chevreuse, about 20 miles from Paris, next to the little town of Limours. But here its "Frenchness" ends. The house was crowded with guests and nearly all of them spoke German; in fact, a great Franco-German-Jewish ceremony was about to start. For on that Sunday the Home for refugees from Nazi oppression was officially opened. "Officially opened" sounds official, cold, stiff—a rather boring event. Yet that afternoon in Limours was steeped in an atmosphere which was anything but ceremonial and cold. There was something very special and very moving about it which I shall never forget.

First of all, the funds for the chateau itself and for the annex whose foundation-stone was laid on that opening day, came entirely from Western Germany. How did that happen? There is an organisation in Paris called Solidarité, very similar to the AJR in Britain. They knew that there were old, weak and lonely "refugiés" who needed a home in friendly surroundings, which would provide them with care and a pleasant atmosphere. They therefore approached two German politicians who, they were certain, would understand and would not rest until something was done: Professor Franz Boehm, C.D.U.-member of the Bundestag, and Professor Carlo Schmid (S.P.D.), Vice-President of the Federal Parliament, who listened, understood and set to work. The Bundestag unanimously approved the gift of one million DM for the Home of the refugees in France. German industry contributed another sum; some German radio stations appealed for more funds and many ordinary men and women came forward to prove their "solid-

arity." All this completely apart from any indemnification payments by the Federal Government. In such a way we learnt there was "ein anderes Deutschland", and it is not so "heimlich" any longer. It raised its voice at Limours for all to hear. The German Ambassador, Baron von Maltzahn, Professor Boehm and Carlo Schmid were the main speakers. The Ambassador spoke in measured words but, at the same time, with great feeling about the injustices, the crimes, the murders for which amends must be done, as far as this is humanly possible. There was really no need for Professor Boehm to speak at all, as his deeds spoke louder than words. But his simple unostentatious words left no heart untouched.

Carlo Schmid, although recovering from a severe illness, specially made the journey from Bonn to Paris to give his testimony—as such was his address. He said that every adult German, even if he had not lifted so much as his little finger in support of the Nazis, bore his share of guilt because he was still alive and had not made the supreme sacrifice to fight the unspeakable horrors perpetrated by the Nazis. "We don't deserve any gratitude for what we are doing—and more of this kind will be done", he said. "It is we who are grateful that we can build a house for our brethren."

The thanks of the Solidarité were expressed by its Chairman, Dr. F. Riesenfeld.

The dead were not forgotten while the living were taken care of. A French rabbi recited the prayer for all those who perished as victims of Nazi persecution. The memory of our dead mingled in our minds with a kind of joy that, eventually, evil had not triumphed; that a new seed of goodness, of brotherhood, of understanding is beginning to bear fruit and that one day—who knows—the dream of the brotherhood of men may, after all, come true.

AJR SOCIAL SERVICES

Employment Agency

More applicants, mostly elderly people for part-time positions, registered for work. We were able to place several of them.

Hungarian refugees also registered for work and we again appeal to those of our members and friends who are able to speak Hungarian to come forward and help in placing these newcomers. They are very anxious to earn their own living and to do without public assistance.

We still want work for:

Needlewomen, especially alterations, mending and finishing.

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We are receiving more applications from elderly people, who prefer rooms with full board and, in some cases, require a little care and attention.

Addresses for holidays in a Continental atmosphere are also required.

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Hospitality

A Jewish lawyer's family in Western Germany would like to accommodate their son, aged 17, as a paying guest with a Jewish family in England, preferably but not necessarily in London or any other large city, during the summer vacation from August 1st to September 4th. If a boy of approximately the same age would be in the family it would be particularly appreciated; however, this is not necessary either. The family need not have a kosher household. Replies should be sent to the AJR, Social Services Department, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3.

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