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AJR

Vol. XIV No. 4

April, 1959

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

THE NEW INGATHERING

The ninety thousand Rumanian Jews who came to Israel in the first few years after the State was established, today form a "Landsmannschaft" closely knitted together by family and friendship ties, which helps the latest immigration from Rumania to "feel at home". After an interval of six years, the Rumanian authorities have again permitted Jews to leave, and since that switch of policy in September, 1958, approximately 15,000 Rumanian Jews have reached Israel up to the end of February. 125,000 Jewish adults are said to have registered in Rumania for emigration. How many of them will succeed in reaching Israel depends on factors beyond our control, but Israel makes preparations for a hundred thousand new arrivals in the current year. This figure does not include immigration from other countries.

All Jews leave Rumania without money and are allowed to take 45 kg. of luggage each, containing only personal belongings and clothing. Immigrants are full of praise for the help extended to them on their transit by the Yugoslav and Greek authorities. Almost all of them travel on a *laissez-passer*, valid for a single trip and implying that the holder has lost his Rumanian nationality and cannot return.

The average cost of bringing an immigrant from Vienna, the first transit stop, to Haifa is about £400—and has to be defrayed by the Jewish Agency. The initial stages of absorption in Israel cost another £400 per person.

Housing of Rumanian Immigrants

It is true that immigration from 1948-1950 was of even larger dimensions, but then there was an ample reserve of unoccupied homes in the country, left behind by Arab refugees—approximately 50,000 housing units. Since then houses built for immigrants cost about £6,000 per unit. As the families arriving now are much smaller than those who came previously (3.3 persons per family in the average) and since the financial situation is more difficult, the houses now built are on a more modest scale. Seventy per cent of the apartments will be under 50 sq. m. in area; in addition many of the houses will have asbestos walls instead of cement. The total average cost will be £5,000 per housing unit.

Since it is impossible to accommodate all the immigrants, even by building these smaller housing units, it will be necessary to revert to *ma'abaroth*. To repair and improve the huts will cost approximately £500 each. This is far from being a permanent solution to the housing problem, all the more as there are still 20,000 families left in *ma'abaroth* from previous immigration waves, but those huts will provide temporary shelter for about 2,000 families.

The Draft Budget submitted to the Knesset for the financial year beginning April 1st, 1959, was based on an estimate of 40,000 new immigrants. On the basis of such an estimate the number of housing units required would be 10,000, assuming that some of the new arrivals would go to existing agricultural settlements and others be absorbed by their families. Most of these 10,000 housing units are already in the course of construction. By now, however, their number has proved inadequate as the expected immigration may reach a much higher figure. The total cost of transport, reception, and housing amounts to about £2,500 per person. It has been estimated that it will cost £130 million to absorb the first 50,000 immigrants

and an additional £25 million for every 10,000. On the basis of 100,000 immigrants this would mean £255 million, without taking into account the by far largest item—the cost of providing work for the new wage earners and absorbing them economically.

Settlement and Employment

A Rumanian family who were fortunate enough to be accommodated in a brand-new house made this simple statement: "We can't eat walls." Indeed, the real problem of integration starts only after housing has been found, and the main task is to provide productive employment. How then is it intended to settle these 34,000 immigrant families who are expected to arrive this year?

A large percentage of the newcomers are artisans—carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, and watchmakers—others are merchants and former civil servants; many are skilled workers. From the point of view of the immigrants' fitness, qualification, and willingness to work, the present influx shows many positive features. Rather problematical is the exceptionally high proportion—16 to 18 per cent—of professionals such as physicians, pharmacists, engineers, etc. This means that of the 34,000 breadwinners expected to arrive during the current year, about 6,000 will be professionals. Since saturation point has been reached in Israel's capacity to absorb members of the academic professions, it will hardly be possible to occupy all of them in their own calling, at least not immediately upon arrival.

Teachers will find jobs easily but less so musicians and artists. For doctors and technologists, tentative suggestions have been made. Not all villages, for instance, have their own doctor. It has therefore been proposed to assign an immigrant doctor to each of these places on a part-time basis, with the rest of the time filled in with farm work together with other members of the settlement. Considering that among the pre-State immigration from Germany in the 'thirties, most of the doctors, lawyers, etc., had then to do manual work, the suggestion seems to strike a happy compromise. Partial solutions on similar lines have also been mooted for engineers and other technologists. Some may be employed in industry on a part-time basis, with the rest of their time made up in other work.

It is proposed that about 10 per cent of the newcomers will be absorbed in existing agricultural settlements, i.e. 6 per cent in *moshavim* and 4 per cent in *kibbutzim*. Plans are being drawn up, not only fully to utilise the absorption possibilities of existing settlements, but also to establish new villages in the hill regions of Galilee and Adullam. However, settlement in the Negev is expensive because every cubic metre of water has to be pumped down the long way from the north, and settlement in the hills requires high investment because every inch of ground has to be cleared of stones, has to be terraced, and made arable.

There can be no doubt that a large section of the immigrants will this year be engaged on building their own houses, which will provide employment for 10,000. The Ministry of Labour will also have to enlarge its emergency or relief works schemes jointly with the Jewish National Fund—principally afforestation and land amelioration and preparation projects. Such seasonal work as orange and cotton picking, etc., also at various seasons, adds, thousands of work days.

Continued on page 2

BONN CONFERENCE ON COMPENSATION LAW

In Bonn the Compensation Committee of the Bundestag, from March 3rd to 6th, met representatives of the competent Ministries of the Federal Government and of the Laender; representatives of the persecutees' organisations were also present.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a number of objections to the implementation of the Federal Indemnification Law, and also suggestions for improvements. The Committee came to the conclusion that the Federal Indemnification Law, as it is at present implemented, leads to hardships which can only be removed by an amendment to the Law. As, however, such an amendment would prejudice the completion of the programme at the appointed time, no legislative steps were contemplated at the present juncture. Instead, possibilities of removing the hardships by means of administrative agreements between the Laender were discussed. After the next meeting of the Laender representatives, the Federal Ministry of Finance will report to the Compensation Committee of the Bundestag as to whether and which administrative agreements have been arrived at by the Laender.

Dr. Walter Schwarz, Berlin, and Dr. Ernst Katzenstein, Director of the Claims Conference, were amongst those who spoke during the discussion, suggesting improvements and criticising special hardships.

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

General Meeting

on Tuesday, April 14, at 7.45 p.m.
at 51 Belsize Square, N.W.3

(between Swiss Cottage and Belsize Park
Underground Stations)

AGENDA

I

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

(List of Candidates published on page 9)

II

Dr. Alfred Wiener
Director of The Wiener Library

Deutschland 1959

Jüngste Aussprachen mit
deutschen Lehrern, Studenten
und Schülern

No further invitations will be sent out
Non-members are not entitled to vote but will be
welcome as guests at the Meeting

The New Ingathering

Continued from page 1

The goal, naturally, is to find permanent and productive employment for the new arrivals, which means agricultural development and industrial expansion. Many immigrants have to be trained for this work. Though many of them are people with skilled vocations and trades, local conditions do not always make it possible for them to continue in these vocations. The Ministry of Labour has set up 16 centres for vocational training or specialisation. In these centres about 200 trades—from hotel service to electronics—are taught, and 12,000 new immigrants will be able to attend such courses.

The Human Factor

In contrast to the recent immigration from Poland, with its high degree of assimilation and large percentage of mixed marriages, the people from Rumanian have during all the years of Communism not lost their Jewishness. Some still wear their Peyoth, and the children of others surprise the immigration authorities with their fluent Hebrew. To the question of when they learned Hebrew they reply: "At night". Zionism, although outlawed in Rumania, has never lost its attraction. All immigrants have a certain reticence about their experiences under the Communist régime, and they are prejudiced against anything which smacks of communal living and collective economic forms. It is mainly for these reasons that very few Rumanian families expressed their desire to join kibbutzim on a permanent basis. As, on the other hand, hired labour is excluded in kibbutzim, this very important sector of Israel's economy will be unable to contribute much towards immigrant absorption.

Most of the newcomers are town people, and they find it very difficult to start work in rural development areas, although it is in such regions that small houses are provided and employment awaits them immediately upon arrival in afforestation and land reclamation projects of the Jewish National Fund. The wintry conditions in the hills do not make this any easier. But as farming proper, let alone industrial work, requires a long time before showing any return, the tree planting and land preparation works are the only immediate employment in such outlying spots. On the other hand, the people are given the feeling that the trees they plant and the land they reclaim will one day be part of their own farms.

Yet it would be unwise to underrate the difficulties: middle-aged lawyers and dentists, merchants and bookkeepers, though they may be good Jews and Zionists, do not always make the best advance guard in the wilderness; their wives have often professions of their own, such as dress-making and cosmetics, or are proficient in embroidery or making artificial flowers, etc. A higher degree of discrimination on the part of the settlement authorities has, therefore, been called for, and certain adjustments have already been made.

It usually takes three to four years for an *Oleh* (new immigrant) to become a *Vatik* (an old-timer). In the course of these years, problems have to be overcome apart from housing and job-finding, such as a complete switch-over from urban to rural life or, even in the case of those who have been absorbed in towns, from one culture to another, linguistically and psychologically. The children, of course, always acclimatise faster, and just this fact often makes it impossible for the parents to supervise and further the education of their children. Sixteen thousand new pupils are expected to join Israel's schools as a result of the new immigration. As for each additional fifty children, a new classroom must be built at the cost of £12,000, nearly £4,000,000 must be spent on new classrooms alone. At the same time 500 additional teachers will have to be found.

As far as one dares to forecast, the immigrants from Rumania seem to be more adaptable than the recent wave from Poland, because they are steeped in Jewishness, and will therefore take many of the unavoidable hardships and disappointments as part of the process of their final integration. It is for this reason that only very few of them are expected to regard Israel as a stepping-stone for emigration to the New World; the vast majority will make Israel their home.

COMPENSATION NEWS

BLESSIN ON COMPENSATION

The departmental head of the compensation and restitution section in the Bonn Bundesfinanzministerium, Ministerialrat Dr. Georg Blessin, has been invited by the Association of Democratic Lawyers from Germany to lecture on "Die Deutsche Wiedergutmachung, Rueckblick und Ausblick". Dr. Blessin is the author of the standard commentaries to the Bundesentschaedigungsgesetzen and to the Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetz. The influence of these works on the legislation and judicature has been tremendous, and will remain so in the future.

In practically every issue of this journal we have had to report on shadows of the past—events which unfortunately sometimes overshadow the laudable efforts and achievements of the Federal Government. In this connection, unpleasant events in the field of indemnification have also to be dealt with. It will therefore be of great importance to learn the views of a person of such authority as Ministerialrat Dr. Blessin. We strongly advise our readers not to miss the opportunity of attending this important lecture, which will be followed by a discussion. We refer to the advertisement on this page.

AUSTRIAN HILFSFONDS

The Management of the Assistance Fund for Emigrants from Austria wishes to point out that the period for claims under the Hilfsfonds having expired on June 10th, 1957, the Hilfsfonds is, in accordance with its statutes, not in a position to take belated claims into consideration.

REPARATIONS AGREEMENT "ESSENTIAL PILLAR"

Professor Hallstein, the former head of the West German Foreign Ministry, termed the reparations agreement with Israel as "an essential pillar of the Federal Government's policy", when he took the stand in the Bonn criminal court. Together with Ambassador Blankenhorn and Baron von Maltzan, he is charged with slandering and making false accusations against Dr. Strack of the Ministry of Economics. The latter was removed from his post as head of the Middle East Department after allegations that he had accepted bribes from Egyptian firms, and that he was against the reparations agreement with Israel.

Professor Hallstein told the court that the reparations agreement was "much opposed not only by the Nazis but also by members of the Government coalition and the Ministries, business circles with interests in the Middle East and, of course, by the Arab countries".

CLAIMANTS FROM WUERTEMBERG

A list has been received from the Israelitische Kultusvereinigung Wuerttemberg und Hohenzollern of approximately 100 persons who have deposited their Wills with various authorities in the Wuerttemberg district. The list is on view at the AJR offices, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, from Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 p.m.-6 p.m., and Fri., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Enquiries can also be dealt with in writing, in which case a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed.

IN PARLIAMENT

WAR CRIMINALS

In the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was asked by Mr. Lewis whether, in any peace treaty with Germany, he would seek to ensure that service in the German armed forces was forbidden to any person sentenced for crimes against peace, against humanity and because of war crimes or otherwise found guilty of offences by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg. In reply, Mr. Allan stated that he could not anticipate Her Majesty's Government's attitude on particular points of detail in any discussions leading to a German Peace Treaty.

HERR KRUPP

In reply to a question by Mr. du Cann as to what was the membership of the mixed Committee to be set up under the Bonn Settlement Convention to consider Herr Krupp's application for an extension of time to fulfil his remaining obligations to sell his interests, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs replied that it was one French, one American, one British, three German and a seventh member elected by the other six. The representatives had not yet been appointed. The Secretary of State was asked to give the House an assurance that everything possible was being done to bring this unsatisfactory matter to a conclusion. The passage of time in no way lessened the offences of the Krupps' interests against the

people of Europe. Furthermore, had not those same interests some influence on the present unemployment in this country? Herr Krupp had made a recent statement on this subject.

Mr. J. Griffiths asked the Minister to bear in mind that in two world wars, in which successive generations in this country had paid very dearly, the Krupps' family name had occurred and the family had had a great deal of responsibility for those wars, and we did not want to give Herr Krupp any favours.

NAZISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was asked by Mr. Lewis whether he was aware of a resurgence of Nazism and anti-Semitism in Western Germany and whether, in any peace treaty with Germany, he would insist that action be taken by Germany to prevent the rise of Nazism in that country. He was also asked what evidence he had concerning the re-emergence of Nazism and anti-Semitism in Western Germany; and what action he was taking in consequence of this country's rights in the matter under the Potsdam agreements.

Mr. Allan stated that although there had been some isolated cases of anti-Semitism, there was no evidence of the resurgence of Nazism. These cases had been promptly dealt with by the West German authorities and condemned strongly in the Bundestag and in all responsible circles in Western Germany. It was a matter for the Federal German Government.

ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS
FROM GERMANY

We invite you to a lecture by

Ministerialrat Dr. Georg Blessin (Bonn)

on

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WIEDERGUTMACHUNG,
RUECKBLICK UND AUSBLICK"

on

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th, at 8 p.m.

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GOERING'S ESTATE

It is probable that a Berlin court of law will confiscate the still existing bank accounts, shares, and real estate of former prominent Nazis, in favour of restitution and indemnification. In the course of this action a decision will be taken with regard to the property of Hermann Goering, which amounts to about one million DM. A communication was sent to Goering's widow, Frau Emmy Goering, and her daughter Edda. The proceedings will refer to documents, hitherto unknown, which may reveal new facts concerning Goering's activities. Among them are the original documents containing Hitler's order of April 23rd, 1945, to deprive Goering of all his posts, to expel him from the Party, and to put him before a firing squad.

DESECRATION INCIDENTS

Cemetery desecration incidents are becoming frequent in the Federal Republic. Anti-Semitic slogans and swastikas were scrawled on the walls of the Jewish cemetery at Amberg, Oberpfalz. Nazi slogans have in recent weeks been daubed on house fronts and walls in cities all over the Federal Republic and cemetery desecrations have also occurred in Freiburg and Essen. Some non-Jewish cemeteries have also been defiled.

CHARGES BY JEWISH DEPUTY

Social Democratic Deputy Jeanette Wolff has brought libel charges against two income tax officials, Kummel and Pascher, in Bonn. Frau Wolff accused the two men of slandering the memory of the dead and insulting Jewish women residing in Germany.

ACTION AGAINST VON LEERS

The German Government has instructed its Embassy in Cairo to withdraw and cancel the German passport of Dr. Johannes von Leers, the former Nazi propagandist, who is continuing his anti-Semitic activities under the auspices of the Egyptian Government in Cairo. The German Government has criticised the Cairo Embassy for issuing a new passport to von Leers early last year, without previously informing and consulting the German Foreign Office in Bonn.

The Government plans to issue instructions to all its diplomatic representatives abroad to investigate whether any German subjects who have been domiciled abroad since the last war are active in promoting and propagating Nazi ideologies.

BLOOD MONEY FINE FOR CRIMINAL JUDGE

Dr. Wolfgang Muenstermann, former presiding judge of the National Socialist Special Court in Poznan and Berlin, and assistant judge of the People's Court, has been fined DM 50,000 in Berlin for effectively furthering and supporting the Nazi terror régime. Muenstermann participated in fifty trials, all culminating in death sentences. Since May 1957 he has received a pension of DM 950 per month, and this will continue. He belongs to the category of so-called "131s". The highest pension which victims of the terror régime—some of them excluded from their profession for twenty-five years—can receive under the Federal Indemnification Law is DM 600 per month.

EX-GAULEITER KOCH SENTENCED

Erich Koch, ex-Gauleiter of Prussia and parts of Poland and Russia, has been sentenced to death by a Warsaw law court. He was found guilty of exterminating Poles and Jews, and of crimes against humanity.

CONCENTRATION CAMP SEQUELS

The Sachsenhausen Committee, which sent observers to the Bonn law court during the proceedings against Schubert and Sorge, has accused thirteen former S.S. leaders and concentration camp guards of crimes committed against prisoners. Among them are the former camp doctor, Baumkoetter, whose case is already being investigated by a law court in Muenster, and another doctor, Emil Christian Schmitz, as well as the former camp official Friedrich Meyerhoff.

The former S.S. officers Sorge and Schubert, who were sentenced to penal servitude for life by the Bonn law court, have instructed their counsel to appeal against the sentence.

The Public Prosecutor in Nuremberg has ordered the arrest of August Kolb, a former guard of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, on charges of having murdered an 18-year-old Polish girl who was torn to pieces by dogs, and of having participated in the killing of at least 244 prisoners.

In 1954 Kolb was sentenced to four years three months hard labour for other crimes in the concentration camp. He has so far denied all charges against him. Two hundred and fifty witnesses have been called to provide evidence in this case.

Friedrich Simon, a police official, has been arrested in Gelsenkirchen. He has been charged with participating in the shooting of twenty concentration camp prisoners in Gleiwitz in 1945. Simon was immediately suspended from his service with the police in Gelsenkirchen.

TRIAL OF MACEDONIAN COMMANDANT

The trial, by a special military court, of Dr. Max Merten, a captain in the army and war-time Commandant of the Macedonia district, has begun in Athens. He is accused of the deportation, under horrifying circumstances, and the murder of thousands of Jews from Salonika and a large number of Greeks, and of extorting money from his victims under false pretences. The long indictment of the two Public Prosecutors stated, *inter alia*, that Merten's treatment of Jews had brought to light "the criminal personality, the devilish mind and the scheming character of the accused". So far a score of Jewish and non-Jewish witnesses have been heard, among them Mr. Asher Moissis, the former Israeli Consul-General in Athens.

AFTERMATH OF NOVEMBER POGROM

The former Major of the fire brigade in Mulheim/Ruhr, Alfred Freter, who was acquitted by the Dusseldorf County Court of the charge of having ordered the burning down of the local synagogue in November, 1938, has been arrested following an appeal by the State Attorney against the finding of the County Court.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Children's Education

The consecration ceremony of the new building of the J.F.S. Secondary School in Camden Town was attended by 600 people, including representatives of all the Jewish communal organisations in London, leaders of the London County Council and of the Ministry of Education.

Mr. S. S. Levin, Chairman of the School Governors, referred to a meeting held in 1944, when the Education Act was introduced, when Mr. R. A. Butler had stated that the Government was determined to preserve the partnership of education between the State and religious institutions and to preserve the variety and individuality of educational establishments. Mr. Butler had then said that he felt British Jewry would find it possible to carry on special training in their schools. Mr. Levin said he did not think the Jewish community had responded to this challenge very well. In the country as a whole, about one in every four or five children attended voluntary aided schools. In the London Jewish community, about one in every eight or nine children attended Jewish day schools. It was in the interest of the survival of Judaism that they should take steps to remedy this balance.

Increase in Sephardi Community

At a meeting of the Elders of the Congregation of the Sephardi community, Mr. H. M. Cansino, the Parnas Presidente, described the growth in numbers of the Sephardi community of London as "the most significant factor" in the life of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation over the last decade. The community had been increased by about two thousand newcomers from India, Persia and Egypt.

Protest Against Nazis in Office

The Jewish Board of Deputies has demanded the speedy removal from influential public positions of Germans who carried out the Nazi policy. A resolution was unanimously adopted stating that "the Board recognises the efforts made to combat the poison of anti-Semitism by the Federal and Laender Governments, supported by the leaders of the Opposition and the heads of many of the municipalities and a section of the population and press, and welcomes the rapid progress of federal legislation intended to strengthen the law against racial and religious incitement".

The Board, however, added that it was its belief that "such legislation can be effective only if speedy action is taken to remove from positions of influence in public life, particularly in the administration and judiciary", those who carried out the policy of the Nazi Government, and to ensure that no further appointments of such people are made.

Appointment of Jewish Physicist

The East End-born Jewish physicist, Dr. Nyman Levin, has been appointed by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority as Director of its Weapons Group, in succession to Sir William Penney.

Obituary

Dr. Jacob Snowman, Medical Officer and Instructor to the Initiation Society for 27 years, recently died in his 88th year. Dr. Snowman held many important posts including a number of honorary positions for East London organisations. His reputation as a surgeon-mohel was extremely high, and not only inside the Jewish community. He was called upon for the circumcision of the babies of the Royal Family, and performed the operation on Prince Charles. He was the author of a number of books, and contributed to medical journals.

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THREE NOVELS AND THEIR DIFFERENT WORLDS

The three novels under review deal with three very different Jewish worlds. Having read them, one is almost tempted to see a deeper connection between their value as novels and the subject matter which their authors have chosen for treatment. Brian Glanville, a young writer of Irish-Jewish descent, in his novel "The Bankrupts"* depicts the outwardly comfortable, inwardly desolate, wasteland of a certain suburb in North-West London, whose prosperous, largely Jewish, inhabitants are the spiritual and moral bankrupts of the novel's title. From this narrow world, with its worship of money and success, with its almost tribal and wholly sentimental family loyalties, a young Jewish girl, Rosemary Frieman, tries to escape. I could not help feeling that her struggle for freedom would be more convincing and significant if her moral and mental equipment were different from and superior to that of her family environment. But her revolt remains as emotional, unthinking and inarticulate as the stubborn resistance with which her parents and relatives oppose her.

This is by no means the only weakness of the book. As a social study, which it is meant to be, it seldom or never rises above the level of superficial, gossip reportage. One is left with the impression that it introduces us to a number of new-rich people, of "parvenus" who also happen to be Jewish. Their Jewishness is accentuated—and far too often overdrawn—on the surface only; and for this very reason, for this lack of subtlety in the author's writing, they finally give an impression exactly opposite to that intended: they become, as it were, indistinguishable from a well-known wider layer of society whose newly acquired riches make them worship false gods. They differ little or not at all from the Joneses next door, whose false values they share. Certainly, their outward appearances, manner, habits and ways of speech are of a different, more flamboyant nature, but their outlook on life, their attitude towards it, are fundamentally the same as that of a suburban society of very recent wealth.

Even among the younger, more educated people, the discussions of Jewish problems remain confined to small talk; their thinking and acting on their situation as Jews is not informed by much more than a set of "idées reçues". All, whether young, middle-aged or old, are stock characters involved in a conventional, often implausible, plot. The reader who approaches this novel with the expectation that a novel should be a work of imaginative writing will be sadly disappointed. He can enjoy it as a piece of sometimes smartly, sometimes clumsily, contrived entertainment. As a critic one could and would judge it more leniently if it were the author's first novel. But it is his fourth.

Anglo-Jewish Aristocracy

The distinguished novelist, C. P. Snow, is currently occupied in writing a series of novels, "Strangers and Brothers", in which he tries to give an over-all picture of British life and society in the past decades and the present time. Seven volumes of this "roman fleuve" have so far appeared. The last, but not the final, one is "The Conscience of the Rich."‡ In it, we are introduced to a Jewish milieu far removed from that of Glanville's (whom, by the way, C. P. Snow mentioned in a recent article in the *News Chronicle* as one of the promising young writers of social-realistic novels). But, as he himself is an experienced and accomplished writer, in "The Conscience of the Rich" he describes the world of Anglo-Jewish aristocracy with a far surer and more delicate touch, also with a truer insight than Glanville has for his "coming-up" Jewish middle-class people. The March family, which has settled in this country in the 18th century and around whose changing destinies in the pre-war years the story evolves, belongs to a family of former City merchant bankers. Its roots are, for all their Jewish complexities, firmly and solidly embedded in British

* Secker and Warburg, 16s.

‡ Macmillan, 15s.

upper-class life, its institutions and traditions. The main theme of the novel is, however, that of the slow awakening of its hero's social conscience. It leads Charles March into a very determined, although very respectful and considerate, revolt against his father and the traditional values which old Leonard March tries to impose on his son. After a brilliant and successful start as a young barrister, he gives up his rewarding career, becomes a humble doctor, and marries a girl of advanced social opinions of whom his father strongly disapproves. The struggle between the two generations is sharpened by the underlying affinity between father and son and the almost passionate love they feel for each other.

Both of them, as well as their friends and relatives, are far more closely assimilated or, to use the fashionable term, integrated into their Gentile environment than are the Friemans in Glanville's novel. And yet, in spite of even because of that, they appear far more distinctly, genuinely Jewish. This is, I believe, mainly due to Snow's art of characterisation as it unfolds itself in the "Gestalt" of old Leonard March. Here we have the portrait—finely, strongly and humorously drawn—of an ageing man who is convincingly both an English gentleman and a Jewish patriarch. He, not his son, is the real hero of the novel, and he comes so powerfully to life that in comparison with him all the other characters remain somewhat shadowy. One would perhaps notice it less if the author had not tried so hard to make up for it by hinting at hidden subtleties in what is, after all, the expected and true-to-type behaviour of his more fictitious personages. Another, more serious weakness of the novel, is that its central conflict, a political indiscretion of Charles's wife which leads to the final break between father and son, is nothing more than a "storm in a teacup", curiously remote from the desperately serious issues which were at stake in the 'thirties.

Refugees in the U.S.A.

Adriaan van der Veen is a young Dutch writer. His novel "The Intruder"§, which was awarded a prize by the Society for Netherlands Literature, is set in New York where its hero, a young non-Jewish intellectual, lives as an exile from his native Holland during the closing years of the war. He tells his story in the first person. He falls in love with a Jewish girl whose family has also escaped from Holland. Through his love and through the girl's mother he is gradually, almost reluctantly, brought to make the Jewish cause his own. In the course of his inner transformation he proceeds from self-chosen aloofness to social responsibility, until finally he identifies himself wholeheartedly and passionately with the tragic fate of persecuted, outcast Jewry. For their sake, he severs his ties with his best and only friends, an American farmer and his wife who are anti-Semites. He also turns away from his more liberal-minded and progressive acquaintances, a group of young American intellectuals, when they, too, reveal themselves not to be free from unconscious anti-Jewish prejudices. When in the end he is arrested in a police raid because a harmless meeting of Central-European Jewish refugees in which he participated was denounced to the authorities by malicious neighbours as a suspect gathering of conspirators, he declares himself before the investigating officer as a Jew: he thus symbolically accomplishes the act of his complete identification with the Jews.

Throughout the novel Adriaan van der Veen, through the mouth of his hero, raises his voice in a sincere, deeply-felt, well-reasoned and therefore all the more poignant appeal against anti-Semitism and its shameful, hideous consequences. His novel contains an eternal but in our time especially relevant message, for which we are deeply grateful to him. It will soon be heard in Germany, too, as a German translation is in preparation.

And yet, if this noble book seems not always quite satisfying to me as a novel, i.e. as a work

§ Abelard and Schumann, 12s. 6d.

of art, it is perhaps because its narrative qualities are interwoven with and overlaid by too many, too ponderous strands of self-analysis. From these (but also perhaps from a hardly adequate translation into American English) it would appear as though the hero's thoughts and actions were motivated only by private guilt feelings. These are so much stressed and insisted upon that the whole book sometimes seems to fall into the pattern of too many other contemporary novels, exploring purely private worlds with too much purely intellectual equipment. But the more one reads on, the more movingly apparent it becomes that it was written from the heart, from the very simple, very genuine impulses of human goodness and kindness.

A RECORD OF GNESEN

Following closely upon his earlier monograph on "Czarnikau" (reviewed in *AJR Information*, April, 1958), Rabbi Posner has just released a second, more voluminous, study (88 pages) on Gnesen.* The larger size of the community (1,783 members at its peak by the middle of the 19th century) justifies the more extensive treatment accorded. At the same time it is this reviewer's pleasure to confirm that the presentation of the second study is much superior to that of the first one. The reproductions of the various portraits included (among them the late Dr. A. A. Sulke and the late Rabbi Dr. M. Jacobson, father of Dr. Jacob Jacobson) are clear and impressive.

While the historic importance of Gnesen is intimately linked to the spread of Christianity among the Slavs, and though Jewish individuals are known to have resided in Gnesen as early as the 14th century, the local Jewish community grew and faded in importance with the tides of Prussian rule in the 19th and 20th centuries respectively. Predominantly conservative in Jewish religious observance, the Jews of Gnesen were stout supporters of the German linguistic minority and enthusiastic soldiers in the 19th-century wars of unification, as well as in World War I.

This reviewer learned only from Dr. Posner's narrative that quite a few of his personal good friends were descended from Gnesen families, among them such well-known personalities as Dr. Alfred Hirschberg, former executive of the "C.V." in Berlin, now Sao Paulo; Dr. Richard Honig, Professor Emeritus of Law in Göttingen, now a resident of Flushing, N.Y., and Dr. Jacob Jacobson, already mentioned above, late director of the Gesamtarchiv der Deutschen Juden in Berlin, now living in Worcester, U.K.

A literary footnote to Rabbi Posner's factual sketch may be in order: there are two beautiful passages referring to Gnesen in Heinrich Heine's works, vide *Ueber Polen* and *Aus den Memoiren des Herrn von Schnabelewopski*. Whoever cares to get the feel of the racial, linguistic and religious atmosphere of this disputed borderland, ought to consult Heine.

The full merits of Rabbi Posner's painstaking researches will become obvious once he succeeds in making his entire series gradually available in print. He deserves further encouragement and success in his labour of loving piety.

DR. H. G. REISSNER (New York).

* Rabbi Dr. A. B. Posner, *The Annals of the Community of Gnesen* (Gniezno) with a map and four pictures. Jerusalem, 1958.

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HANDEL AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

The bi-centenary of Handel's death, which falls on April 14th, invites some thought on the great composer's rather unique preoccupation with subjects from the Old Testament. The vast majority of his twenty oratorios is based on it, although the most famous of all, "Messiah", is one of the exceptions (but even this work contains many passages from the Prophets and from the Psalms).

External reasons, such as the financial difficulties in which his operatic undertakings involved him, may account to some extent for Handel's concentration on oratorio during the last twenty years of his life. Oratorio as an art form is as old as opera; both originated well over 100 years before Handel. But whereas in his operas Handel stands in the continuity of Italian tradition, he breaks new ground in his oratorios. Here, the choice of the English language was an innovation which, at the same time, established strong links with the choral traditions of English music. And it was also an English trend, namely the symbolical identification of the English people with the missionary task of Israel, which must have determined Handel's choice of subjects to a considerable degree. In addition, these subjects offered him ample scope for dramatic treatment. It must not be forgotten that Handel's oratorios are not Church music, as it were, sacred operas—some of them have been successfully staged (e.g., the recent performance of "Samson" at Covent Garden). With the exception of "Israel in Egypt", they centre round individual Biblical heroes and heroines, but nearly all of them also depict the people of Israel and their pagan adversaries, both represented and imaginatively contrasted in the great choruses in which Handel excels. In "Israel in Egypt", the focus is entirely on the people, and Handel has refrained from introducing even their leaders, Moses and Aaron.

Handel's first Biblical oratorio, "Esther", was based on Racine. The words of Haman's first aria will appear much more significant to our generation than to an eighteenth-century audience:

"Let Jewish blood dye every hand,
Nor age, nor sex I spare,
Raze, raze their temple to the ground,
And let their place no more be found."

In his book on "The Oratorios of Handel", Percy Young suggests that Handel "had more than a merely artistic sympathy towards this people and a strong humanitarianism may legitimately be felt to underlie the presentation of the plot". The

same author says of "Israel" that it "has as a foundation the tribulation of a race. Deliverance comes, but the thought of the agony remains. Thanksgiving therefore is heartfelt. The double chorus is employed . . . because it represents the vast assembly of the children of Israel and, secondly, of the whole of humanity".

Interesting is the reaction of Handel's Jewish contemporaries to these great musical representations of their history: it is known that London Jews flocked to the performances of "Judas Maccabaeus" and of subsequent oratorios, making no secret of their enthusiasm. Handel was well aware of this; referring to his "Theodora", he remarked: "The Jews will not come because it is a Christian story, and the ladies will not come because it is a virtuous one." In any case, Jewish attendance at these high society concerts throws a significant light on the degree of emancipation enjoyed by English Jews even before 1750.

Handel's oratorios are, of course, not Jewish music. But they do represent a great artist's vision of Biblical events. As such, they may well inspire and intensify our own conception of the Bible.

THREE FILMS

VEIT HARLAN FILM IN LONDON

A film directed by Veit Harlan is at present being shown at a London cinema. Harlan's name is inseparably associated with the notorious "Jud Sues" film, which played a decisive part in the efforts of the Nazi régime to persuade the German public that the extermination of the Jews was justified.

When Harlan's first post-war films were due to be shown in Germany wide sections of the German public protested violently against his come-back. Whilst his new film, "The Third Sex", was banned in Switzerland because of Harlan's record, and whilst the British Board of Film Censors also refused a certificate, the L.C.C. passed the film for showing in the London area.

Without wishing to assess undue importance to the matter, we want to make it clear that the performance of a Harlan film in this country has not remained unnoticed, especially amongst those whose nearest ones fell as victims of a policy for which the "Jud Sues" film helped to pave the way.

FEDERAL AWARD FOR ISRAELI FILM

The Federal Republic has given an award of 30,000 DM to the Israeli documentary, "Paradies und Feuerofen". The ninety-minute technical film on Israel will have its première this summer during the International Film Festival week in Berlin, and will then be distributed to 1,700 cinemas throughout the Federal Republic. President Heuss and Chancellor Adenauer, who saw the film at a private showing, were most enthusiastic about it.

YOUTH ALIYAH FILM

The Children and Youth Aliyah Committee for Great Britain presented a film on the work of Youth Aliyah in Israel to a gathering of representatives of the press in London, to mark the 25th anniversary of the movement on February 19th.

The film was produced by Lady Russell of Liverpool, with commentary by Lord Russell of Liverpool, who were both present at the showing of their film. It tells the story of the Youth Aliyah Movement, and is a comprehensive account of all the various types of settlement, children's village, day centre and special education projects which are provided within the framework of Youth Aliyah in Israel.

Dr. Israel Feldman, Joint Chairman of the Committee, introduced the film, at this first showing in this country, and outlined the work of the Movement.

Old Acquaintances

Home News:—Anton Walbrook left for Stuttgart, where he will appear in Chekhov's "Dieser Platanow" and "Dr. med. Praetorius" before going to New York in the autumn for a Broadway production.—Irene Prador has joined the radio programme "The Archers".—Michael Rittermann has gone on tour with "Expresso Bongo".—Luise Rainer announced she would next appear in "Johnny Belinda" in Israel.—Erna Pinner has finished her new book, "Born Alive", containing 120 of her own illustrations, to be published by Jonathan Cape here.—Rudolphe Cartier will produce Brecht's "Mother Courage", with Flora Robson, on TV here.—Robert Siodmak has started directing "The Rough and the Smooth" in Elstree, based on Robin Maugham's novel, with Nadja Tiller, of Germany, in the lead.—Dorothea and Frederic Gottfert have adapted Wolf Mankowitz's "Expresso Bongo" into German.

Obituary:—Eighty-one-year-old actress Lina Lossen, discovered by Alfred Kerr in München, has died in East Berlin; she was a member of Brahm's ensemble and later of the State Theatres in Berlin.—Karl Wilczynski, a song writer, died in Viernheim (Bergstrasse). His flat in Berlin was once the meeting place of young artists; he survived Hitler in France and Switzerland and published his memoirs under the title "Abenteuer wider Willen".—Rudolf Olden's widow has died in New York.—Therese Schnabel-Behr, 83-year-old widow of pianist Arthur Schnabel, has died in Lugano.—Ossip Dymow has died in New York at the age of 80. He was the author of "Nju" and "Bronx Express".—Erich Zeisl, the Viennese composer, died in Hollywood after having finished an opera, "Hiob", based on Joseph Roth's novel.

This and That:—Ruth York, née Landshoff, has published an excellent short story, "The Opening Night", in John Lehmann's *London Magazine*.—Arthur Koestler has denied a rumour that he will leave England to settle in Austria.

U.S.A.:—Oskar Homolka's stage version of the Japanese film "Rashomon" has made a tremendous success on Broadway.—Alfred Zeisler, former husband of Lien Deyers, has re-emigrated to Germany.—In Hollywood, Friedrich Porges, correspondent for Continental papers and former editor of Vienna's *Mein Film*, has received the Dimitri Tiomkin Press Award and \$1,000.—H. Crayon-Krehan has designed the set for "The Gay Felons", with German dancer Laya Raki in the cast.—Lotte Lenya and Ludwig Donath appeared in the German production of "Dreigroschenoper" at New York's City Hall.—Joseph Schildkraut's autobiography, "My Father and I", will soon be published in the U.S.A.—Lilli Palmer, currently co-starring in "Not for Me", will probably make her next appearance in "Mrs. Warren's Profession" in Germany.

Austria:—The City of Salzburg has sold the castle Leopoldskron, former home of Max Reinhardt, to an American foundation for two million Austrian schillings.—Margarethe Wallmann has produced Poulenc's "Gespraech der Karmeliterinnen" at Vienna's State Opera.—Helge Roswaenge appeared in Lehar's "Land des Laechelns" at Raimund Theater.—Professor Dr. E. Buschbeck, lector of Burgtheater, is 70 years old.

Germany:—Gottfried Reinhardt will direct Vicki Baum's "Menschen im Hotel" with O. W. Fischer, Heinz Rühmann, Michelle Morgan and Sonja Ziemann in Berlin. Curt Bernhardt, who came especially from Hollywood to direct the film, is ill.—Herbert Gruenbaum, who returned from Israel a few years ago, appeared in "Schwitzbad" at Fritz Wisten's East German Volksbuehne in Berlin.—Stefan Schnabel, son of pianist Arthur Schnabel, has appeared in Fabbri's "Prozess Jesu" in Munich.—Friedrich Hollaender is to open his own little theatre in Munich next season.—In Berlin, Kortner has successfully produced a four-hour performance of "Die Raebuer" with Curt Bois as Spiegelberg.—Carl Marx, brother of the late Jules Marx, hopes to build a "Scala" variety in Berlin's Keithstrasse.—Harald Kreutzberg is making a farewell tour of Germany.—Curt von Wolowski, who has returned from the States, translated Paddy Chayefsky's "Mitten in der Nacht" for German production.—Zarah Leander will make a come-back in films.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

HERMANN SCHWAB—AN OCTOGENARIAN

One of the most fascinating features in the history of Jewry's wandering through the world is the synthesis, or rather the symbiosis, between the ancient Jewish religious civilisation and the civilisations of the nations among whom our people live. Among such cultural centres in our history there are three which stand out. One had its seat in Babylon, the other in Spain and the third in Germany. These systems of cultural symbiosis are usually characterised by outstanding men who are its carriers. Some of these men merely live on the periphery of Judaism, whilst their main activities fall within the surrounding civilisation into which they were born; others remain loyal to traditional Judaism in all its details, both in religious doctrine and practical observance—and yet take a very active part in the cultural, social and economic life of the countries in which they live. Hermann Schwab, the noted German-Jewish author, journalist and social worker, who celebrates his eightieth birthday on April 7th, belongs to the latter type.

It is impossible to describe the rich and variegated life of Hermann Schwab, and the extraordinary synthesis of his personality, in a short article. It is surely a rare phenomenon, especially in our days, to find a man who was the founder of the well-known German news agency "Mitteldeutscher Nachrichtendienst", who acted as correspondent for such leading German newspapers as the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, the *Berliner Tageblatt*, the *Vossische Zeitung*, in addition to being a leading theatre critic, and who founded the first newspaper of the Agudath-Israel Movement in Germany, *Haderech*, who is the writer of a celebrated book on the historical and cultural development of the town of Halberstadt, in which he lived (a work which appeared in three editions of ten thousand copies each), and who at the same time wrote a

book of Jewish stories for children, "Kinderträume", which has appeared in German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Yiddish and English editions, the latter under the name of "Dreams of Childhood". He also wrote a moving book on the German poet Hille, "Auf das Grab Peter Hilles", and a biography of the Agudath leader Jacob Rosenheim. The explanation of this rare synthesis is the fact that Hermann Schwab is a typical German orthodox Jew, who has for 70 years been guided by the genius of Samson Raphael Hirsch, of whose prodigious literary activity he wrote only a few weeks ago, in a letter to an Anglo-Jewish journal: "I have always felt elevated through that multitude, looking from the height of Hirsch's visions into the greatness of his interpretation of Judaism."

Hermann Schwab was born on April 7th, 1879, in Frankfurt-on-Main. His father, Moses Loeb Schwab, was one of the first disciples of Samson Raphael Hirsch. It was he who took down Hirsch's Bible lectures in shorthand, and his notes formed the basis for Hirsch's famous Commentary on the Pentateuch. Moses L. Schwab also published a volume of German lyrical poems under the pseudonym of "M. Schwab". A drama of his, entitled "Abrabanel", appeared posthumously. It was from his father that Hermann Schwab inherited his literary gifts and interests.

Hermann Schwab started a commercial career in the copper works of Aron Hirsch & Son, in Halberstadt, a world-famous firm, the history of which he recently wrote at the request of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. But he soon gave up commerce to become an author and a journalist. One of his best-known books is "Aus der Schützenstrasse", which contains the memories of his childhood in the Frankfurt Kehillah and which recently appeared in London under the title "Memories of Frankfurt".

Among his many social activities was the foundation of the "Kriegswaisenfond" of the Agudath Israel, which cared mainly for Polish war orphans after the First World War.

In 1933 he was excluded from the "Reichsverband der Deutschen Presse" and emigrated to England at the beginning of 1934. In this country he continued his literary, social and religious activities. He was one of the founders of the Golders Green Beth Hamidrash, of which he is now Honorary Life President.

Among his published works since his arrival in England are: "A World in Ruins—History, Life and Work of German Jewry" (1946), "The History of Orthodox Jewry in Germany" (1950), "Jewish Rural Communities in Germany" (1957) and "1933—Ein Tagebuch", which was written in German and appeared in Zurich in 1953. Works still awaiting publication include: "The European Pogrom", based mainly on documents contained in The Wiener Library in London, and "The Life of Dinah Schwab", a moving biography of his life's companion, who died in London three years ago and who was a social worker and an extraordinary personality in her own right.

The outstanding features of Hermann Schwab's personality are his deeply religious character and his noble and gentle spirit. Both these character traits are clearly mirrored in his writings.

In spite of his advanced age and his frail health, which has confined him to his study for over ten years, Hermann Schwab still continues writing and working. At the moment he is busy on "Chachme Ashkenaz", a book containing short biographies of famous German-Jewish scholars.

The quiet and memory-laden study of Hermann Schwab in Golders Green is a living bridge between the past and the future of German Jewry. May this bridge continue to span time in the annals of our people, and may its architect remain an inspiration for many years to come.

Ad Meah Ve-Esrin Shanah!

DAYAN DR. I. GRUNFELD

NELLY WOLFFHEIM 80

Miss Nelly Wolffheim celebrated her 80th birthday on March 28th. She is an expert on kindergarten teaching and child psychology, and was head of a well-known kindergarten in Berlin. At the same time, she was a regular contributor on educational subjects to periodicals and daily papers and participated in the work of several organisations in her field. Her writings include a book on psychology in the nursery school (1930), which was translated into English, Spanish and Hebrew, and a study, "Children from Concentration Camps".

In 1933 Miss Wolffheim organised courses for Jewish kindergarten teachers, and succeeded in adapting her pupils to the manifold new problems of Jewish education which had arisen with the advent of Nazism.

After arriving in this country, Miss Wolffheim developed many personal contacts, both with her fellow-refugees and with British personalities. Some interesting details of her experiences have been revealed in her articles published last year in this journal. She is now a resident of the Otto Schiff House. Her energy has not diminished and she is still active in writing and research work.

All who know Miss Wolffheim join in wishing her many happy years to come.

EMIL MAURER 75

On April 11th Dr. Emil Maurer, the President of the Vienna Israelitische Kultusgemeinde, will be 75 years of age.

Dr. Maurer is a remarkable personality. From very humble beginnings as a craftsman, he worked his way up to become an advocate and a politician. As a leading member of the Vienna Social Democratic Party, he was once Mayor of a Vienna borough and gained a considerable reputation and popularity as counsel for the defence of members of the Republican Defence Association.

Although his sense of justice was recognised by friend and foe alike, he was not spared internment by the Dollfus Government. After Hitler's march into Austria, he was immediately arrested and spent one and half years in Dachau and Buchenwald. Fortunately he was released before the outbreak of war and found refuge in England, whence he returned to Vienna in 1946.

There he reopened his practice and, from 1948, he stood at the helm of the newly founded Jewish congregation of Vienna, to which he devoted all his energy and initiative. Since then the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde in Vienna and Dr. Maurer have become synonyms. Dr. Maurer can justly be considered one of the leading architects in the reconstruction of the Viennese Jewish community.

DR. WILHELM MICHAELI 70

On March 10th, Dr. Wilhelm Michaeli celebrated his 70th birthday in Sweden. Born in Schwiebus, in the province of Brandenburg, Dr. Michaeli was a lawyer and notary in Berlin until his emigration to Sweden in 1933. Since 1938, Dr. Michaeli's activities have been devoted to aiding Jewish fugitives. In 1945 he became Director of the Swedish emigration department of the American "Joint" and of HIAS, and in 1953 he took over the office of URO for Scandinavia. Amongst his publications, Dr. Michaeli's work on International Civil Law in Sweden stands out as the first and only one of its kind. A book on the Federal Law of Restitution, in Swedish, followed in 1957.

MARGUERITE MAISON 85

Mrs. Marguerite Maison (formerly Munich) celebrated her 85th birthday on March 24th. In spite of her great age she is still active as a painter, and an exhibition of her drawings and oil paintings was arranged only a few months ago at Pepe Leoni's restaurant in Soho. We sincerely wish Mrs. Maison, who is a resident of the Otto Schiff House, happiness and health for many years to come.

ERNST SIMON 60

As this issue was going to press it was learned that Professor Ernst Simon (Jerusalem) had recently celebrated his 60th birthday. Through his work as a scholar and educationist, Professor Simon has added lustre to our community. He has also rendered signal service to the Council of Jews from Germany and to the Leo Baeck Institute. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Ernst Simon and will publish a full appreciation in our next issue.

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EUGEN SPIRO'S 85th BIRTHDAY

The painter, Eugen Spiro, was born on April 18th, 1874, in Breslau, and now resides in the United States. In his long and eventful life he has retained his youthful spirit and an outstanding sensitivity, which unite his early lithographs of *Im Konzert* to the late portraits of *Einstein* in 1941 and of *Theodor Heuss* in 1954. It is a privilege to take the opportunity of his anniversary to voice one's appreciation.

Whilst some of his representations of women possess a stylish slickness and those of influential males tend to replace depth by bravura, his best works, such as the *Einstein*, and his numerous and arresting self-portraits, convince by their penetrating and sustained insight, and testify to his consistent visual and psychological development.

Indeed, Spiro will be mostly remembered as a painter of portraits, although we also owe to him distinguished paintings of landscapes, in which the individual touch, the "portrait" element, abounds. Ranging from impressionism to what is loosely called post-impressionism, Spiro is naturally unconcerned with, and untouched by, the contemporary schools of action painting and tachism, at present so much in vogue in the United States. But styles change, and when realism as a stylistic medium is rediscovered, the appreciation of the force and integrity of the best of Spiro's work will gain in scope and momentum.

Spiro is a European, indeed an international, figure. The impact of the American scene on him seems slight. His views of New York are reminiscent of Paris in spite of the sky-scrapers, and his landscapes evoke the world of Cézanne, without copying it. We, his fellow ex-refugees, may ask ourselves whether there is a Jewish element in Spiro's art? This writer's answer is unhesitatingly: yes. There appears an individualised spirituality in his *œuvre*, which brings out the same qualities in his Jewish sitters, from *Ludwig Hardt* to *Einstein*. This quality, although difficult to define in words, is easily discernible to those who understand and appreciate Jewish values.

Lastly, it may be permitted to voice a birthday wish, which we trust will please the artist as well as his admirers: that a full and comprehensive retrospective exhibition be mounted in this



Eugen Spiro: Self-Portrait

country, and then tour the Continent, including Berlin and Paris, where Spiro spent many happy and fruitful years. We wish him: *Vivant sequentes*.

HELEN ROSENAU.

MARTIN BLOCH 1883-1954

Exhibition at the Kaplan Gallery, 6 Duke Street, St. James's, S.W.1

Martin Bloch was born at Neisse, Silesia. He belonged to a generation which had turned their backs on impressionism, explored many new ways of painting and stood passionately for subjectivity in art. In Germany this change—after the epoch of "objective" impressionism—found its most fascinating expression in movements such as "The Blue Rider" and "The Bridge". Lovis Corinth is the most obvious example of the transition from realism to that much more personal attitude. Bloch, who studied under Corinth, is a remarkable representative of his time. He, too, has the movements just mentioned, draws his inspiration from nature and is never abstract. He infuses his subjective experience of the visible world into his landscapes. His colours have a burning intensity, natural shapes and forms undergo a severe simplification; the surface of his canvas shows a powerful and solid organisation. We are therefore not surprised to learn that he started as an architect.

In 1934, with the help of the present Home Secretary, Mr. R. A. Butler, he came to England as a refugee from Hitler's Germany. His paintings are to be found in many British and foreign museums, and the exhibition at the Kaplan Gallery is sure to win him many new friends and admirers.

It would not be amiss to add a few words about the Kaplan Gallery. The Gallery only started in its present form in December 1958, and specialises in the art of the last 100 years. Its programme is bold and adventurous. The next exhibition will be devoted to a Jewish artist from Algeria, Atlan, who has made his mark as an abstract artist in Paris.

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FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

NIELAND PAMPHLET CONFISCATED

The Karlsruhe Federal Supreme Court has ordered the confiscation of the anti-Semitic pamphlet by the Hamburg timber merchant, Friedrich Nieland. The Court, however, decided against the prosecution of Nieland and of the printer of the pamphlet, since the previous decision of the Hamburg court was final and no new factual evidence had come to light to justify a retrial. The Supreme Court has used this case to lay down directives for future judicial dealings of similar cases detrimental to the interests of the State.

ACTIONS TAKEN

One of the officials at the Wiesbaden Restitution office, Spaeth, who had made anti-Semitic remarks, was dismissed without notice. Another, Bauer, asked to be relieved of his office. Proceedings are to be taken against one of their superiors who is accused of having shielded them.

A schoolmaster, who was a member of the Nazi Party since 1931 and a Captain in the SS in 1939, was suspended from the Droste-Huelshoff School in Berlin, on the ground that there is reason to suspect his having been involved in the pogrom in November, 1938.

POLICE OFFICERS SUSPENDED

A police constable in Zweibruecken, Johann Walsch, has been provisionally suspended from office. Walsch is said to have made offensive anti-Semitic remarks against the Jewish owner of a public-house in Rieschweiler.

The Minister of the Interior for North Rhine-Westphalia has provisionally suspended the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department in Dortmund, Dr. Braschwitz, who has been accused by a citizen of Kassel of having, in his capacity as police commissioner in Berlin in 1933, used physical violence to extort confessions.

GERMANY'S REPARATIONS

The programme of West German reparations scheduled for the current fiscal year was outlined during a press conference in Cologne by Ambassador Shinnar, head of the Israel Mission in West Germany, who revealed that West Germany will supply Israel with ferrous and non-ferrous metals to the value of nearly £4 million. Dr. Shinnar disclosed that the Federal Government would meet Israel's bill for £6½ million of oil purchases in the United Kingdom. The protocol, incorporating the agreement for 1959-60, is to be signed in the near future, and will also provide for West German deliveries of chemicals to the value of £3 million.

GERMAN JEWISH APPOINTMENTS

Senatspraesident Dr. Ludwig Goldschmidt, Frankfurt/Main, has been elected a member of the State Court of the Land Hesse. Dr. Goldschmidt, formerly a lawyer in Kassel, and a member of the representative body of the Jewish community, lived in England before his return to Germany.

Dr. Werner Peiser, hitherto counsellor at the German Embassy in Madrid, has been appointed as envoy of the German Federal Republic to Nicaragua. Born in Berlin in 1895, Dr. Peiser held the post of Deputy Press Chief in the Prussian Government until 1933. He was a close collaborator of the Ministerial Director, Hans Goslar, who perished under the Nazi régime. As an emigrant in Italy and the U.S.A., Dr. Peiser was a professor for Romanic languages. From 1945 to 1947 he was one of the American team of lawyers called to the International Tribunal in Nuremberg for the trial of the Nazi criminals. Later he served with the "Joint" in Germany and Czechoslovakia.

RE-EDUCATION PROGRAMME

President Theodor Heuss received a delegation of the German Co-ordinating Council of the Society for Christians and Jews for a one-hour audience in Bonn recently. The Council expressed deep concern over the recent resurgence of neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic incidents. Professor Heuss, who is a patron of the Society, promised his support for a far-reaching educational programme to acquaint German youth with the crimes of the Third Reich.

AUSCHWITZ VICTIM COMMEMORATED

A plaque to commemorate the memory of Dr. Bernhard Mosberg, who perished in Auschwitz, was recently affixed in the Bielefeld Department of Health. The plaque bears the following inscription:

"Dr. med. Bernhard Mosberg,
geb. 20.2.1874 in Bielefeld.

gest. 7.7.1944 im Konzentrationslager
Auschwitz.

Dem verdienstvollen Arzt der Koerper-
behinderten. Die Stadt Bielefeld."

Dr. Mosberg, a specialist in orthopaedics and surgery, was a high-ranking medical officer during the First World War, and was awarded the Iron Cross and the Red Cross Medal. His inventions in the technique of artificial limbs were introduced for the entire Imperial German Forces' hospitals, whilst the "licence fees" due to him were remitted by him to the Red Cross. After the war he held many prominent posts in civilian life.

Most of his family were also murdered by the Nazis, and the sole surviving member is a son, now living in this country.

DR. WIENER IN GERMANY

The wider implications of anti-Semitism were stressed by Dr. Alfred Wiener, Director of The Wiener Library, in a lecture at Cologne, on the history of German Jewry. "Where Jews are persecuted," he said, "justice begins to totter".

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AJR AT WORK

General Meeting

As readers will have seen from the announcement on the front page, the AJR General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14th, at 7.45 p.m., at 51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3.

The report on the past year's work will, inter alia, deal with the establishment of Homes and new schemes under consideration, developments in the field of restitution and compensation, and the present position with regard to the taxability of indemnification payments.

Dr. Alfred Wiener will also give a talk on the present position in Germany, which will make the meeting even more interesting. Readers will know that Dr. Wiener, Director of The Wiener Library, is one of the outstanding experts on this matter and has, for many years, closely followed trends and is particularly keen to get an opportunity of obtaining first-hand information from him.

The agenda will also include the election of the honorary officers. The following proposals are submitted by the Executive:

President: Mr. A. Schoyer.

Management Committee (Executive): The present Executive members stand for re-election. They are: Dr. H. Reichmann (Chairman), Mr. A. Dresel (Vice-Chairman), Mr. M. Pottlitzer (Treasurer), Mr. W. M. Behr, Mr. H. Bendhem, Mr. A. Berglas, Dr. W. Berlin, Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld, Mr. S. Bischheim (Trustee), Mr. H. Blumenau, Dr. F. E. Falk (Trustee), Mr. H. S. Garfield, Mr. V. E. Hilton (Trustee), Dr. F. A. Mann, Mr. Alfred Straus (Edgeware), Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary).

It is also proposed that Mr. B. Woyda, who is at present a member of the Board, be elected as a member of the Executive.

Board: It is proposed to re-elect the members of the present Board. They are: Dr. P. Abel, Rabbi Dr. A. Altmann, Dr. S. Auerbach, Rabbi

Dr. M. L. Bamberger, Mr. E. Berent, Mr. S. Boehm, Dr. J. Bondi, Dr. W. Breslauer, Dr. R. Bright, Rabbi I. Broch, Dr. W. Dux, Dr. F. R. Engel, Dr. L. Engel, Rabbi Dr. M. Eschelbacher, Mr. L. Eschwege, Dr. E. Eyck, Dr. H. Fleischhacker, Mr. K. Friedlander, Dr. R. Fuchs, Mr. F. Godfrey, Dr. F. Goldschmidt, Dr. E. Gould, Dr. L. Guttmann, O.B.E., Mr. S. F. Hallgarten, Mrs. G. Hambourg, Mr. A. Hausdorff, Mr. E. Haymann, Mr. A. W. Heller, Mr. Herbert Hirsch, Dr. A. R. Horwell, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Dr. A. Kaufmann, Mr. H. E. Kiewe, Mrs. F. Kochmann, Dr. E. Kramer, Mr. L. Kritzler, Dr. K. Krotos, Dr. H. W. Kugelman, Mr. H. H. Kuttner, Dr. H. Lawton, Mr. Ludwig Loewenthal, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Mr. J. Lowenthal, Mr. C. T. Marx, Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum, Dr. H. Neufeld, Mrs. H. Philipp, Mr. E. Plaut, Dr. E. Rachwalsky, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Mr. Z. M. Reid, Dr. E. Reifenberg (Gabriele Tergit), Mr. A. Reimann, Mr. J. Sachs, Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger, Mr. F. Samson, Mr. R. Schneider, Mrs. M. Schurmann, Dr. W. Selig, Mr. P. E. Shields, Mr. E. Speyer, Mr. Hugo Stern, Dr. A. Straus, Mr. G. Streat, Mr. G. L. Tietz, Dr. U. Tietz, Mr. F. W. Ury, Mrs. L. Wechsler, Dr. Alfred Wiener, Dr. Leon Zeitlin, Rabbi Dr. W. Van der Zyl.

The Board also includes representatives of London districts: Mr. J. Feig, Dr. E. Magnus, Mr. L. Mayer and representatives of provincial groups.

It is proposed to elect the following new members to the Board: Mrs. R. Berlak, Mrs. R. Berlin, Mrs. Elisabeth Goldschmidt, Mr. F. Schonbeck.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Pesach

We would be grateful to receive invitations to private or communal Seders for some of our lonely fellow-refugees.

Library

We have received several large donations of books, and have been able to enlarge our own library and those at the Old Age Homes. The library is open Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 3 p.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and by appointment.

MAYOR OF RICHMOND VISITS KEW HOME

"I see from your faces how well you are looked after," said Mr. J. S. Harwood, J.P., the Mayor of Richmond, when he paid a visit to the Otto Hirsch House, Kew, together with the Mayoress and Councillor and Mrs. G. Cassidy, on March 15th. The guests, who were welcomed by Dr. W. Dux, Chairman of the House Committee, were shown round the building, and expressed their admiration.

The visit was arranged on the occasion of a concert given by the pianist, Iso Elinson, who gave an excellent performance of works by Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert and Chopin. The residents were extremely grateful to Mr. Elinson for making it possible for them to have a most enjoyable afternoon.

AJR CLUB

The Club will be closed during the Pesach week (April 22nd to April 30th). A talk on "Der Sederabend" will be given by Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger on Sunday, April 19th, at the Club premises, Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, London, N.W.3.

The Club premises are open from Sundays to Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m., and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, 7 to 10 p.m.

WERNER FINCK IN LONDON

Werner Finck will give a performance on Tuesday, May 5th, at 8 p.m., at the Caxton Hall, S.W.1. Tickets at 2/6 are obtainable from the Anglo-German Association, 66 Victoria Street, S.W.1, or at the door.

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Rabbi

Dr. Georg Salzberger

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR CURT SACHS

Professor Curt Sachs, the authority on music, passed away in New York recently, at the age of 77. His works include the "Handbuch der Musikinstrumentenkunde" and "History of Musical Instruments". He also wrote a work on the history of the dance.

DR. FRITZ WARBURG

Dr. Fritz Moritz Warburg, a member of the well-known banking family, celebrated his 80th birthday in Israel. He was, for many years, Chairman of the Hamburg Jewish Hospital, and was also Chairman of the Hamburg Jewish community from 1933 until his emigration in 1939.

ERIC H. SALINGER

Mr. Eric H. Salinger passed away in his 74th year. Prior to his emigration he was the owner of the firm of iron founders, A. Salinger, which was founded by his father and his uncle and was the oldest foundry in Berlin. In this country, Mr. Salinger acted as a consultant engineer. His work was greatly appreciated and at the same time resulted in many personal friendships with those with whom he co-operated. He was also a member of the British Iron Founders' Association.

Mr. Salinger was a member of the AJR since its inception. He will always be gratefully remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

LOLA STEIN

The writer, Lola Stein, died in London on March 4th at the age of 74, after a long illness.

Lola Stein was a well-known and extremely popular writer of novels in Germany. Her novels were also published in hundreds of newspapers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Many of them have now been re-published in Germany, where her works are still very popular.

In 1939 she emigrated from Hamburg to London, together with her sister, Thea Rosenbaum who, by her love and devotion, enabled Lola Stein, in spite of her illness, to live and to work. During the "blitz" winter, she wrote a novel about the persecution of the Jews in Germany, especially with regard to the "Nuernberger Gesetze". This was published in the English translation in 1947 under the title "People Like You and Me" ("Menschen wie du und ich").

SIEGFRIED DANZIGER

Siegfried Danziger, who, following in the footsteps of a family tradition, had distinguished himself by his lifelong charitable activities, has died in Munich at the age of 70. He emigrated to Italy in 1935, where he became an official of UNRRA after the war and, from 1947 to 1949, he was Director of the "Joint's" sanatorium in Arona. In 1950 he came back to Munich to work first in the Bavarian office of Restitution and later as Director of the Home for the Aged of the Jewish community. After taking a similar post in Hamburg, he again returned to his native city in March, 1958.

ERNST KAHN

Ernst Kahn, who recently died in Jerusalem at the age of 74, was on the editorial staff of the famous economic supplement (Handelsteil) of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* since 1909, and took a very active part in the remarkable development of the paper in the 'twenties. An economist of great knowledge and reputation, he later became a partner in the banking firm of Speyer-Ellissen and, as a Social Democrat, he entered the municipal council of the city of Frankfurt, where he was responsible for far-sighted housing schemes. More interested in social politics than in politics proper, he recognised the fundamental importance of the housing question. In the 'twenties he also became interested in Zionism, and joined the Zionist movement together with his colleague Fritz Naphtali (who today is a member of the Israeli Government).

After the rise of Nazism Kahn went to England and the United States, where he studied housing schemes and various economic projects. When he ultimately came to Palestine, he became adviser to some of the leading economic bodies. Amongst other things, he founded the investment corporation "PIA" and was a member of the Board of the most important textile concern, "ATA". During all this time his literary activity as a writer on economic problems never ceased. One of his last contributions was the essay on the *Frankfurter Zeitung* for the second volume of the Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute.

Ernst Kahn was an unusually charming and friendly man, and he is deeply mourned by his many friends in Israel and elsewhere.

R.W.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

Schindel. Mr. Wilhelm Schindel, 33 Birchington Court, West End Lane, London, N.W.6, will celebrate his 80th birthday on April 27th.

Engagements

Black : Gummers. The engagement is announced of Hannah, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Black (formerly Schwarz, Munich), 19 Broomhill Terrace, Glasgow, W.1, to George, eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. Julius Gummers (formerly Heilbronn), 92 Queens Drive, Glasgow, S.2.

Deaths

Falkenstein. Ober-Regierungs-Medizinalrat Dr. Louis Falkenstein, formerly of Berlin, residing in Stuttgart, died at the age of 83 in Munich. Deeply mourned by his daughters in Toronto and London, by his relatives and his friends. Ruth Falkenstein, 15 Dryburgh Road, London, S.W.15.

Leffkowitz. Mrs. Bianca Leffkowitz passed away peacefully in her sleep. Deeply mourned by her daughter, Edith Pick, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and all her relatives and friends. 52 Foscoote Road, London, N.W.4.

Manly. Simon Frederick Manley, formerly Dr. Siegfried Maennlein, of Erlangen, died on February 21st at the age of 56. Deeply mourned by his wife, Edith, and daughter, Beatrice, of 277 Chiswick Village, London, W.4.

Mann. Mr. Bruno Mann (Mannheim), formerly Berlin, died on February 10th, 1959. Deeply mourned by his loving wife, Clara Mann, 110e Bury Old Road, Salford, 7 (formerly of 10 Melton Road, Manchester, 8).

Ney. Mrs. Luise Ney (née Moos), formerly of Stuttgart, died peacefully on March 13th, at the age of 87. Deeply mourned by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends. Families: Dr. R. Ney, Gowanda, N.Y.; Dr. A. Gutmann, Pittsburgh, Pa.; O. Ney, 63 Cole Valley Road, Birmingham, 28; A. Ney, 44 Sandilands, Croydon; Miss E. Ney, 5 Vallance Road, London, N.22.

Salinger. Mr. Eric H. Salinger, formerly of Berlin, died on March 3rd in his 74th year. Deeply mourned by his wife, relatives and friends. Mrs. Grete Salinger (née Ettliger), 18 Welbeck House, Welbeck Street, London, W.1.

Seligmann. Marta Seligmann passed away on March 6th. Deeply mourned by her sister, Lucie Seligmann, and friends. 25 Antrim Mansions, Antrim Road, London, N.W.3.

Wronker. Mrs. Regina Wronker (née Beermann), formerly of Berlin, our beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away on February 17th, shortly before her 86th birthday. W. K. and H. Wronker, 48 Colney Hatch Lane, Muswell Hill, London, N.10.

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EGYPTIAN REFUGEE, 44, British, exp. in insurance, journalism, public liaison, Eng., French, Italian, Arabic, seeks indoor work. Box 524.

EGYPTIAN REFUGEE, 46, former lawyer and French teacher, exp. in corres. (French, Eng., Italian), typing, bookkeeping, tel., translations, seeks suitable employment. Box 525.

EGYPTIAN REFUGEE, 62, British, former director and stockbroker, seeks full-time work as bkkpr, ledger clerk, cashier. Fluent French and English. Good refs. Box 526.

DISABLED YOUTH, 18, seeks trainee job in catering. Box 527.

Women

ENG./GERMAN SHORTHAND-TYPIST, exp., reliable, seeks part-time or home work. Box 528.

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MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries by AJR

Miss Lena Sandberg, last-known address in London, sought for restitution purposes.

Karola Schmelzer, born 29.12.1892 in Lambsheim Kreis Frankenthal. Last address in Konstanz/Bodensee, Schotenstr. 35, c/o Walter. Left for England 1937 or 1938. Last-known address in England: Midway Manor, Bradford.

Paul Baer, aged about 46, born in Munich. Studied medicine there and from 1933 to 1938 in Milan, where he was close to the Boeri family. Emigrated to England in 1938 and believed to be practising medicine. An old friend and former Milan resident, Ernest Maass, 150-76 Village Road, Jamaica 32, New York, U.S.A., is anxious to contact him.

Personal Enquiries

Simon Grau, born 27.1.1907 in Leipzig. Persons who were with Simon Grau in Auschwitz or who worked with him in the IG-Farbenwerken, are asked to get in touch with the Verband Schweizerischer Juedischer Fuersorgen, Olgastr. 10, Zürich. Mr. Grau came to Auschwitz with a transport from France.

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Letters to the Editor

THE THERESIENSTADT GHETTO

Sir.—May I refer to the second volume of Dr. H. G. Adler's book on Theresienstadt, which Mr. Leonard G. Montefiore reviewed in your February issue. Nobody who has not forgotten these horrors can read this collection of documents without a feeling of despair. Those who were inmates of the Theresienstadt Ghetto will recognise, with admiration, the tremendous work accomplished by Dr. Adler, and will be impressed by his capacity to analyse the events, and the responsible manner in which he has brought to light the "hidden truth". This does not, however, imply that one can agree with everything Dr. Adler reports and with his appraisal of the situation. This applies particularly to his judgment of the leading personalities of the Jewish self-administration, the "Judenaeltesten". As Mr. Montefiore also indicates, they have found a severe judge in the person of Dr. Adler. Certainly, those who write the history of a community, even if it is that of an enforced community as was the case in Theresienstadt, have the right and the duty to criticise the attitude of its responsible leaders. But such a judgment may in its turn be open to criticism.

Under the Nazi régime the leaders of the central Jewish organisations were in the terrible position of being forced to act as henchmen of the authorities, and even to help in the preparation of the deportations. In the same way, the "Judenaeltesten" and those working under them in Theresienstadt were compelled to prepare the death transports to the East "according to order". Is it justified to condemn them for this reason? Every "Judenaeltester" and every member of his Board realised that they were implementing the decisions of the rulers in their work of deception and destruction. They had no choice but to join in the game and, at the same time, to try to alleviate the lot of their fellow-prisoners by any possible means. No man, however strong his character, would have under the circumstances been able to ward off the attacks of the Nazi régime. Who can judge one who held a responsible position and who tried to delay these attacks?

Already in Berlin Dr. Paul Eppstein, the second "Judenaeltester" of Theresienstadt, was one of those who had the terrible duty of carrying out

the preparatory work for the deportations when, as an official of the Reichsvertretung of the Jews in Germany, he was the liaison officer of the Gestapo. This was not apt to increase his popularity, and people were inclined to forget what this gifted and experienced, although ambitious man, had taken on himself in a most trying time, and what he had done for the Jewish youth movement.

At the beginning of 1943 Dr. Eppstein was appointed head of the Theresienstadt Ghetto by the Nazis. I was present when he bade farewell to the officials of the Jewish community in Berlin. He knew the tremendous difficulties ahead of him and may already have sensed the fate he had to expect for himself. In Theresienstadt he never attained the popularity of his predecessor, Jacob Edelstein. It was not given to him to find his way into the hearts of the masses, although he was an excellent orator. It was his great misfortune that he was forced upon the Camp by the Nazi authorities as the successor of Edelstein, and that many of the Jews from Bohemia and Moravia "preferred a 'Judenaeltesten' from Prague to a foreigner". (Adler, p. 137.)

Like other men in leading positions within the Jewish self-administration in Theresienstadt, Paul Eppstein was not free from human frailties; certainly he should also have been more careful in many instances. I am, however, firmly convinced that he desired the best for those under his care and that (also by actions which may be open to criticism) he tried, to the utmost of his abilities, to improve the lot of the prisoners at Theresienstadt and to save as many as possible from destruction. That he did not succeed in the latter aim was, at the same time, his own downfall. His position had become hopeless. On the day before Rosh Hashanah, 1944, he gave an almost suicidal talk to an audience of over 1,000 prisoners. In those days the sight of American planes over Theresienstadt had, understandably, lead to expressions of joy, and Eppstein warned against premature hopes and actions. On Yom Kippur, 1944, he was arrested and was shot the same day. It was the general conviction of the inmates that Eppstein had been killed because he had protested against the mass deportations which had started

at that time.

I share this opinion, and I think his tragic end in itself is also sufficient reason for trying to save the honour of the late Dr. Eppstein.

The period during which Paul Eppstein held office was filled with tensions, and was marked by the "embellishment" of the Camp and the inspections by Red Cross delegations—actions designed to favourably impress the outside world towards the Nazi régime. The preparation of the film by Kurt Geron, meant to serve the same purpose and closely documented by Dr. Adler, also took place during this period.

There was, however, another enterprise during the time when Dr. Eppstein held office. This was the memorial celebration of July 16th, 1944, the 40th anniversary of Theodor Herzl's death, and the sports rally which took place on that day. Today it may sound like a fairy tale or a dream that the prisoners of Theresienstadt celebrated the memory of the great dreamer of Jewish freedom and of an honourable future, and that they threw off their oppressive burden on that occasion. This was not in the first place a Party political demonstration, though some were inclined to consider it as such, but was the manifestation of the urgent desire to overcome differences between "Landsmanschaften" by the spirit of Jewish unity and solidarity. This was in keeping with Paul Eppstein's basic idea.

All that was inadequate, weak or bad seemed to have been overcome and, with dance and music, the message of hope with which we welcome the beginning of a new month seemed to become noticeable. "He who has accomplished miracles in the times of our fathers and has led them from bondage to freedom. He will redeem us too and ingather the exiles from the four corners of the earth. The whole of Israel is one community."

In the days to come, dance and music ceased to exist for thousands and tens of thousands. But those who were permitted to survive should not forget that day and the memory of Paul Eppstein and, in spite of criticism, they should remember the saying of our wise men: "The honourable memory of your friend should be to you as dear as your own honour." (Pirke Aboth ii 15).

Yours, etc.,

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT AGAINST INTOLERANCE

NEW LEGISLATION

A Federal Government Bill designed to tighten present legislation against subversion, has been passed by the Federal Parliament. It provides for not less than three months' imprisonment for anybody found guilty of "inciting to hatred, in a manner liable to disturb the peace, of a national, racial, religious or ethnic group, or slandering or maliciously exposing any of them to contempt, or making or spreading, against better knowledge, defamatory allegations of a factual kind about any of them".

Referring to the new provisions, the Secretary-General of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Dr. H. van Dam, warned against the danger of the new law being regarded as a "Jews' Protection Act". According to a German newspaper, "anti-Semitism was doing far less harm to the Jews than to the idea of the Rule of Law and the entire German people".

STATEMENT BY MINISTER SCHAEFFER

Replying to a question in which a deputy had voiced concern at continued manifestations of racial hate in the Federal Republic, the Minister of Justice, Schaeffer, said in Parliament that the government would support to the full every campaign to secure the removal of intolerance and prejudice in West Germany. In the Minister's view, these evils could not be prevented or removed through legal measures only. It could possibly be changed through a nation-wide campaign against racial hatred and prejudice, through information and enlightenment, and through the education of the entire people in the spirit of tolerance and mutual understanding. He was confident that the projected Federal law against incitement to hatred and intolerance would create an effective legal basis to combat anti-constitutional tendencies.

ADENAUER'S PLEDGE

Chancellor Dr. Adenauer has promised a Federal subsidy for the construction of a memorial centre on the site of the former Nazi concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen. This pledge was given when Dr. Adenauer received Jewish and non-Jewish leaders of the Association of German Resistance Fighters and Persons Persecuted by National Socialism.

The memorial centre, said Dr. Adenauer, would be devoted to educating Germany's youth in fighting "totalitarian trends from both left and right".

The Federal Chancellor also promised to exert his influence in the fight against the recent recrudescence of anti-Semitism in the Federal Republic. He would press the Provincial Laender to emphasise the teaching of modern German history in schools, in order to expose the crimes of the Third Reich.

The Chancellor and the delegation agreed that recent anti-Semitic incidents were isolated ones, provoked by "incorrigible Nazis, delinquent youth and East German agents".

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