

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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## TAKING UP THE THREAD

For the first time in the course of its fourteen years of existence *AJR Information* could, due to the printing dispute, not be published in time. The present edition serves as a double issue for the months July and August. Next month's issue will, it is hoped, appear in the middle of September, and from October we shall revert to the usual publication dates early in the month. We apologise to our readers and advertisers for any inconvenience caused. Apart from the delay in giving information on general developments we have had to hold over personal items, such as birthday tributes, and we regret that some of them will reach our readers after the events.

### Taxation

Trying to catch up with the happenings of the past months, first reference has to be made to a matter in which the AJR has been particularly active during that period: the taxability of annuities paid under the Federal Indemnification Law. As reported in the June issue, efforts to have an exemption clause incorporated into the Finance Act, which had been unsuccessful in 1957 and 1958, were resumed, and a motion to that effect was tabled by Liberal Members of Parliament. As in previous years the clause was supported by Members of all three parties, but when the Finance Bill was considered in the House the motion was not called. The matter was also raised in the House of Lords by the Marquess of Reading (see announcement in this issue under "In Parliament").

In July representatives of the British and German tax authorities met in London to continue their negotiations, started in Bonn early this year, on certain points of the Anglo-German Double Taxation Convention. The taxability of the indemnification annuities did not, however, come

under discussion. The reason, it is learned, was that, meanwhile, the matter had been taken up through diplomatic channels, and that a few days prior to the meeting the Foreign Office had received a memorandum from the German Federal Republic proposing that the tax jurisdiction in respect of indemnification annuities should be left to the Federal Republic, which exempts the annuities from income tax; a supplementary clause to that effect would bring the Anglo-German Double Taxation Convention into line with the Conventions concluded by the Federal Republic with other countries. By the submission of the memorandum the matter had been raised from the administrative level to the political level and its consideration would have been outside the competence of the departmental representatives of the two countries who were in charge of the negotiations. Thus the present position is that the final outcome will now depend on the decision to be taken by the United Kingdom on Governmental level.

### A Letter to "The Times"

In the meantime, concern about the taxability of the annuities has been expressed in various papers in this country. Over the signature of the Archbishop of York and other distinguished personalities, the following Letter to the Editor was published in *The Times* on July 20th:

"Sir,—Negotiations between the British and Federal German Governments on the taxation of annuities paid to the victims of Nazism now living in this country are about to be resumed. At present Great Britain is almost alone in levying taxes on these payments and even the Inland Revenue makes an exception for annuities paid for physical injury.

"The Treasury has in the past refused to extend tax exemption to all the annuities on the grounds that it cannot allow a privilege to refugees which is denied to British war pensioners. But the refugees' annuities are paid by the German Government, which has made them exempt from taxation in the Federal Republic and has taken this exemption into account in fixing the size of the annuities. The Treasury's policy, therefore, frustrates the intention of the German compensation law.

"Under 5,000 annuities are subject to the Treasury's discrimination. The recipients are people who have suffered greatly in the past and most of them are old and sick. It would surely be in the spirit of the World Refugee Year, and of British tradition, if the Government extended exemption to all the compensation payments.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Ebor, Roger Cicester, Pakenham,  
Violet Bonham Carter, John Foster,  
Anthony Greenwood, Donald Wade,  
Nathaniel Micklem."

Under the heading "Petty" the *News Chronicle* of July 21st published a leading article on similar lines. It was a pity, the article stated, that Britain's proud record towards the persecuted was "marred by minor examples of meanness. . . . No financial compensation can ever assuage the sufferings of these people. But it is up to those of us who have never experienced the horrors of publicly organised persecution not to add to their burdens." A letter on the same subject was also published in the *Daily Mirror* of July 24 over the pseudonym "Fair Play."

The legal position was outlined in a comprehensive article written by the Legal Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* on June 24th, headed "Nazi Victims Hope for British Change of Heart." The article was endorsed by Professor Norman Bentwich in a Letter to the Editor, which appeared on July 8th. "The position here is anomalous," Professor Bentwich wrote, "because not only the German Government but also the Governments of the United States, France, the Scandinavian countries, Greece, Israel, and others, have made such payments free of tax."

The understanding displayed for our case by leading newspapers and prominent personalities is most gratifying, and we sincerely hope that the authorities now in charge will take this into account when giving the matter their consideration.

As regards the actual compensation payments, certain arrangements between the Laender and a conference on the highest level, under the chairmanship of Bundeskanzler Dr. Adenauer, are regarded as a decisive progress in the adequate and speedy settlement of the claims. Reports about both subjects are published in this issue. It is expected that a meeting at which the practical steps will be worked out will take place early in October.

### World Refugee Year

While, so far, we have dealt with questions concerning our own demands, there is one paramount task which calls for our activities on behalf of others: efforts to raise funds under the auspices of the World Refugee Year, about which we reported in our previous issue. Several of our friends have, on their own initiative, sent donations to us, which we have forwarded to the appropriate quarters. Others have asked us for advice as to the way in which they could render their assistance. The position is that in this country the scheme is operating through two channels: the Central Fund of the United Kingdom Committee of World Refugee Year, and the supporting refugee agencies which are members of the U.K. Committee. The proceeds of the Central Fund are used for the four principal objectives of the U.K. Committee, i.e., assistance to refugees in Europe, many of whom have lived in camps for as long as fourteen years; resettlement of European refugees from China; aid for Chinese refugees in Hong Kong and aid for Palestine refugees. At the same time, the supporting refugee agencies (United Nations Association, Quakers, etc.) will be out to raise money during the Refugee Year, which will be used partly to intensify their own activities and partly allocated to projects, approved by them, within one or more of the four objectives of the Central Fund. Three Jewish refugee agencies, the Central British Fund, Ort, and Ose, have combined their efforts by launching a "Combined Overseas Rehabilitation and Refugee Appeal" ("C.O.R.R.A."), and supporters should send their donations to the headquarters of "C.O.R.R.A."—Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1. Readers who also wish to render their support directly to the Central Fund should address their payments to: The U.K. Committee, World Refugee Year, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1. For us there is a two-fold obligation: as former refugees we should feel a special obligation towards those fellow-Jews who are still unsettled. At the same time, all of us will agree with the views, expressed by Professor Norman Bentwich, in a letter recently published in *The Jewish Chronicle*: "We received great help for Jewish refugees in the post-war world from the International Refugee Organisation of the United Nations, and from the High Commissioner himself. Now is the opportunity

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Members and friends of the AJR are herewith cordially invited to a

## MEETING

under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Institute to be held on

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1959, at 8 p.m.  
at 51, BELSIZE SQUARE, LONDON, N.W.3  
(between Swiss Cottage and Belsize Park Underground stations)

Addresses will be delivered by:

**Professor Dr. G. SCHOLEM**  
(Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

on

**"JUEDISCHE WISSENSCHAFT  
EINST UND JETZT"**

**Professor Dr. ERNST SIMON**  
(Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

on

**"UNSER JUEDISCHES UND  
EUROPAEISCHES BILDUNGSGUT"**

Rabbi Dr. MAX GRUENEWALD (New York) and  
Dr. HANS LIEBESCHUETZ (Liverpool), of the  
American and British Sections of the Institute,  
will also speak.

Dr. S. MOSES (Jerusalem), President of the Institute,  
will be in the Chair.



## INDEMNIFICATION NEWS

### AUSTRIAN FUND FOR PROPERTY LOSSES

#### Announcement by Foreign Office

The following announcement has been made by the Foreign Office:

"The Government of Austria has agreed to establish a Fund (to be known as the 'Fund for the Settlement of Certain Property Losses of Political Persecutees') for the settlement of certain claims by persons whose property or assets were the subject of forced transfer or confiscation by the Nazi authorities because of the racial origin or religion of their owner, or in the course of other persecution between March 13, 1938, and May 8, 1945. Benefits under the Fund will be available irrespective of the nationality and place of residence of those concerned. The Fund will have a capital of the equivalent of \$6 million plus 10 per cent of this amount for administrative costs.

"Notes have been exchanged between Her Majesty's Government and the Austrian Government concerning this Fund and the Exchange will be laid before Parliament as a White Paper very shortly.

"Austrian legislation will now be necessary to establish the Fund. A further announcement will be made in due course about the procedure to be followed in submitting claims."

The establishment of the Fund for the settlement of certain property losses is a result of very long and difficult negotiations between the British, American and French Governments on the one hand and the Austrian Government on the other in connection with the implementation of Article 26 of the Austrian State Treaty. The Allied Governments reached the conclusion that the final offer of the Austrian Government was the highest which could be attained and therefore decided to accept it.

The very name of the Fund indicates that it is intended only to settle certain property losses of political persecutees—in accordance with information received by us mainly bank accounts, securities, Reichsfluchtsteuer and Judenvermögensabgabe.

It is believed that the Statutes of the Fund will provide the most equitable distribution of the limited sum at the disposal of the Fund by privileged treatment for small claims and priority payment for people over 70 years of age.

#### Specified Property Losses Only

It should be clearly kept in mind that the present settlement concerns specified property losses. It is therefore a settlement in lieu of restitution. The question of compensation for victims of the Nazi régime in Austria, in particular for loss of livelihood, professional advancement, and of educational opportunities still remains open and is in no way affected by the present settlement. The intensive efforts of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria (including the Council of Jews from Austria and the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities) to obtain extension and improvement in the Austrian internal indemnification will have to continue.

Further information will be published in this paper as soon as the Statute of the new Fund has been promulgated.

### AUSZAHLUNGEN VON ZUWENDUNGEN DURCH DEN OESTERREICHISCHEN HILFSFONDS

Der Austrian Desk des United Restitution Office wurde von der Geschäftsführung des Hilfsfonds gebeten, zu verlautbaren, dass die Auszahlung der Zuwendungen an die in Gruppe K Eingereihten im Gange ist. Sie erfolgt grundsätzlich nach der Priorität des Alters, sodass derzeit die Personen zum Zuge kommen, die am 1.1.1956 mindestens 58 Jahre alt waren. Irgendwelche Ausnahmen fuer eine bevorzugte Erledigung koennen nicht gemacht werden.

Es wird daher gebeten, von Urgezen, die den Geschäftsgang des Hilfsfonds aufhalten, abzusehen.

### WICHTIGE ERGAENZUNG ZUM ALTSPARERGESETZ

Das Altsparger Gesetz (ASpG) hat durch das 2. Gesetz zur Aenderung des ASpG v. 4.2.1959 (BGBl 1959 Teil I S.29) eine wichtige Ergaenzung erfahren. Durch den neu eingefuegten §2b mit der Ueberschrift "Reichsmarkansprueche gegen die öffentliche Hand" sind den in §2 Abs. 1 Nr. 1 bis 6 aufgefuehrten Sparanlagen gleichgestellt

1. die in §30 Nr. 1 bis 3 und 5 des Allgemeinen Kriegsfolgengesetzes vom 5. November 1957 (BGBl 1 S.1447) aufgefuehrten Kapitalansprueche gegen das Deutsche Reich einschliesslich der Sondervermoegen Deutsche Reichsbahn und Deutsche Reichspost sowie das ehemalige Land Preussen,
2. Schuldverschreibungen der Länder, Gemeinden und Gemeindeverbaende einschliesslich der Schuldbuchforderungen.

Zu den vorgenannten Anspruechen gehoeren insbesondere Kapitalansprueche, die in Schuldverschreibungen und verzinslichen Schatzanweisungen verbrieft und in einer dem Allgemeinen Kriegsfolgengesetz (AKG) beigefuegten Liste aufgefuehrt, ferner Kapitalansprueche, die im Reichsschuldbuch eingetragen sind.

Durch das vorgenannte Gesetz v.4.2.1959 ist ferner der §24 des ASpG unter der Ueberschrift "Rueckerstattungsfaelle" neu formuliert worden. Nach dieser Vorschrift steht, sofern in einem Rueckerstattungsverfahren einem Rueckerstattungsberechtigten eine Altsparanlage oder eine Ersatzleistung zugesprochen ist, dem Rueckerstattungsberechtigten auch der Entschadigungsanspruch nach dem ASpG zu.

Aus den vorgenannten Bestimmungen des ASpG, in Verbindung mit den Vorschriften des AKG und des Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetzes (BRueG), ergibt sich folgendes, wobei zu unterscheiden ist ob die Sparanlage (im vorgenannten Sinne) noch im Zeitpunkt der Waehrungsumstellung (21.6.1948) auf den Namen des Verfolgten verbucht oder ob sie vom Reich effektiv entzogen worden war.

War die Sparanlage zu dem angegebenen Zeitpunkt noch verbucht, so hat der Berechtigte nach dem AKG einen Anspruch in Hoehe von 10% des Nennbetrages, der in das von der Bundes-schuldenverwaltung gefuehrte Schuldbuch eingetragen wird. Der Berechtigte hat ferner nach dem ASpG einen Entschadigungsanspruch gegen die Bundesrepublik (Ausgleichsfonds), dessen Bearbeitung der Bank obliegt, bei der die Anlage verbucht war.

War dagegen die Sparanlage vom Reich eingezogen worden, so hat der Verfolgte oder sein Rechtsnachfolger ausschliesslich einen Entschadigungsanspruch nach dem BRueG. Die Hoehe dieser Entschadigung betraegt 10% nach dem AKG, auf das §20 BRueG verweist, plus 10% nach dem ASpG, zuzueglich 25% der Entschadigung nach dem AKG (gemaess §16 BRueG).

Auf die Rechtsfrage ob es noch, mit Ruecksicht auf die Aenderung des ASpG, einer ergaenzenden Regelung im BRueG bedarf, soll hier nicht naeher eingegangen werden.

Das ASpG in der Fassung v.1.4.1959 ist im Bundesgesetzbl. I Nr.13 S.169ff veroeffentlicht worden.

### PAYMENTS BY AUSTRIAN HILFSFONDS

According to a statement made in Vienna, up to April 30th, 1959, over 395 million Austrian Schillings had been paid out by the Hilfsfonds. Of this amount, approximately 175 million was paid to victims in the United States, 64 million to victims in England, 66 million to victims in Israel and 91 million to victims in other countries.

### BENEFITS FOR POLISH VICTIMS

The German Embassy in Washington announced that the Federal Republic is prepared to contribute towards the costs of medical treatment for thirty Polish women who were inmates of the Ravensbruck concentration camp. The women had called at the German Embassy and stated that neither the West nor the East German authorities were willing to pay compensation in respect of the criminal experiments made on them by Nazi doctors.

## In Parliament

### Taxation of Nazi Victims' Compensation

On June 24th the Marquis of Reading, in the House of Lords, asked whether any, and if so what, categories of payments made by the Government of the German Federal Republic by way of compensation to refugees from the Nazi régime were subjected to United Kingdom taxation. In his reply the Minister without Portfolio, the Earl of Dundee, listed the categories of payments and their respective treatment for U.K. tax purposes, and added that the treatment of all categories followed the treatment which would be accorded under the income tax law to compensation payments of a similar nature received from other sources by persons resident in this country. In answer to Lord Reading's supplementary question as to whether the U.K. was the only country which imposed taxation on payments of this kind, the Earl of Dundee replied: "No. . . . In Germany taxation is not imposed; but I should require notice in regard to other countries." The Marquis of Reading: "My noble friend will have the notice in due course."

### Visits From East Germany

In reply to a question as regards travel restrictions and difficulties experienced by residents in East Germany in obtaining temporary travel documents from the Allied Control Office in Berlin to visit the United Kingdom, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated that a temporary travel document and a United Kingdom visa had to be obtained. The former was necessary owing to Her Majesty's Government's non-recognition of the East German régime and, consequently, of East German passports. Except that it could not be issued to holders of Federal German passports, there were no restrictions on the issue of this document. It could normally be obtained in three weeks from the Allied Travel Office, and in cases of urgency in three or four days.

In a further statement, the Home Secretary declared that visas were granted without difficulty and undue delay, provided that the applicant was personally acceptable and that the Home Office was reasonably satisfied that he would be able and willing to leave when the period for which his visit was authorised expired.

## Taking up the Thread

### Continued from front page

and the call for Jews in return to help non-Jewish refugees in a cause of humanity."

Lastly, we want to draw attention to the public meeting to be held under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Institute on September 7th, at 51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3. The meeting, which is the first public function of the Institute in this country, will be held on the occasion of the Institute's Board meeting in London. During the short time of its existence the Leo Baeck Institute has done most essential spadework in preserving for posterity a comprehensive picture of modern German-Jewish history. Three Year Books have been published under the editorship of Dr. Robert Weltsch (London), and a fourth volume will shortly be ready.

### Achievements of Leo Baeck Institute

A number of monographs have also been published under the auspices of the Institute, and various schemes for research work have been sponsored by the headquarters in Jerusalem. A collection of unique documentary material has been built up and is steadily being expanded by the U.S.A. section in New York. The Leo Baeck Institute was founded by the "Council of Jews from Germany," of which the AJR is the British constituent. Its work in the cultural sphere is as important for the Jews from German-speaking countries as the activities of the Council and the AJR are in safeguarding the interests of the community and in carrying out constructive social work. We are sure that our friends will welcome the opportunity of hearing the distinguished speakers from abroad, who take a leading part in the work of the Leo Baeck Institute and who will deal with topical questions on all our minds.

W.R.



## BESCHLUESSE ZUR WIEDERGUTMACHUNGS-PRAXIS

### AUSLEGUNG DER BESTIMMUNGEN

In eingehenden Beratungen, die sich von Maerz bis Juni 1959 hinzogen, war der Wiedergutmachungsausschuss des Bundestages zu der Ueberzeugung gelangt, dass zwar im gegenwaertigen Zeitpunkt eine Novelle des Bundesentschaedigungsgesetzes (BEG) nicht ratsam sei, weil eine solche die termingerechte Abwicklung des Gesetzes gefaehrden koennte, dass aber gewisse Haerten und Unklarheiten ohne Gesetzesaenderung durch uebereinstimmende Verwaltungsmassnahmen der Entschaeidungsbehoerden behoben oder jedenfalls vermindert werden koennten. Die Bemuehungen des Wiedergutmachungsausschusses, an denen insbesondere der Ausschuss-Vorsitzende, Alfred Frenzel (S.P.D.) und der stellvertretende Vorsitzende, Prof. Franz Boehm (C.D.U.) fuehrenden Anteil hatten, fanden ihren Abschluss in einer Vereinbarung mit den Vertretern der Laender auf einer Sitzung des Ausschusses am 23. Juni im Beisein der Vertreter der Bundesministerien der Finanzen, der Justiz und des Inneren. Hierbei wurde die einheitliche Auslegung einer Reihe von Vorschriften des BEG beschlossen. Unter anderem wurde festgelegt, dass Haerteausgleichleistungen (Par. 171 BEG) in Zukunft auch an Verfolgte juedischen Glaubens zulaessig sind. Zur Entschaeidung fuer Koerperschaden (Par. 28 BEG) wurde festgestellt, dass ein Anspruch immer gegeben sein soll, wenn irgendeine Verfolgungsmassnahme, oder aber die Auswanderung, den Schaden hervorgerufen hat. Ferner soll im Falle von Hinterbliebenenanspruechen bei Koerperschaden (Par. 41 BEG) davon ausgegangen werden, dass die verfolgenden Stellen (z. B. die Wachmannschaften in Konzentrationslagern) bei der Zufuegung des Koerperschadens immer in Kauf genommen haben, dass diese auch den Tod des Verfolgten zur Folge haben koennte. Zur Entschaeidung wegen Freiheitsbeschaenkung (Par. 47 BEG) wurde festgestellt, dass das Leben unter einem falschen Namen als illegales Leben unter menschenunwuerdigen Bedingungen im Sinne dieser Bestimmung anzusehen ist. Ein weiterer Punkt der Vereinbarung behandelt die Auslegung der Bestimmung, dass fuer Schaden, der auch ohne die Verfolgung entstanden waere, keine Entschaeidung geleistet wird (Par. 9 Abs. 5 BEG). Diese Bestimmung, die das Problem der sogenannten "ueberholenden Kausalitaet" regelt, und die zu einer Verweigerung der Entschaeidung fuehren kann, wenn der Schaden unter Umstaenden auch durch spaetere Ereignisse (Kriegseinwirkung, Bomben, Militaerdienst) eingetreten waere, soll nur in Ausnahmefaelen angewandt werden, naemlich dann, "wenn fuer den Eintritt der Ersatzursache eine mit an Sicherheit grenzende Wahrscheinlichkeit vorliegt."

Zu weiteren Fragen, die erortert wurden, gehoerte die Festsetzung der Hoechstrenten bei Berufsschaeden. Hierzu wurde berichtet, dass der Vorsitzende des Ausschusses sich mit dem Vorsitzenden des Sonderausschusses fuer Wiedergutmachung des Bundesrats in Verbindung gesetzt und ihn gebeten habe, sich fuer eine Erhoehung der Hoechstrenten nach Par. 83 Abs. 2 BEG von 600 DM. auf 630 DM. einzusetzen. Auf verfahrensrechtlichem Gebiete wurde u.a. festgestellt, dass die Nachschiebung weiterer Ansprueche bei rechtzeitiger Geltendmachung mindestens eines Anspruchs nach staendiger Praxis der Laender zulaessig ist.

Von besonderer Wichtigkeit sind die Bemerkungen des Ausschusses zu der Frage, welche Bedeutung den Urteilen des Bundesgerichtshofs fuer die Praxis der Entschaeidungsbehoerden zukomme und wie sich der Bundesrechnungshof bei einer Pruefung verhalten werde, wenn die Behoerden bei ihren Entscheidungen von Urteilen des Bundesgerichtshofs abwichen. Nach Anhoeerung des Praesidenten des Bundesrechnungshofs und eingehender Aussprache ueber das Verhaeltnis zwischen den Entscheidungen der Verwaltungsbehoerden und der Gerichte sowie der Finanzkontrolle waren sich die Mitglieder des Wiedergutmachungsausschusses darin einig, dass in einem Rechtsstaat Entscheidungen der Gerichte von der Verwaltung selbstverstaendlich beruecksichtigt werden muessen, dass aber die Urteile des Bundesgerichtshofs in der ueberwiegenden Zahl der Faelle nur den zur Entscheidung stehenden Einzelfall betreffen. Soweit es sich um eine staendige Rechtsprechung in Grundsatzfragen handele, muesse aber von den Verwaltungsbehoerden trotz aller Anerkennung der hoechstrichterlichen Autoritaet gerade in den Angelegenheiten der Wiedergutmachung geprueft werden, ob in Anbetracht der besonderen politischen Zielsetzung der Wiedergutmachung die oeffentliche Hand nicht Leistungen erbringen muesste, die ueber die rein rechtliche Verpflichtung hinausgingen. Es wuerde dann in der Kompetenz und der Souveraenitaet des Rechnungshofs liegen, bei sorgfaeltiger Abwaegung der Interessenlage derartige Faelle nicht zu beanstanden. Der Rechnungshof sei schliesslich unabhaeig in der Entscheidung, diese Faelle im Rechnungspruefungsverfahren dem Parlament vorzulegen. Die letzte Entscheidung werde dann der Bundestag treffen.

Der Bericht des Wiedergutmachungsausschusses, dessen Inhalt hier nur auszugsweise wiedergegeben werden kann, wurde am 25. Juni vom Plenum des Bundestages einmuuetig gebilligt.

### KONFERENZ UNTER DR. ADENAUERS VORSITZ

Am 26. Juni fand eine Konferenz des Bundeskanzlers Dr. Adenauer und der Regierungschefs der Laender mit Dr. Nahum Goldmann, dem Praesidenten der Claims Conference, ueber die Durchfuehrung des BEG statt. Die zustaeindigen Minister des Bundes und der Laender nahmen ebenfalls an der Konferenz teil. Von juedischer Seite waren anwesend der Generalsekretaer des Zentralrats der Juden in Deutschland, Dr. H. G. van Dam, der Direktor der Claims Conference in Deutschland, Dr. Ernst Katzenstein, der Direktor der URO in Frankfurt am Main, Dr. Kurt May, und der Sekretaer der Claims Conference in New York, Mr. Saul Kagan. Nach Begrueessung der Versammlung durch den Bundeskanzler ergriff Dr. Goldmann das Wort zu einem grundsaeztlichen Referat, in dem er zunaechst seine Anerkennung zu den Bemuehungen der fuehrenden zustaeindigen deutschen Stellen auf dem Gebiete der Wiedergutmachung zum Ausdruck brachte und sodann eine Reihe von Vorschlaegen zur Beschleunigung der Verfahren und zur Vereinheitlichung der Praxis unterbreitete. Hierbei ging er von der Tatsache aus, dass das Bundesentschaedigungsgesetz eine Regelung aller Ansprueche bis zum 31. Maerz 1963 vorsehe, dass also zu einer fristgemassen Durchfuehrung des

Programms nur noch vier Jahre zur Verfuegung stueuden. Von den etwa 2,6 Millionen angemeldeten Anspruechen seien aber bisher nur etwa 655.000 erledigt, sodass noch etwa 1,9 Millionen Ansprueche schwebten. Eine Vergroesserung des Personalbestandes der Entschaeidungsaeemter wuerde erheblich zur Beschleunigung beitragen. Die Furcht der Sachbearbeiter der Entschaeidungsaeemter vor den Kontrollen der Rechnungshoeefe und vor Regressanspruechen habe zu einer gewissen Zurueckhaltung in der Anwendung der Bestimmungen des Gesetzes gefuehrt. Fiskalische Interessen, erklarte Dr. Goldmann, sollten aber von den hoeheren Gesichtspunkten des Rechts und der Ethik, die zum Erlass des Bundesgesetzes gefuehrt haetten, zuruecktreten. Ausgehend von der Tatsache, dass im letzten Jahr DM 2,6 Milliarden als angemessener jaehrlicher Einsatz fuer den Entschaeidungshaushalt angenommen worden sei, forderte Dr. Goldmann, dass fuer die naechsten vier Rechnungsjahre dieser Jahresbetrag nicht nur haushaltsmaessig wieder eingesetzt, sondern auch voll ausgegeben werden solle. Ferner sollte zur schnelleren Bewaeltigung zahlenmaessig groesserer Gruppen gleichliegender und verhaeltnismaessig einfacher Entschaeidungstatbestaende (wie Beeintraehtigung der Freiheit, bei denen die Darlegung der Dauer langwierige Beweissammlungen erfordere) die Moeglichkeit pauschaler Regelungen in Erwaegung gezogen werden. Dr. Goldmann wies auch auf die Beweisnot derjenigen Antragsteller hin, die im Zuge der Katastrophe ihre Dokumente eingebuest haetten. In diesem Zusammenhang wandte sich Dr. Goldmann gegen die Generalisierung von vereinzelten Missbraeuchen, die bei manchem Beamten ein Gefuehl des Misstrauens gegen saemtliche Antragsteller ausgeloeet habe; er betonte, dass die Claims Conference mit allen ihr zu Gebote stehenden Mitteln gegen derartige Missbraeuche vorgehen wuerde. Da die Durchfuehrung der Entschaeidungsgesetzgebung nicht in Haenden des Bundes, sondern der Laender liege, habe sich eine verschiedenartige Behandlung gleichartiger Ansprueche herausgebildet. Was fehle, sei eine zentrale Lenkung. In dieser Richtung sei gerade wenige Tage zuvor durch die Verwaltungsvereinbarung zwischen dem Bund und den Laender ein erfreulicher Fortschritt gemacht worden.

Das Ergebnis der Besprechung, in deren Verlauf auch Dr. Adenauer mehrfach das Wort ergriff, war ein Beschluss, in kuerzester Frist eine Konferenz der fuer die Wiedergutmachung zustaeindigen Minister einzuberufen, auf der unter Vorsitz des Bundesfinanzministers konkrete Massnahmen erortert werden sollen. In seinen Schlussworten erklarte Dr. Adenauer: "Sie duerfen ueberzeugt sein, dass auf allen Seiten der feste und erste Wille besteht, die Wiedergutmachung so schnell und so gut wie moeglich durchzufuehren."

Die Eroerterung des Wiedergutmachungsproblems auf hoechster politischer Ebene wird von den Interessenvertretern der juedischen Nazi-Opfer als ein bedeutsamer Schritt vorwaerts angesehen.

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LONDON, N.W.1.  
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Neu erschienen

Mitteilungsblatt fuer die Juedischen Gemeinden in

**WESTFALEN**

mit Beitrageen ueber Geschichte und Gegenwart der Juden in Westfalen.

Interessenten werden gebeten, sich an die Schriftleitung (Adresse: Juedische Gemeinde, Dortmund, Prinz-Friedrich-Karl-Strasse 9) zu wenden.



## THE NUERNBERG TRIAL

As stated in recent issues of this journal, the trials of war criminals conducted before German courts are making their impact on German thinking. They have opened a breach in the conscious or unconscious amnesia of the German people. To quote from Kalow's remarkable pronouncement summarised in our February issue: "The gruesome facts are at long last brought home squarely to those who 'ignored' them up till now."

In the public discussion of the recent war crime proceedings, the trial of German major war criminals conducted before the International Military Tribunal at Nuernberg in 1945-46 is hardly ever mentioned. Most Germans consider that trial not as judicial proceedings but as a vindictive measure of the victorious Allied Powers.

It cannot be denied that the Nuernberg trial bristled with problems. To mention some of them: one of the Powers constituting themselves as a tribunal was itself a totalitarian State and has since revealed itself as such even more clearly. The attempt of the Soviet prosecution to hold the Nazi defendants responsible for the Katyn incident failed, and caused much embarrassment to the Western members of the tribunal. Some of the crimes against humanity forming part of the indictment were, with retrospective effect, based on the London charter of August, 1945, which was incompatible with the maxim of *nulla poena sine lege*.

Even so, the trial was an historical and political necessity. There was no alternative. Stalin's original idea was to shoot 50,000 Nazi war criminals, including the leading clique, off-hand, without any judicial proceedings. This led to the dramatic incident at the Yalta Conference described by Sir Winston Churchill. A tribunal set up by neutral States was impracticable, as there were very few genuinely neutral Powers and these were not prepared to co-operate. It was equally impossible at that time to leave proceedings against the major war criminals to the German courts. Their record during the Hitler régime could hardly inspire much confidence. Even under the Weimar Republic—an organised sovereign State provided with the normal organs of justice—the few trials of war criminals before the Reichsgericht had proved a mockery. After the surrender of 1945 an organised German State did not exist. Sovereignty rested with the four occupying Powers. It was their unavoidable responsibility to take immediate action against the major war criminals. It is to their credit that they did so by way of judicial proceedings.

### Fairness to Defendants

The Nuernberg tribunal did its utmost to safeguard the legitimate interests of the defendants. They were provided with German defence counsels of their own choice and of high standing and ability. They were given every opportunity to speak out. The endeavours of the prosecution to produce irrefutable evidence for every indictment involved a preparatory world-wide operation of unheard-of magnitude. Defence counsels were given ample facilities to call witnesses and to procure and produce documents on behalf of the defence. In his closing speech the principal prosecutor of the U.S.A. rightly stressed that the defendants were granted a form of judicial proceedings which they themselves, at the peak of their power, never conceded to their opponents. An outstanding non-Jewish German lawyer, Ludwig Ruge, a staunch anti-Nazi, who was subjected to disciplinary measures under the Third Reich and who attended the Nuernberg trial, was, in 1946, courageous enough to vindicate the trial as correct judicial proceedings and to stress the tribunal's objectivity in the finding and evaluating of the facts.

This brings us to our main point. Whatever blemishes critics may find in the trial and the tribunal's conclusions, it remains true that in these proceedings, conducted in public, the underlying facts were proved, documented, and recorded irrefutably, and far more comprehensively than in the recent German trials which covered but individual aspects and sectors of the gruesome story. The number of documents produced by the prosecution at Nuernberg was 2,630, whereas the defence produced 2,700. The records of the proceedings fill 16,000 pages. They have been published in German. Day by day, during the

trial, newspaper correspondents and news agencies sent out their reports. Day by day there were broadcasts over the German network. Never before in history had the actions of a government been revealed and scrutinised so fully.

It denotes, therefore, a certain lack of sincerity if German public opinion considers the facts revealed by the recent German trials as novelties. Since the Nuernberg trial these and many other facts—the complete story of the Third Reich and its crimes—have been known to a shocked world in all detail. If the German people refused at that time, and since, to acknowledge and to face these facts, this was part of their technique of amnesia, to quote a term coined by President Heuss.

It is, therefore, to be welcomed that a new account of the Nuernberg trial has recently been published in Germany.\*

### An Admirable New Publication

In our considered opinion this work is admirable. The present writer did not attend the Nuernberg trial, but he was a translator at the later Nuernberg trials of war criminals conducted before the U.S.A. Military Tribunal, following the same procedure. Since then he has again and again studied the records of the "great" Nuernberg trial. Thus he considers himself fairly competent to form an opinion of Heydecker's and Leeb's book.

Restricting themselves to the essentials, the authors have succeeded in giving a comprehensive picture of the Nuernberg trial, starting with the delicate and difficult inter-allied negotiations and the preparatory work preceding it, including the man-hunt for the defendants and their capture, and following the trial as such through from start to finish. Their description is sober and factual, but dramatic and gripping at the same time. They do not evade the problems and doubts touched on above. Their narration combines the history of the Third Reich with the story of the trial as such. All persons involved—the accused Nazi leaders in the dock, defence counsels, prosecutors, judges, witnesses—emerge as clear-cut character studies. The reader often gets the feeling of being present during the exciting exchanges between the two sides. Again and again, one is bound to realise that the proceedings follow the Anglo-Saxon tradition: prosecutors and defendants are contending parties of legally equal standing. In the rare cases in which prosecutors show themselves vindictive and over-zealous, they are sternly rebuked by the court. Apart from the proceedings during the tribunal's sessions, the reader is also shown what goes on behind the scenes in the cells and during meal-time conversations between the defendants, among journalists, etc.

Even for a reader who is well conversant with the story, this book is a major experience. Let us hope that it will find willing readers in Germany, too. Its production is attractive. It is enhanced by 50 well-chosen photos, and by a comprehensive bibliography and index. Of the most important speeches by counsels on both sides, and by the defendants, the highlights are given verbally. The same applies to the judgment. One of the most impressive speeches is the final words of the defendant Hans Frank, containing an unreserved confession of guilt.

To conclude this sombre subject on a lighter note, a curiosity may be mentioned. In his closing speech, ringing with conviction and sincerity and a masterpiece of forensic rhetoric, Jackson solemnly quotes certain prophetic words "of Goethe", branding the dangerous side of exaggerated German nationalism and foreseeing the possibility of an outbreak similar to that of 1933. He should have rather quoted Heine, for the alleged Goethe quotation is actually fictitious. These words were lent to Goethe by Thomas Mann in his novel "Lotte in Weimar". Heydecker and Leeb mention the quotation without recognising the error—an error which, by the way, was later also committed by Lord Samuel on another occasion, to be acknowledged and rectified by him afterwards.

E. SCHAEFER.

\* Joe J. Heydecker and Johannes Leeb, *Der Nuernberger Prozess, Bilanz der Tausend Jahre*, Verlag Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Koeln und Berlin, 1958, 609 pages, Ln. DM 16.80. Engl. Br. DM 12.80.

## RECENT PROCEEDINGS

### ACTION AGAINST BERLIN JUDGES

The Attorney General has opened proceedings against the Public Prosecutors Heinz Domann and Herbert Hennig in Berlin, to investigate the activities of these two officials as judges of the National Socialist Volksgerichtshof, the special court of the Nazi régime. They are suspected of having committed intentional manslaughter by pronouncing sentences of death in the political processes of that period. Both men were granted leave of office this March.

According to information from the Department of Justice, files supplied by the American Document Centre have only recently revealed new facts concerning the past of the two judges, who were previously de-nazified and had established their claim for indemnification.

### ARREST IN HANOVER

Gerhard Schneider, an official in the Ministry of Economy and Transport of the Land Niedersachsen, has been arrested. According to official press information, Schneider has been charged with complicity in the mass shooting of Jews in Poland and Russia in 1941.

### POLICEMEN CHARGED WITH MASS MURDERS

The Public Prosecutor in Bielefeld has started proceedings against two former police officers, Ewald Sudau and Herbert Schmidke. They are charged with complicity in the mass execution of Lithuanian Jews in 1941 and 1942. Sudau is accused of participating in the shooting of 150 Jews at Augustowo in 1941 and Schmidke is said to have taken part in the mass murder of over 500 men, women and children in various Lithuanian towns.

### FORMER GESTAPO OFFICIAL ACCUSED

The Stuttgart Public Prosecutor has instigated proceedings against Felix Landau, a former member of the Gestapo, who is accused of having taken part in the mass extermination of the Jewish population in Drohobycz, Boryslaw, and neighbouring districts. Landau was arrested in Austria as early as 1945, but succeeded in escaping from prison. Last year he was arrested in Germany. The court is in possession of Landau's diary found on him in 1945. Witnesses from Europe, America, and Israel have been asked to appear before the court.

### ARREST OF FORMER S.S. OFFICER

Gerhard Schneider, 46-year-old former SS officer who lead an "Einsatzkommando" in Nazi-occupied territories in the East, has been arrested and charged with complicity in the murder of 20,000 Jews in Poland and Russia.

### GHETTO POLICEMAN SENTENCED

The Hanau Court has found Wilhelm Unkelbach guilty and has sentenced him to life imprisonment for the murder of seven Jewish men and women in the Czestochowa Ghetto, where he was a policeman from 1941 to 1943.

During the hearing several survivors of the Ghetto appeared before the Court and gave evidence of the horrifying circumstances under which Unkelbach had put prisoners to death.

### WITNESSES REQUIRED

Witnesses who can give information concerning the extermination of the Jewish population in Lithuania (districts of Kowno, Wilna, Schaulen), from 1941 to 1943, are requested to provide the Zentralstelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen, Ludwigsburg, Schorndorfer Strasse (AZ.7 AR-Z 14/59), with any material.

### WAR CRIMINALS IN EASTERN GAOLS

According to publications from Poland, there are still 216 Germans accused of war crimes in Polish prisons. The total number of Germans imprisoned for war crimes in East European countries is said to be 589. Czechoslovakia has 162 prisoners and Russia 12.



# ANGLO-JUDAICA

## JEWISH PEACE SOCIETY'S H-BOMB PROTEST

The Jewish Peace Society has sent a letter to *The Jewish Chronicle*, signed by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Israel Brodie, Professor Norman Bentwich, Hugh Harris, Desmond J. Trenner, Rev. Saul Amias, Rev. Joseph Halpern and Rabbi Harold F. Reinhart. The letter states that the Society is convinced that the continued manufacture and testing of destructive weapons such as the hydrogen bomb, which are capable of destroying masses of human beings at the press of a button is a crime against God and Man. The testing of such weapons can cause incalculable harm to unborn generations. "We believe that no government should make or test such weapons either now or in the future."

## COLOUR ISSUE AND ANTI-SEMITISM

Jews as well as Negroes were violently attacked by speakers at a "Stop the Coloured Invasion" rally held by the White Defence League and the National Labour Party at Trafalgar Square recently. A pamphlet entitled "Look Out" on sale at the meeting asked people, among other things, to observe that Jews were "dominating the organs of mass propaganda: press, cinema, television, radio and publishing; with political and economic power out of all proportion to their numbers".

In a memorandum issued by the National Council for Civil Liberties entitled "Anti-Semitism and Colour Bar", an appeal is made to all believers in civil liberty to oppose discrimination on grounds of race, religion, language and colour, and to sound the warning of those new dangers in whatever field of social life they are concerned. The memorandum states that, should economic difficulties grow in this country, many people may easily succumb to the human failing of striking out at the nearest scapegoat, who might be a West Indian or a Jew.

## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Bud Flanagan the comedian, whose real name is Robert Winthrop, was made an O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. He was born in East London 62 years ago, the son of Polish immigrants.

Other awards include a K.C.M.G. to the Hon. Albert Asher Wolff, Chief Justice of the State of Western Australia; a C.B.E. to Mr. Leo Levy in recognition of his services to the cattle industry of Southern Rhodesia and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland; O.B.E.s to Mr. Sidney Latin for political and public services in Manchester and Mr. Louis Winter, Chairman of the Stockport Savings Committee and M.B.E.s to Mr. Abram Maxwell Caplin for political and public services in Liverpool and to Mr. Leonard Pinshov for public services in Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. Alexander Francis Morley, C.M.G., C.B.E., was made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He is the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ceylon.

## HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR CHIEF RABBI

Chief Rabbi Dr. Brodie has had the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law conferred on him by the Durham University. Preceding the ceremony, a luncheon attended by 80 guests was prepared under full kashrut supervision. Presenting the Chief Rabbi for the conferment of the degree, the University's Public Orator, Professor W. H. F. Barnes, said that in honouring Dr. Brodie, the Jewish community of the North-East and all those Jewish congregations throughout the Commonwealth and Empire whose spiritual leader he is, were being honoured at the same time.

At a reception held by the Representative Council for Newcastle Jewry in Dr. Brodie's honour a few days later, he said that the conferment of the degree was a tribute not only to him but was also a sign of the honour and respect in which the Anglo-Jewish community was held.

## NEW JEWISH M.P.

Mr. John Jakob Mendelson, a lecturer in Political Science at Sheffield University and Chairman of the Hallam (Sheffield) Labour Party, has been elected as M.P. for Penistone, Yorkshire. His majority was 11,119 in a straight fight with his Conservative opponent. So far as can be ascertained Mr. Mendelson takes no active interest in Jewish communal affairs.

There are now 22 Jewish Members of Parliament—20 Labour and two Conservative.

## FAREWELL TO RABBI DR. ALTMANN

Speaking at a farewell reception in his honour given by the Society for Jewish Study at Hillel House, London, Rabbi Dr. A. Altmann denied that his departure for America was symptomatic of the lack of opportunities for the rabbinate in this country. He said that he was in love with Jewish scholarship and that America had offered him an opportunity of single-minded research and teaching. He hoped that very few rabbis would follow his example, and that they would continue to serve the Jewish community of this country.

"I found refuge in this country", he added, "and it is entirely due to the humanity which this country represents that my family and I were able to be transplanted to England."

Mr. Hugh Harris, Hon. Secretary of the Society, expressed wholehearted gratitude to Dr. Altmann on behalf of Anglo-Jewry for his devoted services to learning and scholarship. Dr. S. Stein recalled that Dr. Altmann had achieved early academic distinction in Germany and Professor Norman Bentwich said that he deeply regretted Dr. Altmann's departure for America.

## PRAYERS IN SEPHARDI ACCENT SUGGESTED

At a recent meeting of the United Synagogue Council, Mr. J. C. Gilbert moved that the Chief Rabbi should be asked to agree to the introduction of the Sephardi pronunciation of Hebrew into synagogues. He pointed out that the "time had come to put an end to the chaos and confusion in the minds of young people taught to pray in one language and speak in another". In the course of the discussion, it transpired that the Chief Rabbi, who had originally not been in favour of a change, had promised to reconsider the matter. The motion was therefore withdrawn.

## JEWES AND CRIME

The Roman Catholic Governor of Wormwood Scrubs Prison paid a tribute to Jewish home life when he spoke at a luncheon meeting recently. He said that at Wormwood Scrubs there were 1,450 prisoners, of whom 700 were under 21 years of age. One thing, however, stood out significantly, he said. "Out of the 700 young men in my prison only two are Jews. There lies the answer to crime. The answer lies in the home life of this country and it is clear that a Jewish boy brought up in his faith has a proper home anchor. Only when we get moral strength in our homes will the crime figures begin to decline."

## BOARD OF GUARDIANS' NEW OFFICERS

In succession to Mr. Justice Karminski, Mr. Oliver Sebag-Montefiore was elected President of the Board of Guardians at its general meeting held on June 8th. Mr. Edward W. Joseph was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee in place of Mr. Ellis A. Franklin.

## LEO BAECK CENTRE OPENED

The North-Western Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, N.W.11, recently opened its new annexe, which is to be used for religion classes and cultural activities. It has been named after Leo Baeck, who was President of the Synagogue.

## TRIBUTES AND AWARDS

### FAREWELL TO A GOOD FRIEND

#### Legationsrat von Holleben Leaves London

Legationsrat von Holleben, the head of the Legal Department of the Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany in London, has been transferred to the Foreign Ministry in Bonn. Our sincere congratulations on his promotion are mixed with feelings of regret at the loss of a trusted friend. He started his career in this country as German Consul in Glasgow, at a time when the wounds inflicted on our people were still too fresh to allow for any relationship between the victims of Nazi persecution and a representative of post-war Germany. Herr von Holleben understood this attitude of the refugees and realised that patience was required for finding a new *modus vivendi*. In his efforts he was driven by a passionate desire to help undo the wrongs committed by the Nazi régime. He went out of his way to be of assistance, and his personal sincerity was soon felt by all those who met him. Thus, the same people who had watched the beginnings of his activities in Glasgow with reserve were sorry when he had to leave them.

In London he was given even more opportunities for creating an atmosphere of confidence by devoting himself to the problems of the Nazi victims, and the spirit in which he and those working under him performed their duties has always been acknowledged by the refugees. At the same time, Herr von Holleben's co-operation with the AJR and the Council of Jews from Germany has developed into personal relations with many of the honorary officers of the two organisations.

We sincerely hope that in his future career as well, Herr von Holleben will find recognition for his abilities and his devotion, and we express our sincerest thanks to him for all he did while he worked in this country.

#### AWARD FOR ERNA PINNER

The author and designer, Erna Pinner, who lives in London, has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit, First Class. Her latest book on animals appeared in England under the title "Curious Creatures" (German edition: "Wunder der Wirklichkeit") and was published in seven different countries. In 1936, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London acquired several of her sketches of animals.

Erna Pinner, who is the daughter of the well-known physician and art collector, the late Geheimrat Pinner (Frankfurt), was a pupil of Louis Corinth. Before 1933 she accompanied Kasimir Edschmid on his world voyages and illustrated numerous books of his. She herself has also written on these travels to Africa and South America. For many years she was a regular columnist with several leading German papers.

#### LITERATURE PRIZE FOR NELLY SACHS

The "Jahresringe" Prize, issued by the Cultural Section of the Organisation of German Industrialists, was this year awarded to the Jewish authoress, Nelly Sachs. Born in Berlin in 1891, she already had several books and poems published before 1933. As late as 1941, she was still in Germany but, on the intervention of Selma Lagerloef, she was permitted to emigrate to Sweden. The sufferings experienced by herself and her fellow-Jews were reflected in a collection of poems "In den Wohnungen des Todes", published in 1947.

#### SWEDEN'S CHIEF RABBI RECEIVES GERMAN PROFESSORSHIP

Chief Rabbi Kurt Wilhelm has been awarded a chair in the "Science of Judaism" at the University of Frankfurt by the Hessian Ministry of Education. Dr. Wilhelm was a student of Rabbi Leo Baeck and a graduate of the Jewish seminaries of Breslau and New York. The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree on him about two years ago. He intends concurrently to continue his duties as Chief Rabbi of Sweden in Stockholm.



## ABOUT BOOKS

### HOW TO CHANGE ONE'S NATIONALITY

Heinrich Fraenkel's "Farewell to Germany"

The coincidence may not have occurred to Heinrich Fraenkel or the publishers of his book ("Farewell to Germany," Bernard Hanison Ltd., 18s.), but the timing could not have been better. This is the Year of the Refugee, and although we are now no longer "news" it is a good thing that one of us has come forward with a personal account of the days when we were—with a summing-up of the thoughts, experiences, and arguments on the subject of settling in the country of one's choice.

Fraenkel speaks for many of us when he starts with these lines: "Germany is my homeland. I am still devoted to it, I am still anxious to get there for a visit once or twice a year, but I no longer wish to live there. I decided, some years ago, to acquire British nationality. This is a factual statement, easily put in a sentence or two; but to attempt an explanation will take all of some fifty or sixty thousand words."

This, I feel, sums up our situation admirably, and many of the things he recalls are within our common experience. However, Fraenkel's story has some special features. He might be called the Senior Internee, for he was put behind barbed wire on the Isle of Man as early as 1914 when he happened to visit England as a schoolboy, and again in 1940. He lived and worked as a film writer in Hollywood around 1930, and went to Spain to offer his services as a fighter six years later (he is honest enough to say that his most dramatic experience there was watching a silent Elisabeth Bergner film during a German air-raid in Valencia).

He left Hitler's Germany early as a political refugee, without waiting to be forced to emigrate as a Jew. He has the courage to say what many of us saw but rarely discussed except among our closest friends: "Among the scores of thousands of German Jews who left their departure to as late as 1938 or 1939 there were obviously very few who were opposed to the Hitler régime for political reasons. . . . For them anti-Semitism was the one and only grudge against the Hitler Reich; and some of them would certainly have come to be very ardent National Socialists themselves if the régime had admitted them."

On the other hand, Fraenkel had much personal experience of the "good" Germans who fought Hitler and helped imperilled Jews at the risk of their own lives. He quotes a former Hitler Youth member: "Would you expect German schoolboys to show more political wisdom than the Prime Ministers of Britain and France who came running after Hitler as far as Munich?"

#### The Early Hampstead Days

I enjoyed Fraenkel's description of the early refugee days in Hampstead, the foundation of the *Kulturbund* (whose first headquarters in Berlin, at the *Herrenklub*, of all places, he visited after the war), and of the "astonishing dialectic capers and brain acrobatics" of the Communist refugees as they changed their political views overnight on higher orders. After the Stalin-Ribbentrop pact and the period of what they called the "Imperialist war" (until Hitler invaded Russia) their arguments no longer impressed Fraenkel. He wrote his excellent book, "Germany's Road to Democracy", in the darkest days of the war when democracy seemed farther away than ever from his native country.

He saw it again shortly after the war, in British uniform, as a journalist writing for the *New Statesman*. His account of Germany and the Germans in those distant days is a useful reminder in our period of the economic miracle and German rearmament. The nightmare quality of those journeys in a devastated, famished country, the stupid mistakes committed by the Allies in their handling of de-nazification (the effects are still with us), the fall of the Iron Curtain, the division of Germany and German mentality into East and West: these are experiences which have been well worth retelling from a personal angle. There is the "satyr-play" of an arrest by the Russians, and there is a frightening conversation with an incorrigible SS. man in a camp.

But these are not just stories from the past to Fraenkel. They have influenced his political attitude to our present world, and shaped his *Weltanschauung*. "For a man these days to be neither an out-and-out fellow-traveller nor an out-and-out Red-baiter, is not quite easy", he says. "It is probably easiest in England, and that too may have been one of the reasons for my decision to make my home in England, for this is the land where some tolerance is for ever being practised, and the tacit respect for other people's opinions." Fraenkel believes that "both the land of my birth and the land of my choice would do well to take a leaf out of each other's book; and to copy a bit of the one nation's gluttony for work and the other's sense of tolerance". He does not take the emergence of a new Nazism very seriously; the Germans, he thinks, "have learned the grim lesson of their second war", and the post-war generation is reaping and grasping the benefit of that lesson.

Even if we do not share Heinrich Fraenkel's confidence on this vital point there is a good deal of sound sense in his book, and it certainly contains much enlightening material for English readers. One London reviewer has said that it is a good thing that people like Fraenkel have chosen this country as their new homeland.

Without wanting to poke holes in a valuable book, I think Fraenkel should have checked his spelling of names like Ossietzky and Bela Kun. It is also a little irritating (not to say un-English) that everybody who is anybody seems to be "my old friend", and that some of these old friends are called "Kingsley" and "Ellen" without their surnames, in the style of the gossip columnists. And why, oh why have the publishers draped the book in the *Belgian* national colours?

EGON LARSEN

### TWO JEWISH HISTORICAL NOVELS

When Max Brod's novel "Galileo in Captivity" was awarded the Bialik Prize there was some opposition among Israeli writers, not because of any criticism of the revered author's literary merit but because they thought that the prize ought to have gone to a work written in Hebrew. By the tenth anniversary of Israel's statehood, Moshe Shamir's novel "The King of Flesh and Blood" was published, and this first Israeli historical novel is a great event in the history of Jewish literature.

This book about the Maccabean king Alexander Jannai is a Jewish novel not only because of its subject matter and its language but also because it is a work of real Jewish substance—an essential product of the land of Israel. The author was born in Galilean Safed. He was one of the pioneers in a kibbutz and was a shock trooper of Hagana during the birth pangs of the new state on ancient soil. He has himself lived through the conflict between the sword and the spirit, is aware of the antagonism between religion and politics: the recent Arab war with its violence and its displaced persons was present in his mind, and, at his worst, the Hasmonean king does not lack certain features of a Hitler.

The hero, though by no means an amiable person, is a fascinating personality, charming, but unscrupulous, thirsting after and corrupted by power, believing, or at least making himself believe, in the mission of the Hasmonean House, striving to make his people great, not as God's anointed but as a "King of Flesh and Blood". It was during his reign that in the mind of the people the House of David became a "myth" again. The glory of the Hellenistic world is the ideal of this scion of the Maccabees, and he tries to achieve it, both through the vicissitudes of war and through political double-crossing. The political scene, described by the author with immense vitality and in lively colours, serves as the background to private passions: Alexander Jannai's marriage to Salome, his murdered brother's widow, and the mutual affection between him and his almost saintly brother Absalon; and his brother-in-law's activities as the leader of his enemies, the Pharisees.

\* East and West Library, London, 22/6. Translated into English by David Patterson, Cowley Lecturer in post-Biblical Hebrew at the University of Oxford.

While his ancestors set out to free Judaea from Antioch's enforced Hellenisation, Alexander Jannai and, to a lesser degree his father John Hyrcanus, reversed the process and tried to make the Judean kingdom a Hellenistic state.

Before writing this novel Moshe Shamir's main literary interest was with the theatre, the conditions of which he had studied in the United States. In a similar way the American Jewish writer Howard Fast had been mainly interested in politics before he wrote his novel "Moses, Prince of Egypt". One might have expected that choosing this theme he would deal with Moses as a ruler who kept his people apart from outside influences, enforced strict laws and demanded dictatorial obedience. But it is the young Moses he is interested in not the conqueror and lawgiver.

He follows a tradition according to which Moses is an Egyptian name such as we find in the names of some Pharaohs, e.g., Ahmose (Amasis), Thutmose and Ramses (Ra-mases), Moses meaning son. But Howard Fast does not go as far as does Thomas Mann in the "Tables of the Law" by making Moses the son of a Hebrew slave and an Egyptian princess. He makes him the foster-son, the object of true motherly feeling of the princess, who hopes that he will one day succeed her brother Ramses II and restore the worship of Aton, this monotheistic cult of the sun god introduced by Akhnaton and his wife Nephretete, which had been eradicated with great cruelty, but was by no means dead.

Moses grows up as a prince, like Buddha, ridiculed by the other princes as the "boy with half a name", lonely, with a spiritual urge and with some doubt in the Egyptian gods, but accepting Egyptian civilisation as something great. Ramses wonders whether he might not be his and his sister's son after all, and when the story comes to its close he even offers him, in unwilling admiration and in spite of his love-hatred, to be his successor to the throne. But Moses sees in him the murderer of his foster-mother and has learnt the secret of his birth—he was exposed as a sacrifice to the snake god by the Levites in Goshem, who had by then forgotten Israel's heritage. With other slaves the Levites build the huge colossus of Ramses, and before Moses realises that he is of their blood he feels the injustice done to them by being treated as slaves after having first been given shelter as strangers.

Moses' slaying of the overseer does not occur until the end of the story, when he frees his slave Nun who had become his blood-brother during the war against Kush. Moses does so not only because he is of the tribe of Israel but because he does not accept slavery any longer.

"Moses, Prince of Egypt" is not Howard Fast's first Biblical novel. He has previously written a novel on Samson, "My Glorious Brothers", which compares favourably with Vladimir Jabotinsky's nearly forgotten work on the same subject. With consummate skill Howard Fast paints a large canvas of Egyptian civilisation and the mythology of the fertile crescent and at the same time conjures up a convincing portrait of his young hero, both involved in this world and revealing his future greatness and his way to the discovery of one just and loving God.

LUTZ WELTMANN

† Methuen & Co., London, 310 pp., 16/-.

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## OLD ACQUAINTANCES

**Two Buddenbrooks:**—Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1929, Thomas Mann's famous novel "Buddenbrooks" will reach the screen in two versions—against the wish of the author, who hoped during his life-time for a co-production by the two Germans. Four years ago Mann gave the same Schiller lecture in Stuttgart and Weimar to prove that the divided country had something in common, but his heirs have different opinions. His daughter, Erika Mann, will now script the West German film whilst Defa in East Berlin will produce a second "Buddenbrooks" version. As in the two other films based on her late father's novels, Erika Mann also takes a part in the film, where she speaks the voice of a parrot.

**Measure of Success:**—Billy Wilder, who started as a gigolo in Berlin's Eden Hotel and wrote his first script for "Menschen am Sonntag" thirty years ago, is now one of Hollywood's foremost directors. Recently he came to London for the first night of his hilarious Monroe film "Some Like it Hot."

**Bilbo and Picasso:**—Bearded Jack Bilbo, who during the war was the proprietor of an art gallery in London off the Haymarket, was once the proud owner of Picasso's "La Belle Hollandaise", which was auctioned last month for £55,000. Bilbo, born in Berlin—his real name is Baruch—has returned to his home town, where he runs a souvenir shop in Bleibtreustrasse. He bought the famous Picasso for only £4,500 and sold it for £6,000 to Major Harold Rubin, who has now sold it for the record sum.

**U.S.A.:**—Eric Pommer has been awarded the Federal German Great Cross of Merit.—Robert Lantz presented his first Broadway production, "The Nervous Set", at New York's Henry Miller's Theatre.—George Grosz has left America to settle in Berlin again.—Marlene Dietrich has again made a successful appearance at Las Vegas.—Lotte Lenya assisted David Drew, music critic of London's *New Statesman*, to write the biography of her late husband, Kurt Weill.—Fritz Kortner's son Peter is producing a series of TV plays for C.B.S.

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**Obituary:**—Ernestine Costa, who helped to pave the way for Bert Brecht in England, has died in London, after an operation. The rising actress of Mannheim and Berlin was married to the Dutch writer H. B. Fortuin, and came to London via Holland; she appeared on radio and stage and quickly became famous.—87-year-old Friedrich Funder, former editor of Vienna's *Reichspost* and lately editor of the weekly *Die Furchen*, died in Vienna.

Hermann Leopoldi, the popular Austrian composer and pianist, has died in Vienna at the age of 71. Together with "Professor" Fritz Wiesenthal, he ran the cabaret "Hoelle," and wrote many well-known songs such as "In einem kleinen Café in Hernals" and "The Nowacks from Prague." Leopoldi survived the Nazi régime and returned to Vienna from New York after the end of the war.—Joseph Kalmer has died at the age of 60 while on a visit to Vienna. The Austrian writer and poet, who published "Flug in die Wolken" in 1927, lived in London before the war. He ran a short-story agency and translated from many languages.

**Home News:**—Lilly Freud-Marlé gave a lecture on Sigmund Freud at the invitation of the University of Manchester.—I. Goldsmith will bring Kurt Hoffmann's German film, "Wir Wunderkinder", with an English commentary by his wife, Vera Caspary, to London.—Egon Larsen lectured on the early German sound films at the German Institute. He began by reading what he had written thirty years ago: "the sound film is artistically impossible", and ended with the confession: "I'm glad I was wrong".—Peter Zadek, who has directed many *avant-garde* plays here, will produce several plays in German during the coming season.

**This and that:**—William Dieterle will direct the German film "Herren der Welt" for A. Brauner, and will produce Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth" on the Berlin stage.—Walter Wicclair has directed Koestler's "Darkness at Noon" in English in Berlin.—Kurt Hirschfeld produced "Emilia Galotti" and "Maria Stuart" at Zurich's Schauspielhaus.—Dr. Felix Langer's radio play, "So stirbt ein Komödiant", will be broadcast by Radio Beromuenster.—Robert Stolz' new operetta, "Wiener Café", will be shown in Krefeld and Dortmund next season.—Oskar Kokoschka is to do the decors for Vienna's Burg.—Painter Jakob Steinhardt has returned to Israel after a five-months' trip to the States.—Walter Goehr, of London, conducted Hanns Eisler's "German Symphony" in East Berlin's State Opera.—Warwick Ward, who was Emil Jannings' and Lya de Putti's partner in Dupont's "Variete", celebrated his 70th birthday in London.

PEM

### GERMAN JEWS HONOUR MAX BROD

To mark the 75th birthday of Max Brod, the Tel Aviv group of the organisation of immigrants from Central Europe, Irgun Olej Merkaz Europa, held a meeting whereat the poet was the guest of honour. Dr. Tramer, Secretary of IOME, paid tribute to Max Brod—the writer, artist, philosopher, and Zionist of long standing. Dr. F. Weltsch dealt with the relationship between Max Brod and Franz Kafka. Extracts from the writer's works were recited by Manfred Geis. At the conclusion of the meeting, Brod himself read from the epilogue of his new book, which describes memories of his youth in Prague.

### HELENE THIMIG 70

The well-known actress, Helene Thimig, widow of Max Reinhardt, recently celebrated her 70th birthday. In 1933 she went to Hollywood, together with her husband, but returned to Vienna in 1947. She still appears at Vienna's Theater in der Josefstadt.

### DEATH OF GEORGE GROSZ

George Grosz, the cartoonist, has died in Berlin at the age of 66. He was well-known for his outspoken criticism of bourgeois society before 1933. When the Nazis came to power Grosz emigrated to the United States. He returned to Berlin only a short while ago.

## BERLINALE '59

There are far too few good films produced each year all over the world for the holding of many Film Festivals. The Festival in Berlin is no exception, but that divided city has developed a face of its own during the nine years since it started its own Festival. The "Berlinale," as the Festival is called, has become an international meeting-place for film people from all parts of the globe.

This year the German Government's first prize for the best feature film went to the entertaining, though over-rated "Helden," based on Shaw's "Arms and the Man," and the award for the best documentary went to "Paradies und Feuerofen," a German film on Israel. The international jury, however, gave its first feature film prize to the French film "Les Cousins." It also preferred Walt Disney's "White Wilderness" to the German documentary—a decision which disappointed critics and audiences, who had hoped "Paradies und Feuerofen" would get the first prize. Produced by German journalist Herbert Viktor, this full-length documentary in colour, about Israel, was the event of the Festival. The film is not only informative and impressive but has a lively commentary without saying too much. The problems of the young nation are convincingly stated, and an over-all picture is given of the country and the people, living, working, and building there. "Paradies und Feuerofen" is not only an important film but is also extremely good.

Another interesting film shown for the first time in Berlin was Helmut Kaeutner's "Der Rest ist Schweigen," a modern version of "Hamlet" in the Germany of today. Unfortunately, it missed the point. Hardy Krueger takes the part of Hamlet, who returns from his exile in America and tries to find the murderer of his father. Topical problems are brought up, but no solution is given. Both the writer and director wished to say too much. But this is one of the better German films. If the Berlin Festival helps to make German films like "Hamlet" known in other countries, it has achieved its goal. This also applies to films like "Wir Wunderkinder" and "Hunde wollt ihr ewig Leben."

PEM.

### JOSEPH PLAUT 80

The well-known humorist Joseph Plaut recently celebrated his 80th birthday in Germany. Readers will remember his numerous performances which, until 1933, attracted large audiences. After the Nazis came to power his activities were restricted to Jewish functions, and he helped us to withstand the upheavals of those dark days. The selection of his programmes has always been marked by a strong personal touch and comprised masterpieces of literature. For an artist like Joseph Plaut, whose means of expression is the language, the years of exile were not easy. He bravely met these difficulties by taking up various occupations. However, some years after the end of the war he decided to return to his country of birth. His last appearance in England was under the auspices of the AJR. In Germany he became popular again after a very short time, not only because his pre-Nazi activities were well remembered but, above all, because his vigour and artistic accomplishments had not been impaired by the years of exile. There is much Jewishness in his human understanding and his general approach to his art, and he has thus endeared himself especially to our community. We wish Joseph Plaut many happy returns of the day.

### NEW OPERA PRODUCTION

The Revival Opera Company is to give two performances of Meyerbeer's "Les Huguenots" on 26th and 27th October at 7.15 p.m. at the Scala Theatre, Charlotte Street, London, W.1. The opera is produced by Peter G. Foster and includes a number of German-Jewish performers in its cast. Tickets are obtainable from the usual ticket agents as well as from the Ben Uri Art Gallery.

### JUNE 1959 ISSUE

It would be greatly appreciated if readers would send unwanted copies of the June, 1959, issue of *AJR Information* to the offices of the AJR, 8, Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, as there is a shortage of that particular issue.



## TWO PUBLICATIONS ON EARLY ZIONISM

Many of the men who stood at the cradle of the Zionist Movement are today only legendary names even in Zionist circles and, in any case, to the new generation in Israel, but their life and ideas are of great interest to the understanding of the events of the last seventy years. A number of them are closely connected with the development of Jewish thought in Central Europe. Let us not forget that the language of incipient Zionism was German. Most of the early ideological struggles took place within the German orbit. It is always gratifying to save the memory of such men from oblivion.

One of the early pioneers of Zionism in Germany was Dr. M. I. Bodenheimer, born 1865, in Stuttgart, who lived in Cologne (died 1940 in Jerusalem), and who was a Zionist even before Herzl, but became one of Herzl's closest and most faithful collaborators after the publication of "Der Judenstaat" in 1896 and the convening of the First Basle Congress. Bodenheimer wrote his own autobiography,\* but this could be published only posthumously by his daughter, who deserves the gratitude of all those interested in this rich material. He came from assimilated Jewish stock, and was deeply shocked by the Russian pogroms of the 'eighties and 'nineties. He became an indefatigable Zionist, a delegate to most Congresses (where he often presided). He accompanied Herzl on his first visit to Palestine, he stood at the head of the Jewish National Fund, he was involved in many political, ideological, and practical controversies. A chapter of special interest is devoted to his intervention, together with other public men, for the East European Jews during the First World War, when Poland, Lithuania, and the Ukraine were occupied by the Germans.

All these activities and experiences, also his opinions and judgments, often his criticisms, are contained in this book. Many Zionist and Jewish personalities with whom he came in contact, are described and appraised, and even if a reader does not share all of Bodenheimer's views, it is always useful to learn the thoughts and motives of a respected leader, and a man of great integrity. It throws instructive light on almost half a century of Jewish endeavours.

Another little volume† takes us back to the days of hectic preparation for the First Zionist Congress in Basle. Expectations were high among the young Jewish intellectuals dedicated to Herzl's idea, but experience was scarce, and many doubts

were reflected in their unending discussions. In the centre of the book stands one of the most moving figures of the period, Nathan Birnbaum (who adopted the pen-name of Mathias Acher). An ever-searching soul, he went all the way from materialistic nationalism to Yiddish-loving "All-judentum" and finally to strict religious observance of the "Aguda" brand. Birnbaum's correspondence with Herzl's Secretary, Dr. Siegmund Werner, reveals the tentative and somehow uneasy zeal with which the Congress was awaited, and Josef Fraenkel has displayed great skill in putting the whole material in its right perspective. He also furnishes the reader with all the dates necessary for better understanding, including ample footnotes giving short biographies of scores of men who took a leading part in early Zionism.

ROBERT WELTSCH.

### MAJOR FOLEY FOREST

As reported in our previous issue, a group of Jews from Germany decided to honour the memory of Major E. F. Foley, one-time British Passport Control Officer in Germany, by planting a forest in Israel in his name. The first trees have now been planted, and the consecration of the forest recently took place.

The memorial stone was unveiled by Dr. Siegfried Moses, State Comptroller of Israel, who was one of the last Chairmen of the Zionist Organisation in Germany. Mr. Benno Cohn, in his address, recalled that the climax of Major Foley's activities in Berlin was reached during the weeks after the November pogroms. At that time innumerable women collected outside the British Consulate, hoping for visas so that their husbands could be released from concentration camps. Major Foley was at their disposal day and night, and went out of his way to help. He was, said Mr. Cohn, a genuine Christian to whom the commandment "Love Thy Neighbour" was very real. At the same time Major Foley was active in the political sphere, passing on to the British authorities accounts of the atrocities committed which came to his notice.

It is intended to augment the size of the memorial forest, and contributions are still required. Jews from Germany who found refuge in this country have a particular debt of gratitude to Major Foley.

Several readers have expressed their desire to be associated with the scheme, and it is hoped that many others will follow their example. In order to facilitate the sending of donations to the fund in Israel, contributions may be sent to the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansion, London, N.W.3, and they will be transferred *en bloc* to Tel Aviv with a list of the donors. Cheques should be made payable to the Association of Jewish Refugees, and earmarked "Major Foley Forest".

## WHAT ISRAELI YOUTH READS

At the request of the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture a survey was recently carried out by the Szold Institute when 1,500 pupils between the ages of 16 and 17 attending 66 educational institutions—secondary schools and vocational centres, agricultural schools and evening classes—were asked which books and authors they read in their leisure time. The results were in many respects most instructive.

Only one-fifth of the most widely read books were original Hebrew works. Since 80 per cent of the books were novels, the researchers explain the preponderance of translations by the paucity of Hebrew fiction with attractive plots and of high literary standard especially in the field of modern prose. More than a third of the youngsters preferred translated to original Hebrew works. Every translated work was read by 6.5 pupils, while the average for original Hebrew works was 4.8.

Tolstoy headed the list of favourite foreign authors, followed by Cronin, Pearl Buck, Steinbeck and Dostoyevsky. The most popular Hebrew authors were Moshe Shamir, S. I. Agnon, Ch. N. Bialik, Yigal Mossinson and Aharon Meged.

Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" held first place amongst the books read. All the twenty most widely read books were prose works. One quarter of the books were war books, and another fifth on topics connected with war. The extent to which the subject of war occupies the minds of Israeli youth is remarkable and gives food for thought.

No less interesting is the information of how much is being read by whom. The average youth in Israel between 13 and 17 years of age, according to this study, reads one book per month, i.e. 50 books in the four years under survey. Girls, on the whole, read more than boys, who seem to be content with about ten books per year.

Most surprising is the classification of the youthful readers according to their parents' countries of origin. It appears that the children of parents from Central and Western Europe read the least, even less than children from Oriental countries. It must be left to psychologists and social researchers to find the causes for this amazing development, which may be a militant reaction against the mental outlook of their parents, or indicative of a swing away from intellectual values altogether. Children of parents from Russia, Poland and Lithuania read about 62 books (in four years); of Balkan parents—44; of "Sabras"—44; of parents from Oriental countries—28; and of parents from Central and Western Europe—21.

Secondary school children in the three large cities—Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa—have the highest average—71 books, and pupils of vocational schools the lowest—31. Forty per cent of the students investigated were members of youth movements who had read an average of 56 books apiece, as compared with 44 for non-members. The researchers conclude from this that membership in youth movements encourages reading and does not, as is so often presumed, take up time that might have been used for this purpose.

H.F.

### TWENTY YEARS BETH YITZCHAK

At the end of June the twentieth anniversary of the village Beth Yitzchak, near Nathanya, in Israel, was celebrated. This is one of the most successful settlements of middle-class Jews from Germany and other Central European countries who decided to change their way of life and founded an agricultural village. The funds were derived from a legacy by the late Yitzchak Feuerring, who during the 'twenties and early 'thirties was one of the leading Zionists in Germany. After his premature death, Mrs. Feuerring (now in New York) decided that the memory of her husband would be most effectively honoured by establishing a village of middle-class Jews, an idea which Feuerring had strongly cherished during his lifetime. After twenty years, the one-time waste has been transformed into a flourishing community in beautiful surroundings. Friends of Feuerring assembled there to commemorate the occasion.

### 1961 PRESS CONGRESS IN TEL AVIV

The International Press Institute, which recently held its congress in Berlin, decided to hold its 1961 convention in Tel Aviv. The 1960 congress will be held in Tokyo.

\* Max Bodenheimer: *So Wurde Israel*. Aus der Geschichte der zionistischen Bewegung, 324 Seiten, mit zahlreichen Dokumenten und 10 ganzseitigen Tafeln. Ganzleinen DM 19.50, Kartiert DM 17.50. Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Frankfurt-am-Main.

† Josef Fraenkel: *Mathias Achers Kampf um die Zionskrone*. 94 pp. and Index. Verlag Jüdische Rundschau Maccabi Basel, 1959.

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Josef Fraenkel

## THE THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION

### 100th Anniversary of Otto Warburg's Birth

Professor Otto Warburg was a botanist. He and a few other Jews, like Ferdinand Julius Cohn, Paul Ascherson and Nathaniel Pringsheim, became Professors of Botany at universities in Germany and enjoyed an international reputation. But Otto Warburg also belongs to the history of Zionism. His love of plants led him to Jewish colonisation.

Theodor Herzl immortalised him in his Zionist novel "Altneuland", published in 1902. There, Warburg is depicted as "Hamburger", who is charged with the task of obtaining eucalyptus trees and seedlings of Mediterranean flora and transplanting them "for the benefit and ornamentation" of Palestine. Warburg did achieve it but Herzl never dreamed that this same "Hamburger" or Warburg would, nine years later, become the President of the Zionist Organisation.

Otto Warburg, born on July 20th, 1859, in Hamburg, belonged to an old-established and distinguished family; he received a good German upbringing, studied at Bonn and, as was the custom at that time, at other universities too: Berlin, Munich, Strassbourg and Tuebingen. Two years after receiving his doctorate, he travelled in Asia and spent a few years on research work to perfect his knowledge of tropical plants. At the age of 32 he was appointed lecturer at the University of Berlin and in 1897 became Professor of Botany. He was a scientist eager to discover the mysteries of nature. He helped to establish the *Zeitschrift fuer tropische Landwirtschaft* and published several studies, among them "Die Kulturpflanze der Weltwirtschaft" (1907) and three volumes of "Die Pflanzenwelt" (1913-1922). He was completely absorbed in agricultural problems and in German colonisation, scarcely aware of the Jewish question which was quite alien to him.

Gustav G. Cohen, of Hamburg, who after reading George Eliot's "Daniel Deronda" became a Zionist, drew Warburg's attention to the Hovevei Zion Society "Ezra" in Berlin. Cohen, whose daughter Anne became Warburg's wife and was later one of the co-founders of the Union of Jewish Women for Cultural Work in Palestine in 1907, was a friend of Herzl and a delegate to the First Zionist Congress in Berlin in 1897. Very soon Warburg, who had originally shown an interest, on humanitarian grounds, in colonisation for Rumanian Jews, became a shakel holder. The membership of a Professor was a great boost for the Zionist movement in Germany. Hermann Schapira, who was a veteran Zionist and a Professor at Heidelberg University, had merely been an "Ostjude", whereas Warburg was by contrast a real West-European. At the beginning, Warburg addressed meetings of the Union of Jewish Students in Berlin and encouraged its members to support the new movement. Herzl met him in Berlin and assured him that he would always be prepared to participate in practical work for Palestine. Herzl hoped to begin mass colonisation, after receiving the "Charter", and intended to entrust Warburg with many important missions. Later he invited him together with Dr. Franz Oppenheimer to Vienna and already at that time discussed the establishment and programme of a "Palestine Commission" with them.

#### Chairman of Uganda Commission

Otto Warburg appeared for the first time as a delegate at the Sixth Zionist Congress in 1903. This Congress dealt with the motion to appoint a Commission to study the possibilities of Jewish colonisation in the East African territory (Uganda) offered by the British Government. Warburg, who was one of the "Yes-Sayers", became Chairman of this Commission consisting of nine members, among them Joseph Cowen, Leopold Greenberg, Leopold Kessler and Chaim Weizmann.

The same Congress also elected a "Palestine Commission" to examine the economic, technical, legal and geographical problems of the country. This Commission consisted of three experts: the botanist Warburg, the economist Oppenheimer and the agriculturist Dr. Selig Soskin; it had its headquarters in Berlin and an annual budget of 15,000 francs. In this manner the preparatory practical work was begun and soon the founda-

tions of Zionist colonisation were laid. Plans were prepared, a scientific periodical *Altneuland* (later *Palaestina*) was published and institutions established.

Otto Warburg gradually gained prestige in the movement. At the Seventh Zionist Congress in 1905, the first to take place without Herzl, he reported on the activities of the Commission (Uganda) and, as is known, the Congress declined the British offer. Warburg underlined that Palestine was the only country suitable for Jewish colonisation and declared that practical work would facilitate the granting of the "Charter". He supported private initiative in establishing many institutions, helped to found the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, propagated at that time by Professor Boris Schatz, introduced the planting of olive trees and suggested the idea of the Herzl Forest. Warburg was one of the founders of the Agricultural Research Station, the Palestine Land Development Company, the Palestine Industrial Syndicate and many other institutions for promoting colonisation in Palestine. He can aptly be described as "a founder". He was always occupied with plans but also had the ability to realise them.

The Seventh Zionist Congress elected David Wolffsohn as President of the Zionist Organisation and Warburg as a member of the Zionist Executive. Wolffsohn, who carried on with the political work of Herzl, greatly appreciated Warburg's qualities and regarded him as "honesty itself". But there were differences between the two as the botanist withdrew more and more from political Zionism, which he described as "a phantom".

In the meantime the opposition against Wolffsohn did not decrease. Chaim Weizmann, at that time an admirer of German Zionism, used to criticise Wolffsohn bitterly, calling him the "soicher" (tradesman). He and the old opponents of Herzl did not believe in the success of political Zionism. They could not imagine how Palestine could be won at a conference table. The opposition grew in strength and Zionism was gradually returning to the old Hovevei Zion ideology. In the course of this fierce struggle, directed mainly against Wolffsohn, Warburg was nominated as candidate to the Presidency. Warburg was really not interested and it was almost against his will that he was persuaded and cajoled into accepting this high office.

#### Headquarters Moved to Berlin

Already at the Ninth Zionist Congress in 1909, Weizmann presented a list of names for a new Zionist Executive, at the top of which was Warburg, but Wolffsohn was omitted. The delegates revolted against this proposal. Warburg, too, would not accept election "under such conditions". Finally the old Executive (Wolffsohn, Warburg and Kahn) was re-elected. But Wolffsohn was tired and ill and did not want to stand again as President at the Tenth Zionist Congress in 1911 although he, who (as Dr. Osias Thon put it), "not only preserved the heritage of Herzl but also enriched it", could have again been President. So an Executive was elected without Wolffsohn. Warburg, who continued to direct the Palestine Department, became Chairman of the Executive. The headquarters of the Zionist Organisation moved from Cologne to Berlin (Saechsische Strasse).

Warburg was to be the bridge between the Executive and Herzl's old opponents who for so long had striven to obtain control of the movement but still could not agree on the allocation of rôles. Warburg had no lust for power nor was he a dramatic fighter, but as the leader of the Zionist Organisation he was the right person to introduce the new era of practical Zionism. He was peace-loving, wanted harmony within the Zionist Organisation and was a conciliatory influence.

The Eleventh Congress, too, held in Vienna (1913), the last before the outbreak of the war, confirmed his leadership. He was bristling with new plans and new enterprises to consolidate Jewish Palestine. Dr. Arthur Ruppin, the expert on Zionist colonisation who had been won over by Wolffsohn to direct the Palestine Office, could

now, with Warburg's help, realise many projects. Warburg encouraged the immigration of Yemenites to Palestine, he concerned himself with the construction of homes for Jewish workers and for better hygiene. He fought for the introduction of Hebrew at the Technical Institute in Haifa and worked for the establishment of the Hebrew University.

In Germany Zionism was considered an "English" concern and in England a "German" one. When *The Times* of September 20th, 1912, described Zionism as having "a predominantly German-Jewish character" which would strengthen German influence in Palestine, Warburg wrote a letter to *The Times* asserting that actually more English than German was spoken in Palestine. Warburg came to London in 1913 to address the conference of the Zionist Federation. He also realised at last that it would be necessary to have the help of England and that very soon it would become advisable to transfer the Political Department of the Zionist Organisation from Berlin to London.

When the war broke out he remained in Berlin. He continued with his task and intervened with the German Government on many occasions to save Jewish colonies from complete destruction.

Professor Otto Warburg stayed on as President of the Zionist Organisation until the first large post-war Zionist Conference in London of July 1920, when Chaim Weizmann was elected President. At the Twelfth Zionist Congress in Carlsbad (1921), the first to be held after the Balfour Declaration, he reported on the activities of the Jewish National Fund. He spoke, as usual, like the scientist he was, quietly and objectively, quoting figures and putting forward new proposals. But he was no Party man and was not re-elected to the Executive. He remained the practical Zionist, loved the beauty of Palestine, visiting the country every year, lecturing on botanics at the Hebrew University and supervising the work of the Agricultural Research Station in Tel Aviv (later in Rehovoth).

He witnessed the growth of anti-Semitism in Germany and Hitler's accession to power. He died on January 10th, 1938, and his ashes were taken to Palestine. The "Warburg Period" or the "Berlin Period" in Zionist history was not distinguished by political activities but was certainly rich in practical achievements.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### DR. HANS KLEE

It is learned with deep regret that Dr. Hans Klee has passed away in Switzerland at the age of 53. As the son of the late Dr. Alfred Klee, the prominent leader of the German Zionist Movement and of the Berlin Jewish community, he was actively associated with the cause of Zionism and many other Jewish ventures throughout his life. In Switzerland, where he emigrated after his legal career was cut short by the events of 1933, he was President of the Swiss Organisation of General Zionists and a Vice-President of the Zionist Federation of Switzerland; he was also a member of the "Aktionsausschuss" of the Zionist World Organisation. From 1954 to 1957 he was Editor of the *Israelitische Wochenblatt* (Zurich). Hans Klee was an impressive speaker and a gifted journalist. Above all, however, he was a personality. His work was based on a deep knowledge of the problems involved and his enthusiasm knew no limits.

On his visits to London he would invariably contact the honorary officers of the AJR and of the Council of Jews from Germany, most of whom had known him through past common activities in Germany. As the Council has no organised affiliate in Switzerland, his information on the position of the German Jews in Switzerland was particularly valuable.

The untimely death of Hans Klee is mourned by a wide circle of friends and fellow-workers, and his devotion to Jewry and Zionism will always be remembered with gratitude and respect.

### SIEGMUND ADLER

Siegmund Adler, the noted collector of rare postage stamps, died in New York at the age of 85. He was born in Frankfurt and went to America as a youth. Until his retirement he was chief auditor of the American Metal Company Ltd. Mr. Adler was a philatelist for more than forty years and made several presentations of his rare collections to hospitals and to the Philatelic Foundation in America.

### OTTO HAAS-HEYE

Professor Otto Haas-Heye, the well-known authority on dress fashions, died in Mannheim shortly before his 80th birthday. He was one of the founders of the Reichsverband der Mode and, until 1933, taught at the Academy of Arts and at the Reimann-Schule in Berlin. He also designed sets for the stage. In 1933 he emigrated to London, where he established a reputation for his hand-woven fabrics. He returned to Germany a few years ago.

### I. J. LINDNER, Q.C.

Mr. Ingram J. Lindner, Q.C., has died at the age of 46. He was a leading advocate and was regarded as an expert on union and company matters.

Mr. Lindner held honorary offices with many Jewish organisations. He was a member of the Board of Deputies for six years, and was associated with the Jewish Board of Guardians, the British Technion Committee, and the local group of the Friends of the Hebrew University.

The Jewish victims from Nazi persecution have added reason to mourn the early death of this gifted and helpful man, who was also a Board member of the United Restitution Organisation. In this capacity he displayed great understanding for the manifold problems involved in the work, and by virtue of his legal knowledge was also a great asset to the Organisation.

### PROFESSOR EUGEN ALTSCHUL

Professor Eugen Altschul has died in Kansas City, Mo., U.S.A., in his 73rd year. Until 1933 he was head of the Frankfurt Institute for Market Research, and was the editor of its reports.

### DR. IRMA KLAUSNER-CRONHEIM

Dr. Irma Klausner-Cronheim has died in New York at the age of 85. She was the first woman admitted to practise medicine in Germany.

### DR. JACOB SEGALL

Dr. Jacob Segall passed away in Tel Aviv in his 76th year. Prior to his emigration, he was a medical practitioner in Berlin. At the same time, he rendered outstanding services to Jewish research and social work as an expert statistician and sociologist. He was head of the *Buero fuer Statistik der Juden e.V.* in Berlin, which for some time also issued the *Zeitschrift fuer Demographie und Statistik der Juden*. His works also include a statistical publication on the German Jews in the 1914-1918 war. For several years, Dr. Segall was Secretary of the *Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der deutschen Juden*. He continued his work as a medical practitioner and as a statistician in Israel.

### LUDWIG ULLMANN

The author and theatre critic Ludwig Ullmann died in New York in his 73rd year. Prior to his emigration he held a position with the *Vienna Allgemeine Zeitung*. In America he was the correspondent for several German and Austrian newspapers after the war. His unfinished "History of the World Theatre" will shortly be published.

### DR. IGNATZ ZADEK

Dr. Ignatz Zadek recently died in Berlin. Born in Berlin in 1887, the oldest son of the well-known Socialist doctor Julius Zadek, he studied in Berlin, Freiburg and Munich. Until 1932 he was director of the internal diseases department at the municipal hospital of Berlin-Neukoelln. After the war he became director of Policlinic III and of the municipal hospital in Neukoelln. Dr. Zadek was a specialist in pulmonary diseases, and many of his books and treatises deal with this subject.

### J. L. FEUCHTWANGER

Dr. Jakob Leo Feuchtwanger, who was a director of the Board of the W. Feuchtwanger Bank in Munich, has died in Tel Aviv at the age of 67. From 1917 to 1920 he worked at the Institute for Maritime Trade and World Economy in Kiel, and thereafter joined the banking firm of I. L. Feuchtwanger in Munich. After the dissolution of the firm in 1936, he emigrated to Israel, where he again founded an I. L. Feuchtwanger Bank. As its General Manager and later as Director of Feuchtwanger Ltd. in London and of the Feuchtwanger Corporation in New York, he was a prominent figure in the banking world and contributed towards the development of Israel's economy.

### SUSANNE ZADEK

Mrs. Susanne Zadek passed away in London after a long, bravely borne illness. In Berlin, where she lived prior to her emigration, she took an active part in the Jewish life of the 'twenties. When, a few years after the end of the First World War, the Berlin Jewish Community established a Labour Exchange office, she was put in charge of the department. She also participated in the work for the "Juedische Volksheim", a settlement set up in the Dragoner Strasse for the benefit of young Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, which proved to have a great influence on the development of the Zionist youth movement in Berlin. In this country, Mrs. Zadek served for several years on the administrative staff of the United Restitution Office, until her illness forced her to resign. Mrs. Zadek will be gratefully remembered by all who knew her as a helpful and warm-hearted woman of wide interests.

### DR. F. MENDERSHAUSEN

Dr. Fritz Mendershausen (Haifa) has died at the age of 65, as the result of an accident.

Prior to his emigration to Israel, Dr. Mendershausen was a well-known lawyer in Koethen (Anhalt) and was, at the same time, actively interested in Jewish community work. In Haifa he was a legal adviser at the United Restitution Office.

His sudden death is deeply mourned by all who knew him.

### ARTHUR HAUSDORFF

Mr. Arthur Hausdorff passed away suddenly in his 81st year. Prior to his emigration he was a lawyer in Breslau. Mr. Hausdorff was associated with work for German Jewry since he joined the students' fraternity K.C., and loyalty to the members of the K.C. motivated his life both before and after his emigration. At the same time he took part in the work of the Lodges and of many other Jewish organisations. For many years Mr. Hausdorff also was closely connected with the AJR and by his signal services contributed to laying the foundations of the organisation. He leaves a wide circle of personal friends, all of whom felt deeply attached to him by virtue of his kindness, helpfulness, and vitality. We extend our sympathies to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. A. Kleyff. He will be remembered with gratitude by all who knew him.

### ELSE ROSENBERG

Dr. Leo Loewensohn, Chairman of the AJR Glasgow group, writes:

"Our community has suffered a grievous loss by the death of Mrs. Rosenberg. She came to this country from Berlin with her husband, Dr. C. Rosenberg, a well-known international lawyer and author of a Commentary on International Marriage Law, which was much used and quoted in Germany before the war. She had a strong personality, always interested in the welfare of people in need. The marriage guidance movement found in her a great supporter, and she was very active also in other spheres of social life.

"In Glasgow she and her husband have done much to further the cultural and material interest of their fellow refugees. She became a member of the Council of the Glasgow Jewish Refugee Society and was elected President of the M.R.A.S. (Mutual Refugee Aid Society), which office she held until her death. Apart from work in these institutions to which she devoted much time, she was always ready to assist individual refugees, to visit them and to give them useful advice and assistance whenever needed. A born leader, she had great influence on her friends and acquaintances by whom she was much respected."

### DR. JULIUS LOEWY

It is learned with regret that the dental surgeon, Dr. Julius Loewy (formerly Hamburg), passed away in London on July 26th at the age of 58. He was ill for a long time and his death at a comparatively early age will be deeply mourned by all who knew him. Dr. Loewy was a kind-hearted man who always took a great personal interest in the well-being of his patients. At the same time he was a loyal friend especially to the members of his Students' Fraternity "Salia". Brought up to have a deep attachment to the country of his birth, the events after 1933, including his incarceration in a concentration camp, had greatly affected him. We express our sincerest sympathy to his widow, who did everything possible to ease his sufferings during the last years of his life.

### ALFRED HERSCHAFT

It is learned with regret that Mr. Alfred Herschaft recently passed away in London. He held a leading and widely respected position in the textile trade both in Berlin, where he lived prior to his emigration, and in this country, where he was the founder of Hertie Ltd. He always had strong sympathy for the needs of his less fortunate fellow-Jews, and lent his support to the AJR since its inception. He will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him. We express our sincerest sympathies to his family.

### DR. HANNS FREUND

The lawyer, Dr. Hanns Freund, died in Berlin at the age of 57. He survived the war in hiding in Berlin, and took a leading part in the work of the Berlin Jewish community since its re-establishment. He was Deputy Chairman of the Repraesentanz of the Jewish community in West Berlin.



# BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

## LADY HENRIQUES 70

Jews from Central Europe have special reason for associating themselves with the good wishes expressed to Lady Henriques on the occasion of her 70th birthday on August 17th. Among the many Jewish causes to which she has been devoted in the course of her activities as a welfare worker, the well-being of the Nazi victims has always been particularly near to her heart. Whilst this is mainly due to her ardent desire to render constructive help wherever and whenever it is required, the fact that her family originally hailed from Germany may also have influenced her inclinations. She is the grand-daughter of the well-known Orientalist Louis Loewe, who was born in Silesia and settled in this country.

Together with her husband, Sir Basil Henriques, she has rendered signal services, especially at the head of the Bernhard Baron Settlement in the East End. After the war, Lady Henriques was Chairman of the German Department of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad. In this capacity she organised assistance to the Jews in Germany in the D.P. camps and in the communities. At that time she closely co-operated with many responsible officers of the AJR. We are happy that these contacts have been resumed, and even intensified, since the establishment of the Homes for the Aged.

Lady Henriques is a member of the Building Committee set up for the establishment and running of these Homes and her advice, based on thorough practical experience, has always been particularly valuable. Her birthday gives us a welcome opportunity for thanking her for all she has done, and we wish her many years to come of undiminished health, marked by continued services to her fellow-men.

## PROFESSOR EDUARD HEIMANN 70

The well-known economist, Professor Eduard Heimann recently celebrated his 70th birthday in New York. Prior to his emigration he held a Chair at Hamburg University, where his lectures on the function of socialism in human society greatly influenced many of his students. After he had been forced to leave Germany in 1933 he became Professor of the New School for Social Research in New York. Professor Heimann has, since the end of the war, often been a guest lecturer in Germany, especially in Hamburg and Goettingen.

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## DR. LUDWIG GUTTMANN 60

Dr. Ludwig Guttman, O.B.E., the famous neurologist, celebrated his 60th birthday on July 3rd. As the Director of the Ministry of Health's Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville, he has done sterling work in the treatment of paraplegics, which applies especially to disabled soldiers, and his advice is sought by governments all over the world. In recognition of his services, he was awarded the O.B.E. in 1950.

Until 1933 Dr. Guttman was a Reader at the University of Breslau and then, until 1939, when he emigrated to this country, Director of the Neurological Department of the Jewish Hospital in Breslau.

Since his student days, when he joined the K.C. Fraternity, Dr. Guttman has always taken an active interest in Jewish affairs. He has been associated with the AJR since its inception and, as a member of the Board, has not only enhanced the standing of the organisation, but has also rendered active help on many occasions. His achievements have added lustre to the name of our community.

We extend our sincerest congratulations to Dr. Guttman on this occasion.

## MARTIN SOBOTKER 60

Martin Sobotker, well-known to many in our midst because of the leading position he held in the German-Jewish youth movement, recently celebrated his 60th birthday in New York. He was for many years associated with the "Deutsch-Juedische Jugend-Gemeinschaft" (D.J.J.G.), and many young people were guided by his leadership during the formative years of their lives. The social aspect of communal work was always particularly near to his heart. When, in 1933, he had to give up his professional activities as a lawyer—he was an assistant to the well-known tax specialist, Dr. Max Lion—it was, therefore, only natural that the Berlin Jewish Community made use of his experience by appointing him head of their Youth Department. The problems facing the young Jewish generation after the Nazis had come to power, called for new measures of constructive help, and here Martin Sobotker rendered signal services.

He emigrated first to Sweden and from there to the United States. He is now the Executive Director of the Congregation Habonim (New York). This congregation of former German Jews, which was founded twenty years ago under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Dr. Hugo Hahn (formerly Essen), is now firmly consolidated due to a great extent to the devotion and the administrative gifts of Martin Sobotker. His many friends in this country wish him many successful years to come, in undiminished health and vigour.

## JACOB HECHT 80

Mr. Jacob Hecht celebrated his 80th birthday on June 25th. Last year, his native community, Gondelsheim in Baden, granted honorary citizenship to him. He is the "Nestor" of European river and canal traffic, having begun his career in this field before 1900.

Since 1908 he has, together with his brother, headed the Rhenania Group, which they founded with Mannheim as its domicile. Mr. Hecht now lives in Basle, where he is President of the Neptune Steamship Company.

The Rhenania Group has, since the end of the war, invested about 75 million marks for reconstruction purposes. Of this amount, 7 million marks alone was set aside for investment in the Neckar River Port of Stuttgart.

Mr. Hecht is a member of the Jewish Congregation of Basle, and also supports the Basle Israelitische Fuersorge. The young State of Israel is indebted to his son, Reuben, who established the huge grain silo in the port of Haifa, supported by the expert advice and financial help of Mr. Jacob Hecht.

## TONI FRANKFURTER 90

Mrs. Toni Frankfurter (née Sternberg), of 1d Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.3, celebrated her 90th birthday on July 12th. She comes from a well-known Berlin Jewish family. Her father, Hermann Sternberg, was the founder of an important textile-manufacturing firm and played a notable part in the economic and industrial life of the capital in the second half of the last century. Toni Frankfurter, the mother of four children, has spent the greater part of her life in Berlin. There she was active in Jewish welfare, cared personally for distressed families, collected funds for the Pfundspende der juedischen Winterhilfe and worked for the Olga-Stern-Heim for the Aged and the Lehnitz Convalescent Home. Her devotion to the tasks of Jewish welfare found its recognition on her election as a member of the Vorstand des Juedischen Frauenbundes (Committee of the Association of Jewish Women). In 1941 she emigrated to Buenos Aires to join her younger son. In 1953 she came to join her elder son and his family in London. Since then she has lived quietly in England, but is still full of energy and takes a vivid interest in current events. We extend our sincerest congratulations to her.

## DR. WILHELM ADLER 85

Dr. Wilhelm Adler celebrated his 85th birthday on July 9th. Prior to his emigration, he was a well-known dental surgeon in Berlin. He has been a member of the AJR since its inception, and closely co-operated with the organisation on behalf of the dentists from Germany who were not admitted to the Dentists' Register in this country. After many years of labour, this problem was solved to some extent by the promulgation of the new Dentists' Act. Due to the lapse of time, however, he himself, like several other colleagues of his age, could no longer benefit from the provisions of the Act. On the happy occasion of his birthday we wish to thank Dr. Adler for his services to his fellow-refugees and extend to him our sincerest congratulations.

## DR. MARIE HEYNEMANN 75

Mr. W. Sternfeld writes:

"Dr. Marie Heynemann, the art historian, educationalist, author and translator, celebrated her 75th birthday on July 9th in Klosters.

Prior to her emigration she was, for many years, head of the Child Guidance Bureau of the Volkshochschule in Magdeburg, and was a psychologist at the local Juvenile Court. She was also in charge of a children's Home. After coming to this country, she acted as a psychologist to the Jewish Refugees' Committee.

Before 1933 Dr. Heynemann also contributed to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* and other German publications. After her emigration, she contributed regularly to the periodical *New Health*, and also wrote scripts for the German section of the BBC.

She was a friend of the poets Reinhold Schneider and Ernest Wiechert, and translated some of the latter's works into English.

For health reasons Dr. Heynemann now lives in Switzerland.

Her numerous friends wish her many happy years of undiminished health and activity."

## DR. HANS BLUM 60

Dr. Hans Blum celebrated his 60th birthday on July 2nd. Through his work as a lawyer, he has proved a most helpful and trusted friend to many in our midst. At the same time, he has always rendered voluntary services to various organisations built up by German Jews in this country. He is the Treasurer of the Association of Democratic Lawyers, an Executive and Board member of the New Liberal Jewish Congregation, and a member of the Legal Panel of the Ex-Service (N.B.) Association; he also belongs to the Board of the organisation of former members of the Students' Fraternity, F.W.V. In all his activities, Dr. Blum has excelled by steadfast devotion and a strong sense of duty. The AJR, with whose efforts he has been associated for many years, joins his numerous friends in wishing him health, happiness, and success for many years to come.



# FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

## RESISTANCE OF JULY 20th 1944 COMMEMORATED

To commemorate the resistance fighters of July 20th 1944, the Inspector-General of the Federal German Army, General Heusinger, issued an Order of the Day in which he paid tribute to the members of the German Army who, together with other sections of the resistance movement, died a martyr's death fifteen years ago.

Memorial meetings took place at the Berlin University, the Berlin-Plötzensee Prison, Bonn, and many other places in Germany. A youth rally was held in Berlin, organised jointly by the Socialist Youth Organisation, "Die Falken", and the Protestant and Catholic youth groups.

## HUNGARIAN FASCISTS TO LEAVE BAVARIA

According to reports from Munich, the Bavarian Minister of the Interior has given instructions that the editors and publishers of the anti-Semitic papers *Hidverock* and *Cel*, which claim to be the organs of the Hungarian refugees living in Bavaria, be asked to leave the Federal Republic as soon as possible. The reason given was that these persons were undesirable because of their anti-democratic and anti-Semitic activities. The report says that the Hungarians will be told to seek asylum in another European country.

## INVESTIGATION AGAINST GENERAL RAMCKE

The Public Prosecutor of Kiel has started investigations against the former General Ramcke and the lawyer Dr. Massmann, both of whom are suspected of slander against the President of the Federal Parliament, Gerstenmaier.

## DEATH OF HERMANN LUEDEMANN

The Social Democrat politician Hermann Luedemann has died in Kiel at the age of 79.

After the First World War he was, for some time, the Prussian Minister of Finance and was a member of the Prussian Diet. He was Oberpraesident of Lower Silesia from 1928 to 1933, when he was imprisoned by the Nazis. After the war he was Minister of the Interior and later Prime Minister of the Land Schleswig-Holstein, until his retirement.

## ACTION AGAINST ANTI-NAZI PAPER

Erich Kaub, Chairman of the General Student Committee at the Heidelberg University, has revealed that a Heidelberg lower court confiscated the May issue of a student monthly which condemned the revival of Nazi thinking among a nationalist student group. The paper had accused the National Union of Students of being a fascist organisation engaging in subversive anti-democratic and anti-Semitic activities. In ordering confiscation of the monthly, the magistrate said the article had "attacked the honour and personal rights of members of the B.N.S."

The nationalist students' paper *Student und Volk* had published numerous articles supporting Nazi racist theories, and recently asserted that the estimate of six million Jews murdered was largely exaggerated.

## "ANKLAGE" EDITOR GAOLED

Robert Kremer, former editor and publisher of the neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic periodical *Die Anklage*, was convicted by the Federal Supreme Court at Karlsruhe for publishing and circulating literature directed against the constitution and for defaming the Federal German Republic, its democratic régime and the victims of Nazi persecution. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

## PENSION FOR NAZI MAYOR

The Frankfurt Administrative Court has decided to allow the appeal of the former Nazi Mayor of Offenbach, Dr. Helmut Schranz, at present a Member of the Federal Parliament for the German Party (DP), and to grant him a pension. Schranz became a member of Hitler's party in 1925 and held the position of Mayor from 1934 to 1945.

## "TOO FEW JEWS KILLED"

Hermann Koch, a 48-year-old engineer, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment by the Wuppertal Law Court. Whilst in an inn he had stated: "I regret Hitler is no longer alive, then there would be no Jews." Koch claimed that he had acted under the influence of liquor, and expressed regret at his remark.

## MORAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MEMORIALS

### Address by Eugen Kogon

Dr. Eugen Kogon, author of "Der SS Staat", who was himself in a concentration camp, made an appeal to "keep the memory of the past alive" at a ceremony in the Frankfurt Jewish cemetery, where a memorial stone for the dead of Auschwitz was unveiled. Dr. Kogon suggested that memorial stones and tablets should be shown at the houses from which Jews were once dragged to their death. He urged that teachers should lead their pupils to the memorial stone in the cemetery and tell them of the extermination of the Jews. In this way, he said, "this stone of remembrance will become a stone of profound moral significance".

## NEW CHURCH WINDOW

### Hitler and his Henchmen Depicted as Torturers

The window of a church in Landshut in Bavaria, newly built after the destruction of the old building during the war, depicts the martyrdom of St. Kastulus, to whose torturers the artist has given the figures and faces of Hitler, Goebbels and Goering.

## ANNE FRANK REMEMBRANCE

### Foundation-stone for Village Laid

Otto Frank laid the foundation-stone in Wuppertal, West Germany, for a village named after his daughter, Anne Frank. The village is being built for displaced persons by a European movement founded by the Rev. Dominique Georges Pire, a Belgian priest who won the Nobel Prize last year for his work among refugees. The site was donated by the City of Wuppertal.

Five similar villages in other Western European countries have been founded by Father Pire's movement, and Father Pire himself donated \$20,000—about half the cash value of the Nobel Prize—for the construction of the Anne Frank Village.

### Scholarships Awarded

Amongst the ten recipients of scholarships of the Anne Frank Foundation of Frankfurt, four Hebrew University students have been chosen. The scholarship, for study in Western Germany and other European countries, is for one year, and is from royalties and revenues donated jointly by the author Ernst Schnabel, the publishers, Fischer Verlag and the North German radio service, holder of the broadcasting rights of the book "In the Footsteps of Anne Frank".

### 30th Birthday Commemorated

To commemorate the 30th birthday of Anne Frank in Frankfurt, the Organisation for Liberty and Human Dignity, together with the Association of Nazi Persecutees, organised a meeting in Frankfurt under the motto "Fuer Menschlichkeit gegen Nationalismus und Rassenwahn". The speakers were Dr. van Dam, General Secretary of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany, H. G. Sellenthin, the writer, and G. Wijsmuller, Secretary of the Anne Frank Endowment in Amsterdam.

### Pilgrimage to Grave

About 10,000 German boys and girls from Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen and other parts of North Germany, including the Russian Zone, took part in the "pilgrimage of German youth" to Bergen-Belsen in memory of Anne Frank. After hundreds of wreaths and flowers had been placed on the mass graves and at the foot of the memorial monument at Bergen-Belsen, a spokesman for the Hamburg youth group expressed the determination of German youth to fight against a revival of anti-Semitism and Nazi tendencies.

## SOCIALIST CONFERENCE DELEGATES VISIT BELSEN

On the occasion of the Socialist International Conference held at Hamburg, a delegation paid a visit to the monument in Bergen-Belsen. The delegation included Moshe Sharett, the Israeli representative, and Mrs. Barbara Castle, the British Labour Party representative.

Addresses were delivered by the German Socialist leader, Erich Ollenhauer, the Minister of the Interior for Lower Saxony, Bennemann, and the General Secretary of the Socialist International, Albert Carthy. Moshe Sharett, in his address in Hebrew, paid tribute to the victims.

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## SHADOWS OF THE PAST

### PARATROOPERS' MEETING

The Union of German Paratroopers have dissociated themselves from the remarks of the notorious Nazi Luftwaffe ace, Hans-Ulrich Rudel, made on the occasion of a paratroopers' meeting at Freiburg which, among other foreign delegations, included Italians, Frenchmen, Spaniards, and representatives of the American forces. His speech caused the first and second chairmen of the Union to resign on the ground that it had embarrassed the guests from abroad and the representatives of the Federal Government. Rudel, as the Union's announcement continues, was requested to make a speech of welcome only and to refrain from political comment.

The two chairmen had themselves used the meeting to criticise the judgment of the Hamburg court in the process of the journalist Kuby against ex-General Ramcke who, as a guest of the meeting, was hailed as a paragon of martial virtue.

Referring to these incidents at Freiburg, the Federal Minister of Defence, Strauss, declared before the Evangelical Academy at Bad Boll that neither General Ramcke nor his opponent Kuby could be regarded as responsible for the moral conduct of the German people. Every German soldier was expected to give serious consideration to the motives of the men of July 20th, 1944, but also to do justice to those soldiers who had at that time a different conception.

The Minister also objected to the notion of German collective guilt, but stressed the obligation to feel a common shame and common responsibility, which would prevent a new conflict between utility and morality.

### GOERING'S BERLIN ASSETS CONFISCATED

The Berlin de-Nazification Chamber has decided to confiscate the Berlin assets of Hermann Goering, which amount to DM 760,000.

### HIAG RALLY POSTPONED

The Union for Mutual Help (HIAG), the organisation of former members of the Waffen SS., has abandoned its plan for a meeting at Mengerhausen in Hesse. A spokesman for the organisation announced that the rally would take place in the near future in a town outside the Land Hesse. He added that the cancellation was designed as a contribution towards the improvement of the political atmosphere in Germany.

### WAFFEN-SS. SEEKS RECONCILIATION

Werner Heister, Chairman of the Waffen-SS. Society for Mutual Benefit, has announced his efforts to bring about a reconciliation with the political and racial victims of Nazi persecution and the hope, in doing so, to redeem the past. His Society, he stated, thought it intolerable to be suspected for ever of concentration camp atrocities.

The *Frankfurter Rundschau*, whilst welcoming the effort, criticised the assertion that the Waffen-SS. had had nothing to do with the concentration camps. The paper said that such a claim would substitute the idea of "collective innocence" for that of "collective guilt".

### REMOVAL OF ANTI-SEMITIC DEMANDED

Dr. Mueller-Meiningen, President of the Munich Broadcasting Station's Policy Commission, has demanded that Dr. Walter Becher be removed from the committee. He accuses Dr. Becher of writing anti-Semitic articles in the Sudeten-German *Die Welt* in 1939, when he referred to Jewish writers as "Kulturwanzen" and demanded their "elimination from German cultural life".

Dr. Becher is Chairman of the B.H.E. refugee party in the Bavarian legislature. He recently introduced a Bill in the Bavarian legislature for the reconstitution of the Munich Broadcasting Station's Policy Commission, which excludes the Jewish community from representation.

### TEACHING OF RECENT HISTORY

The State of Hesse has decreed that history lessons in the last grade of all state high schools must in the future concentrate on the period after 1918. Kurt Frey, Secretary of the Permanent Conference of Education Ministers, has stated in Bonn that similar decrees by the governments of Lower Saxony and Wuertemberg Baden are expected shortly, and that the problem is under study by the eight other states of West Germany.

The action in Hesse is the first by state authorities to meet the outcry raised in West Germany recently by the disclosure that the great majority of schoolchildren were almost totally ignorant of the Nazi period. A recent survey showed that only one student in ten in Germany had even a cursory knowledge of the brutalities practised by the Nazis, the part Hitler played in unleashing World War II, and the ideological function of the Nazi movement. The highest estimate by any student of the number of Jews killed by the Nazis was 30,000.

### EDUCATIONAL TASKS

A recent session of the Evangelical Academy Loccum dealt with the subject "Mopping Up the Past". About 100 historians, theologians, members of the Federal army, and students from other countries discussed the phenomenon of nationalism and traced the forms of its development from the period of the Romantic movement to its degeneration in the Nazi creed. Professor Stallmann, from the Lueneburg Pedagogical Academy, said in his introductory lecture that the terrible happenings of the Nazi era could not be comprehended by the usual religious, political, and philosophical categories of thought, and that it would be difficult to order them correctly into the conception of history. It would be the task of parents and educators to hand down experiences of the past truthfully and with consciousness of the inherent responsibility to enable the youth to find their own interpretation.

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Friedrich Walter

## „BUECHER HABEN IHRE SCHICKSALE...“

Das erste deutsche Buch, das ich im Jahr 1940 für genau einen Schilling in England kaufte, war eine Taschenausgabe von Richard Wagner's „Ring des Nibelungen“. Ich trug damals englische Uniform und verbrachte meinen ersten kurzen Urlaub in London. Ein paar Monate vorher war ich mit einer Handvoll von Kameraden aus Frankreich, wo ich in den ersten sieben Jahren des Exils gelebt hatte, mit knapper Not nach England entkommen. Und da wir seit Kriegsausbruch in der französischen Armee gedient hatten, teilte man uns nach unserer Ankunft in Plymouth auf einem englischen destroyer, der uns in St. Nazaire an Bord genommen hatte, dem Pioneer Corps in Westward-Ho zu. Ich kaufte mir jene schon stark abgegriffene Taschenausgabe des „Ring“ nicht etwa aus Liebe zu Wagners musikdramatischem Gedicht. Die Zeit meiner Wagnerschwärmerei lag schon lange hinter mir, hätte auch die Geschehnisse seit 1933 wohl kaum überdauert.

Es war etwas ganz anderes, das mich bestimmte, den damals schwer entbehrlichen Schilling für das bei Schott's Söhne in Mainz erscheinende, aus einer Dessauer Buchhandlung stammende Büchlein auszugeben. Mein Blick war beim Aufschlagen auf der ersten Seite haften geblieben. Sie trug eine Inschrift, die Widmung einer Mutter an ihren Sohn, dem sie das Buch zum Geschenk gemacht hatte. „Der Herr segne dich und behüte dich“ hatte sie ihm hineingeschrieben und diese Worte im Urtext, mit hebräischen Buchstaben wiederholt. Darunter standen Monat und Jahreszahl: August 1914. Der Sohn hatte Wagners Nachdichtung der altgermanischen Götter- und Heldensage mit dem alttestamentarischen Segensspruch seiner Mutter mit sich ins Feld genommen, und das Buch hatte ihn, wie aus den darin enthaltenen Notizen hervorging, auf seinen Feldzügen in Frankreich, Galizien, Polen, Russland und wieder Frankreich von 1914 bis 1918, bis zum Ende des Krieges begleitet. Seinen mit sorgfältiger Kaufmannsschrift vorgenommenen Eintragungen konnte man ferner entnehmen, dass er auf verschiedenen Heimaturlauben die „Walküre“ 1915 in Mannheim, den „Siegfried“ 1916 in Berlin und die „Götterdämmerung“ 1917 in Köln gesehen hatte.

Wie war das vergilbte Textbuch dieser Opern nach England und auf die Regale eines Londoner Antiquars geraten? Hatte sein Besitzer es auch mit sich nach England in die Emigration genommen? Hatte er es hier, samt anderen Beständen seiner Bibliothek, verkaufen müssen—sei es aus Not, sei es aus anderen, noch zwingenderen Gründen, deretwegen er jetzt den „Ring des Nibelungen“ und alles, was er ihm einst bedeutet haben mochte, gar nicht weit genug von sich werfen konnte? Diese und noch viele andere unbeantwortete—und unbeantwortbare—Fragen bewirkten es, dass ich das Büchlein damals erwarb, das in einer mir für das deutsche Judentum so gleichnishaft scheinenden Verbindung Wagner's spätromantisches Zauberwerk zugleich mit dem uranfänglich-biblischen Segensspruch enthielt.

Seither bin ich, in grösseren oder kleineren Zeitabständen, immer wieder in jenes Antiquariat zurückgekehrt, das sich auf deutsche Bücher spezialisiert. Es sind deren eigentlich zwei, und jeder Bücherfreund kennt sie. Die in ihren Läden auf Tischen und Regalen versammelten, alten deutschen Klassikerbände, die philosophischen, religions- und kunstgeschichtlichen Werke, fast alle aus deutschem Emigrantenbesitz stammend, spiegeln in der Tat einen ganzen Zeitabschnitt deutsch-jüdischer Bildungs-, Kultur- und Lebensgeschichte wieder. Ich muss gestehen, dass ich, wenn ich diese Bücher zur Hand nehme, zu allererst immer noch nach den Namenszügen ihrer einstigen Eigentümer, nach Inschriften und Widmungen suche—wohl noch immer im Gedanken an meine erste Begegnung mit dem verirrten „Ring“. Begehe ich eine Indiskretion, wenn ich—als sinnfällige Beispiele—nur einige dieser Namen anführe, wie ich sie erst kürzlich wieder las? Eine dreibändige, von Erich Schmidt herausgegebene, 1899 in Weimar erschienene „Faust“-Ausgabe trägt die Namensinschrift „Marie Ornstein“. Jean Pauls Sämtliche Werke, 1862 in

Berlin gedruckt, gehörten einer Julie Lippmann und waren von ihr, wie sie unter ihrem Namen vermerkt hatte, am 16. Mai 1874 erworben. Eine Ausgabe des Briefwechsels Herzogs Karl August mit Goethe ist mit der Widmung versehen: „Peter M. Cassirer von seiner Grossmutter, Weihnachten 1917“. Paul Heyeses und Theodor Fontanes Werke in je 5 Bänden sowie eine vollständige Hebbel-Ausgabe stammen aus der Bibliothek von „Josua Friedländer, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Prinzregentenstrasse 7“. Diese jüdischen Familiennamen in deutschen Büchern reden an dem Ort und der Stelle, wo man ihnen nun begegnet, eine so beredte, eindringliche und ergreifende Sprache, dass ich sie nicht durch andere, erfundene ersetzen wollte. Die Träger dieser Namen und ihre Nachfahren werden es verstehen und mir nicht verübeln.

Ich unterhielt mich mit dem Inhaber des Antiquariats, und er bestätigte mir, was jedem Besucher augenfällig ist: dass nämlich fast alle Bibliotheken, die er aus Emigrantenbesitz ankauft oder angekauft hat, ausser den uns allen aus dem Elternhaus vertrauten, in grünes Leinen gebundenen Klassikerausgaben des ehemaligen Leipziger Bibliographischen Instituts und den roten Klassikerbänden von Bong & Co. stets auch die Werke Ibsens und fast immer die Gerhart Hauptmanns enthalten. Sie heute noch aus Privatbesitz zu erwerben, ist für den Antiquar schwerer geworden als in den ersten Nachkriegsjahren, als viele Emigrantenfamilien aus England nach Amerika weiterwanderten und sich deshalb ihrer deutschen Bücher entledigen wollten oder mussten. Aus den Beständen des Antiquariats könnte man, nähme man sich die Mühe dazu, beinahe eine deutsche Literaturgeschichte zusammenstellen—und zwar genau bis zu dem Zeitpunkt, da die Teilnahme der deutschen Juden am Geistesleben ihres Landes ein gewaltsames Ende fand. Einst berühmte oder namhafte Autoren der Jahrhundertwende wie Otto Erich Hartleben, Otto Julius Bierbaum, Richard Dehmel und Paul Ernst—wo findet man sie heute noch so zahlreich wie hier? Die Lyrik und Prosa des Expressionismus, wie sie von 1919 ab in den Buchereien des Kurt Wolff-Verlages erschien und hier wieder vollzählig vor uns hintritt—ist sie anderswo vergessen? Die „Schattenbilder“ von Herbert Eulenberg, die Romane von Georg Hermann und Jakob Wassermann, die in den zwanziger Jahren ebenso zum eisernen Bestand in der Bibliothek jedes gebildeten, deutsch-jüdischen Bürgerhauses gehörten wie etwa die „Im Schatten der Titanen“ betitelten Jugenderinnerungen der Weimarer Generalstochter und späteren Sozialistin Lily Braun—beschwören sie nur für mich und noch eine Handvoll anderer eine ganze versunkene Zeit wieder auf? Der Inhaber der Buchhandlung versicherte mir zu meiner Freude, dass nach all diesen Büchern noch eine lebhaft Nachfrage besteht, und zwar gerade aus Deutschland, wo sie grossenteils vergriffen sind und man sich jetzt wieder auf sie und ihre Autoren besinnt.

Unlängst versandte das Antiquariat zwei Kataloge über bemerkenswerte Neuerwerbungen: einen von deutschen und anderen Märchen und Volksdichtungen, den anderen von Büchern aus den Nachlässen von Fürstin M. Lichnowsky und von Friedrich und Elisabeth Gundolf. In dem Gundolf'schen Nachlass findet man nicht nur—zum Teil sehr seltene—Fachwerke, wie der grosse Heidelberger Literaturhistoriker sie für seine Arbeit brauchte; es sind auch einige andere darunter, die ein aufschlussreiches Licht auf die spezifischen zeitgeschichtlichen Hintergründe von Gundolfs bedeutender Gestalt werfen. Ich denke dabei besonders an zwei: eins heisst: „Die Freie Schulgemeinde. Organ des Bundes für freie Schulgemeinden und der Schulgemeinde Wickersdorf. Mit Beiträgen von Gustav Wyneken u.a.“ Der Titel des anderen lautet: „Graphologische Monatshefte, herausgegeben von Ludwig Klages. Mit Beiträgen von Friedrich Gundolf u.a.“ Jugendbewegung und Graphologie. Denkt man an die engen Beziehungen der deutschen Jugendbewegung mit dem Stefan George-Kreis, aus dem Gundolf wie so viele andere deutsch-jüdische Gelehrte und Dichter hervorgegangen sind, an den Wert, den man in diesem Kreis dem Bild der Handschrift,

## ERNEST BLOCH

Ernest Bloch, who died at Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., on July 15th—shortly before his 79th birthday—held a unique position among Jewish composers. The great contribution which, since their emancipation, Jews have made towards the musical life of Europe and America, not only as performers, but also in the creative sphere, needs no mentioning. It cannot be denied, however, that the prominent Jewish composers of the nineteenth century showed little or no Jewish consciousness, most of them having severed their link with Judaism. The present century, with its revival of Jewish nationalism, has changed this to some extent. Persecution and Zionism were both instrumental in blocking the road towards extreme assimilation, the former leading Schönberg back to Judaism and to the Jewish subjects of some of his later works, the latter exercising an influence which is by no means limited to the output of Israeli composers.

Independent of these developments, in fact anticipating them, Ernest Bloch, the Swiss Jew, who had received much of his musical training in Belgium and Germany, had gone his own way in making his music the vehicle for his intense Jewishness. As the late Eric Blom put it, „from the first he instinctively expressed himself in a peculiarly Jewish idiom such as no composer of his race had previously articulated with anything like the same instinctive power and inevitability. It was reserved for him to find a modern musical medium that conveys something akin to the poetry and passion, the turbulent sorrow and noble exaltation of Judaism as it is transmitted by the Old Testament, and still survives in its strongest modern representatives.“ It is significant that Bloch achieved his aims not by the use of traditional Jewish melodies but by letting his inspiration be governed by Jewish thought and Jewish atmosphere. His style is intensely personal, and all his works, including those of a more general character, show a distinctly individual note.

Bloch spent many years of his life in America where he held appointments as Director of the Conservatories at Cleveland and San Francisco. He was honoured in many countries, especially in Italy, until Mussolini's turn to anti-semitism interfered. In England, his music has always met with considerable appreciation. The libretto of his only opera, „Macbeth“, an early work, was written (after Shakespeare) by Edmond Fleg. Among the most famous of his works on Jewish subjects are: „Schelomo“, a Hebrew Rhapsody for cello and orchestra; „Baal Schem: Three Pictures of Chassidic Life“, for violin and piano; „Israel“, a symphony with solo voices; and „Avodath Hakodesh“, a setting of the Shabbat Morning Service. This liturgical work, an outstanding example of modern synagogue music, made a great impression at a performance in a Berlin synagogue after 1933. Bloch himself conducted the first London performance in 1949, and the work has since been included twice in the Three Choirs Festival when it was sung in an English translation at the Cathedrals of Gloucester and Worcester.

H. W. FREYHAN.

dem magischen Symbol und der Zauberkraft des geschriebenen wie gedruckten Wortes beimass, so hat man die Zusammenhänge, die mir beim Anblick jener zwei Bücher aus Gundolfs Nachlass vorschwebten. Und als sie mir deutlicher in den Sinn traten, fiel mein Blick zufällig noch auf ein drittes, nicht zu Gundolfs Bibliothek gehöriges Buch, das auf dem Antiquariatstisch lag. Es stammte aber gleichfalls aus dem Kreis der Jugendbewegung, und sein Verfasser war Hans Blüher, dessen Name jedem, der je der Jugendbewegung nahestand, ebenso beklemmende wie belächelnde Erinnerungen wachrufen mag. Der Titel dieses Buches lautet: „Mehre und Mutterschaft. Ein Briefwechsel mit Miller von Prosch“. Auch dieses Buch trug eine Inschrift und Widmung, und sie lautete: „Mit herzlichem Gruss, Anna Blumenfeld“.



## FROM MY DIARY

### Israel Feature on TV

The TV programme, "Israel Rises", gave a well-balanced picture of the development of the State of Israel and the political problems involved. It is unavoidable that an hour's feature on such a vast subject made certain restrictions necessary. Nevertheless, a more substantiated reference to the types of industries built up in the country and to the life in the kibbutzim would have enhanced the impact of the programme. On the other hand, the film excelled by a high degree of restraint and fairness when the conflict between Britain and the Jews during the last years of the Mandate was described. To quote only one instance: While Jewish acts of terrorism were only briefly mentioned, the treatment of the Jewish D.P.s who were forbidden to land was depicted.

### German Resistance Movement

"Democracy is accepted as post-war Germany's way of life", stated Frau Annedore Leber (Berlin), at a gathering held in London under the auspices of Club 1943, the Theodor Heuss-Kreis, and the Wiener Library, with Dr. Alfred Wiener in the chair. The speaker, well known by two books on the German Resistance Movement, also expressed the view that the majority of the population was free from anti-Semitic feelings. It was one of the important tasks to make the German youth aware of the horrors of the Nazi régime. The tact and psychological understanding required for this task was illustrated by her by a striking example: In the course of a discussion with a school class it transpired that the father of one boy had fallen in the war as an S.S. officer. In such cases, which are not isolated, a young person is faced with the conflict between loyalty to the personal memory of his father and the realisation of the cruel truth. Frau Leber also showed so far unknown photos taken during the trials against Resistance fighters.

The participation of members of the Protestant Church in the fight against Nazism was described by Pastor Bethge, who himself had been in prison. It was an impressive gathering, which, as Mr. Hans Jaeger put it in his excellent introduction, included Resistance fighters from Germany, emigrated persecutees, and young Germans who had come to this country after the war and had been too young to share guilt in the crimes committed by the Nazi régime.

### London Conference of World Union

Whilst it would go beyond the scope of this journal to report in detail on the International Conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism held in London in July, it is difficult to resist the temptation of comparing, though in a rather superficial way, its atmosphere with that of one of the Union's first conferences, held in Berlin more than 30 years ago. At that time, rightly or wrongly, the progressive movement was in the eyes of many, especially of the younger generation, a bulwark of "assimilation" and middle-class security. Young people, including also some sections of the non-Zionist youth movement, had already felt the impact of Palestine on their Jewish outlook, and, as Socialists or adherents of the youth movement in the German sense of the word, were "anti-bourgeois." If they now look on many things in a different way, it is not only because they have grown older but also because the holocaust of the past decades has left its mark on all Jewish organisations and individuals. Thus the Conference did not restrict its agenda to the, so to say, internal problems of Judaism in our days, important as they are. It also wrestled for an answer to the burning world problems with which mankind is faced, and the question of race relations, of the Jews' attitude to Germany and other topical subjects were discussed with thoroughness and responsibility. At the same time Israel had ceased to be a controversial issue, and the contributions which progressive Judaism may make to its upbuilding were considered under various aspects.

### Board of Guardians' Meeting

The recent annual general meeting of the Board of Guardians was more than just a formal function. The concern of wide sections of the community with the work of its premier welfare organisation was reflected in the large attendance, which included many prominent personalities. The atmosphere was enhanced by a preceding reception which brought the visitors into contact with each other. As in every modern welfare organisation, most of the actual work has to be done by professional case workers. "Outsiders" may easily lose interest and confine themselves to monetary support. It is a healthy symptom, both for the Board and for Anglo-Jewry, that the personal contacts between those in charge of the Board and the community which the Board serves have not only been preserved but, judging from the meeting, have even been intensified.

### Interview with Kortner

Jews from Germany will have viewed the TV interview which Fritz Kortner gave to Robert Robertson in the "Monitor" programme on June 7th with particular interest. Almost immediately after the opening remarks, Kortner took up the question of anti-Semitism in post-war Germany. He did so by speaking of "we" Jews thus identifying himself with his people, and not of "the" Jews as, out of a sense of detachment, prominent Jews sometimes prefer to do. His remark that the Germans should forgive the Jews their black marketeers and that the Jews would then forgive the Germans their murderers was taken amiss by some listeners. In fact, however, Kortner was not placing both events on the same level. What he meant was that people in whose midst crimes of unspeakable dimensions had been committed were not entitled to criticise the few individuals who, under the impact of the past sufferings, had been led to commit minor offences. The interview confirmed that Kortner's vigour and passion for constructive work is as strong as it was when we were still among the regular visitors to his performances. The feature was produced by Peter Zadek, himself a Jew from Germany.

NARRATOR

## MONUMENTS OF THE HOLOCAUST

### Auschwitz

The jury chosen to judge the international competition for a monument to be erected on the site of the former concentration camp in Auschwitz has, under the chairmanship of Henry Moore, chosen one of the four designs collectively worked out by a group of artists from Italy, Spain, and Poland. The project visualises twenty-three blocks of cement in the shape of railway waggons—one for each of the countries whence the victims were deported to Auschwitz. A large platform is to include the camp's incinerators. A narrow corridor—symbol of the way of death—will lead to a crypt. Four hundred and twenty-six architects and sculptors from thirty-five countries took part in the competition.

### Athens

A marble monument to the victims of Nazi persecution in Greece has been unveiled in the Jewish cemetery outside Athens. The Greek Government and the Greek Orthodox Church were represented at the ceremony.

## Leo Baeck Institute Meeting

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at 8 p.m.

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Professor Dr. Ernst Simon

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## THE HUNGARIAN REFUGEE SITUATION

Two and a half years have passed since well-nigh 200,000 people poured through the gap in the Iron Curtain, opened for a short time by the revolutionary events in Hungary. Since then, news of the Hungarian refugees has reached the ear of the public in various parts of the world, and this news is not always pleasing. For example, tidings were heard recently of anti-Semitic activities emanating from Hungarian émigré circles in Bavaria. A survey of the entire Hungarian refugee problem repays itself, however. From such a survey it is evident that the Hungarian refugee question differs in a remarkable way from that of other refugees, for it has been possible in a comparatively short time to place the Hungarian refugees in the various West European countries and overseas, and there to integrate them into normal life. Whereas there are still hundreds of thousands of D.P.s of the post-war period living in camps or emergency quarters; whereas Arab refugees to the tune of one million have been housed for over ten years in camp towns, where they are a continual focal point of unrest; whereas in the Far East, Hong Kong and other territories have been overrun by Chinese refugees, the Hungarian problem of 1956 has been solved inside two years, as far as accommodation and integration are concerned.

### Some Figures

Looked at statistically, the present situation offers the following picture: About 30,000 refugees have returned to Hungary, according to assertions by the Hungarian Government; according to the much more reliable reports of the U.N.E.F. Commissioner for Refugees, only 16,700 returned. At present, 170,000 to 180,000 Hungarian refugees must be living overseas and in Western Europe. Of these about 20,000 are Jews, a strikingly large percentage, especially when we consider that the number of Jews in Hungary before the revolution was at most 120,000. Out of Hungary's population of ten million, one in fifty, and of its Jews one in every six, have left the country as refugees.

Whither have these refugees fled, Jews and non-Jews? It has been very difficult, almost impossible, to ascertain reliable figures, because the reports and statistics of the countries of immigration are very incomplete; also, the numbers fluctuated markedly during the initial period in the different countries. For instance, Britain originally accepted more than 20,000 Hungarians, but of these about 6,000 emigrated further overseas and about 1,000 returned to Hungary. Numerical data from the South American states is completely unreliable. Though the following figures are based more on estimates than on accurate statistical data, they nevertheless give an over-all picture and are very interesting. They show the approximate distribution of the Hungarian refugees in the spring of 1959:

	Total No. of Hungarian refugees	Jews
U.S.A.	38,000	4,500
Canada	37,000	2,000
Australia	13,000	2,500
Israel	4,000	4,000
South America	10,000	2,000
Great Britain	15,000	1,000
Western Germany	17,000	200
France	11,000	800
Switzerland	10,000	500
Austria	15,000	2,000

Fairly small groups went to Italy, Belgium, Holland and Scandinavian States; but Africa, too, and even New Zealand, took in a few Hungarian refugees. It may be said that the great majority of Hungarian refugees have fitted into the economic life of the countries of their adoption, and that, as far as this important aspect is concerned, the Hungarian refugee problem may be looked upon as settled.

### Anti-Semitic Trends Overrated

With regard to the anti-Semitic activities mentioned above, it has been possible to ascertain that merely a negligible minority of the emigrants behaved in this disagreeable manner. The main focal point of these manifestations was Bavaria, where two newspapers with a pronounced fascist slant appeared in the Hungarian language: the monthly, *Cel* (Goal) and the fortnightly, *Hidveroek* (Bridge Builder). The anti-Semitic arguments of these two obscure papers were the object of an interpellation in the Bavarian Landtag, but even there it was found that the vast majority of the emigrants had nothing to do with these fascist agitators. The interpellants might have added that the publishers and article writers of the said two papers were mostly not recent emigrants but were Hungarians with fascist leanings, who emerged soon after the cessation of hostilities in the D.P. camps, since when they have settled in Bavaria and elsewhere. The greater part of the Hungarian émigré press which has sprung up since 1956 in the free Western World takes a definitely free and democratic stand. This is specially true of the two leading émigré papers in London: *Nepszava* (Voice of the People), under Socialist direction, and *Irodalmi Ujsag* (Literary Paper), whose correspondents are without exception Leftist.

A comprehensive survey of the Hungarian refugee problem shows that the economic integration of the Hungarian refugees into their new countries of settlement has for the most part been successful, that their ideological integration is proceeding, and that this cannot be affected by a few accompanying phenomena of a disturbing kind. The large majority of Hungarian refugees recognise with gratitude that the free Western World has facilitated the settlement and integration of most of them in a relatively short time. World publicity, on the other hand, can recognise with satisfaction that the Hungarian refugee problem of 1956 was just the one which was most quickly surmounted of all the post-war refugee problems.

## ISRAEL AND THE DIASPORA

The B'nai B'rith Convention came to a close at a dramatic and moving ceremony at the Martyrs' Forest in the Judean Hills where the newly elected world President, Mr. Label A. Katz, dedicated a huge shrine, hewn out of the rocks, as a memorial to the brothers and sisters of B'nai B'rith who had perished in Europe's holocaust.

Among the elected Vice-Presidents are Mr. Jack Morrison, of London; Mr. Jack H. Taylor, of London, was elected to the Board of Governors. The Convention also agreed, after a lively debate, to the establishment of a B'nai B'rith Lodge in West Berlin, the first one in Germany after the ban by the Nazis in 1937.

The discussion on Israel and the Diaspora was continued on yet another forum—the Enlarged Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) which met a few days later. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, President of the World Zionist Organisation, who on previous occasions had differences of opinion with Israel's Prime Minister on this matter, this time supported his view. He, too, saw the gravest danger in the free countries no longer in anti-Semitism or discrimination, but in the weakness of our Jewish consciousness: the ability or inability of our people to secure the Jewishness of the young generation and to overcome the silent and invisible danger of disintegration.

### Nahum Goldmann's Warnings

Dr. Goldmann warned against being misled by the external façade of Jewish life, especially in America, by the multiplicity of organisations and the superficiality of activities. "Behind this façade, there is a terrifying process of erosion, of indifference, of forgetfulness of their Jewish heritage", he declared, and advocated a reorientation of the Jewish efforts which are now greatly concentrated on the fight against anti-Semitism, towards Jewish education, and the strengthening of Jewish cultural and religious life.

The 11-year-old discussion—as old as the Jewish State—on the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora, entered a new phase when the B'nai B'rith Order held their first triennial world convention in Jerusalem. The retiring President, Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, posed the challenge in his presidential message at the opening ceremony, held at the giant Buildings of the Nation and attended by the President of the State, Ministers and other notables, 1,300 B'nai B'rith delegates from abroad, and many members from the Israeli lodges.

### American Jews not in "Exile"

Mr. Klutznick objected to the use of the word "Diaspora", as self-exile for American Jewry, and protested against the absurd connotation of second-class Jewishness. He maintained that Israel is at least as dependable on the Jewish world outside her borders, as the Jewish world is sustained by Israel. Warning Israelis that they must not consider American Jewry as a reservoir for immigration, he declared that there could be no greater crisis in Israel than the disintegration of Jewish life in the United States.

The theme was taken up by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, who gave his reply two nights later, in the picturesque setting of the amphitheatre of the Hebrew University, lit by spotlights and thousands of candles, and packed with delegates and leaders from all walks of public life. Mr. Ben-Gurion, who has a high regard for Mr. Klutznick and a high esteem of the B'nai B'rith, agreed that disintegration of Jewish life in the United States was indeed a great danger, but he did not see it as a result of immigration to Israel. Instead, he warned his American friends against "death by kiss": he did not believe that any physical threat was facing American Jewry; the danger, in his words, came from prosperity and complacency which may lead the next generation away from Judaism and its sources, and open the gates for assimilation and extinction.

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## FROM THE JEWS IN GERMANY

### INTERESTING STATISTICS

Figures revealing the composition of the Jewish community in Germany, are published in the latest issue of the *Juedische Sozialarbeit*, issued by the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle of the Jews in Germany.

The number of persons registered with the Jewish communities in Western Germany and West Berlin was 21,563 on March 31st 1959.\* The six largest communities are Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Cologne and Dusseldorf; about two-thirds of the Jewish population lives in these cities. The number of Jews in Eastern Germany and East Berlin is estimated at about 2,000. The average age of the Jewish community is 47 years. There has been an increase in the age group 7 to 15 years from 808 on April 1st 1955 to 1,817 on March 31st 1959. Altogether 14 per cent of the total Jewish population are under 20 years of age; 19 per cent between 21 and 40 years and 38 per cent between 41 and 60 years. The percentage of Jews over 60 has decreased from 30 per cent in 1955 to 28 per cent in 1959.

The issue also carried a comprehensive annual report of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle for 1958. The report reveals that the deficit for the Homes for the Aged has decreased owing to the increase in the number of residents receiving compensation payments. Activities for the young generation play an important part in the work: there were several Easter, autumn and winter youth rallies, each of which was attended by 50 to 70 young people.

\* The total number (including those who are not registered with the communities) is estimated at about 30,000.—Ed.

### GERMANIA JUDAICA IN COLOGNE

In Cologne a library devoted to the history of Jews, to be known as Germania Judaica, was opened on July 1st. It was stated by Heinrich Boell, author and co-founder of the new institute, that the one aim of the library would be to help eliminate prejudice.

### GERMAN AND ISRAELI STUDENTS MEET

It is estimated that, at present, about 100 students from Israel are enrolled at German universities. A conference between some of them and a number of German students took place in Iserlohn, under the auspices of the Evangelical Academy of Rhineland-Westphalia.

Talks were given by Professor Dr. Karl Thieme of the Mainz University; Dr. Hans Lamm, head of the Cultural Department of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany; Dr. Emanuel Schereschewsky of the Munster University and Mr. Moshe Hess, deputy head of the Information Department of the Israeli Mission. The well-known Stuttgart author, Albrecht Goes, also addressed the meeting.

### NEW GERMAN-JEWISH PAPER

A new German-Jewish paper, *Mitteilungsblatt fuer die juedischen Gemeinden in Westfalen*, has been launched, under the editorship of Dr. Hans Chanoch Meyer, Rabbi for the Jewish communities in Westphalia. The paper will also interest those Jews who emigrated from Westphalia to other countries but who will wish to keep in touch with events in their home communities.

The periodical also carries essays dealing with the history of the district, such as an article on the emancipation of the Jews in Warburg, with a full list of the Jewish families who adopted German family names in 1808.

Interested readers should write for particulars to the Jewish Community, Dortmund, Prinz-Friedrich-Karl-Str. 9.

### MARTIN BUBER ON GERMAN TV

An interview given in Jerusalem by Professor Martin Buber to the author, Thilo Koch, was shown on German television.

### WORMS SYNAGOGUE TO BE REBUILT

The synagogue in Worms, destroyed in November 1938, is to be rebuilt. The cost is to be defrayed by the Bund, the Land and the Municipality of Worms. The original synagogue, built in the 11th Century, was considered to be one of the most important historical monuments in Europe.

### NEW SYNAGOGUE IN BONN

The new synagogue in Bonn, designed by the Cologne architect H. Goldschmidt, was ceremoniously opened on May 26th. The building replaces the old synagogue built in 1879, which was destroyed on November 9th, 1938.

### OLD AGE HOME IN BERLIN

An Old Age Home, mainly for Jews who have returned from abroad, has been opened by Probst Grueber in West Berlin. The money for the new Home was raised by the Protestant Relief Fund for Victims of Racial Persecution. Probst Grueber described it as a contribution towards restitution and as "a raised finger to keep alive the memory of the guilt incurred by a past generation".

### NEW HOSPITAL IN HAMBURG

The Hamburg Senate has provided funds amounting to four million marks for a Jewish hospital, as compensation for the former hospital closed by the Nazis. The corner-stone for the new hospital has been laid. It will have 110 beds and the most modern equipment, and will serve patients of all faiths.

### BREISACH COMMEMORATES ITS JEWS

The former site of the Breisach Synagogue, destroyed in November, 1938, was made into a garden on the initiative of the municipal authorities. A memorial stone was recently consecrated, and one of the speakers at the ceremony was the Mayor of the town.



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## NEWS FROM AUSTRIA

### NEW FOREIGN MINISTER A JEW

Dr. Bruno Kreisky has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the new Coalition Cabinet of Chancellor Julius Raab.

Dr. Kreisky, who is a Jew but never took an active part in Jewish communal work, is a Social-Democrat of long standing. He served a 16-month prison sentence in pre-war Austria for socialist activities, and was also arrested by the Germans when Austria was annexed.

### DANGERS OF NEO-NAZISM

In an address to the Organisation of Catholic Professionals in Vienna, the Vice-President of the Association of Jewish Communities in Vienna, Dipl. Ing. Simon Wiesenthal, pointed out that both the important parties in Austria had, to a great extent, made concessions to the former Nazis, by relieving them of material worries and thus involuntarily contributing to a revival of their political feelings. This might be particularly dangerous in the field of youth education. It was therefore necessary to activate teachers and parents in combating such trends.

### A STRANGE COURT DECISION

A Viennese Magistrates' Court rejected the confiscation of the book "Die Waffen-SS. in Bilde", claiming that this was not a political but an historical work. The office of the State Attorney has lodged an appeal against this decision.

### NEO-NAZI LEADER ARRESTED

The Viennese police have announced the arrest of Alfred Hager, leader of an armed secret Neo-Nazi organisation, and two of his followers. It has been stated that the organisation's goal was to secretly resurrect the Nazi storm troopers of the Hitler era.

### INCREASING "HJ" ACTIVITIES

The activities of the "Heimattreue Jugend" (HJ) have increased since their leader, Konrad Windisch, was released from goal. The HJ is in close contact with similar organisations in Germany and has had several meetings with their representatives. The work of the HJ is particularly noticeable among university students.

### AWARDS

The President of the Austrian Federal Republic has awarded the Austrian Gold Medal of Merit to Frau Hertha Pollak in recognition of her services to the Commission for the Distribution of Funds for Victims of Political Persecution. Frau Pollak is the first Jewess in Austria to receive such an award.

Herr Ignaz Kohn, member of the representative body of the Jewish community in Vienna, also received the Gold Medal for charitable services.

### ADENAUER FOREST IN ISRAEL

In New York a grove of 1,000 trees purchased for Israel through the Jewish National Fund has been named for Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of West Germany. Dr. Adenauer was cited for carrying out restitution agreements between his country and Israel.

### VIENNESE SCIENTIST FIGHTS U.S.A. GOVERNMENT

Dr. Otto Halpern, a 60-year old Viennese-born inventor now in America, has won an important point in the Federal Court in America in his fight for compensation from the Government for a secret device he invented in 1941. The device has been labelled so vital to national defence that the Government refused to grant him a patent, which would disclose details of the invention. The Judge ruled that if the Government could not come to terms with the scientist, he would grant a trial in secret so that no defence secrets might be disclosed.

Since last October Dr. Halpern has waited for the Government to decide whether to purchase outright his invention for \$340,000 and to award him the Medal of Merit for his contribution "to the military scientific resources of the country during the past World War". The exact nature of the invention has never been disclosed. The Government, however, has explained that it deals "with the manner and means whereby an object may escape detection and observation by radar".

### FAMILY EVENTS

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

#### Birthdays

Mrs. Rosa Asch, Hannah House, 12 Brunswick Terrace, Hove, Sussex, celebrated her 80th birthday on August 2nd.

Kaufmann.—Mr. Max Kaufmann (formerly Essen), of 123 Alexandra Road, London, N.W.8, will celebrate his 75th birthday on August 18th.

#### Marriages

George Gummers and Hannah Black.—The marriage was solemnised of George, elder son of Dr. and Mrs. Julius Gummers, 92 Queen's Drive, Glasgow, S.2 (formerly Heilbronn), and Hannah, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Black (Schwarz), 19 Broomhill Terrace, Glasgow, W.1 (formerly Munich).

#### Deaths

Friedenstein.—Mrs. Clara Friedenstein (née Susskind), formerly Frankfurt/Main, passed away on May 30th in her 91st year. Deeply mourned by her daughters, Thea, Rosa and Erna Friedenstein, 268 Kenmore Street, Glasgow, S.1.

Kornik.—Arthur Kornik, 112 Fellows Road, London, N.W.3, died on May 26th. Survived by his widow, Eva (née Chanange), son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. The family sincerely thanks Ministers and friends for their kind visits, letters and expressions of sympathy.

Loewy.—Dr. Julius Loewy, D.M.D. On Sunday, July 26th, beloved husband of Gertrud (née Arnheim), 14 Palace Court, Finchley Rd., London, N.W.3.

Meyerstein.—Reg. Med. Rat, Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Meyerstein, formerly of Kassel and Berlin-Babelsberg, passed away at his home on May 31st, in his 79th year. Survived by his wife, M. Marieluise Meyerstein (née Wolff), 34 Stanmore Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16.

Pick.—On June 19th, Mrs. Rita Pick, 22 Buckland Crescent, N.W.3, beloved wife of Anthony and loved sister of Lore Cowan and sister-in-law of Maurice Cowan, passed away after a three-day illness. Deeply mourned.

Smith.—Simon Gustav Smith, of "Simar House," Bournemouth. We announce, with deep regret, that our beloved husband and brother passed away suddenly on Saturday, July 18th. Deeply mourned by his wife Margot, his brother Fred, all other relatives, and his many friends.

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#### Personal

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#### MISSING PERSONS

##### Enquiries by AJR

Dr. Alfred Gurau. Relative seeks contact with persons who knew the late Dr. Alfred Gurau whilst he was Obermagistratsrat with Bezirksamt Berlin-Mitte (until 1933) and/or during his subsequent service with the Juedische Gemeindeverwaltung Berlin.

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Justizrat Oskar Meyer and his wife Martha. Believed to have come to London between 1930 and 1933.

W. Reimer, last-known address 11 Neville Terrace, London, S.W.7. Whereabouts sought by his sister.

Robert Gordon (formerly Israel). Last-known address 1 Honeybourne Avenue, London, N.W.6, where he lived for twenty-five years.

Julius Deutsch (merchant), born in Brunn, Czechoslovakia, about 1863, and his wife Amalie Deutsch (née Kaes), born in Vienna about 1866. Information sought regarding fate.

Peter Meyer, son of Moritz and Trude Meyer from Breslau.

#### Personal Enquiries

Dorothea Rosenbaum, formerly Berlin, now married to a Spaniard, believed to live in London, is sought for restitution purposes by Anita Sachs, wife of the late Peter Sachs. Please write to K. Lewy, 4c Park End Street, Oxford.

Mrs. Ellinar Freund (née Bach), born 14.8.1897, widow of Dr. W. Freund, children's specialist, of Breslau; Mrs. Ruth Meyer (née Danziger), born 3.10.1896; sought by Mrs. Elsa Benjamin, c/o Bank of New South Wales, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia, who is anxious to trace her old friends from Breslau.

Albert and Betty Goschewski or their son, formerly of Berlin and Immigrants from Germany whose relatives emigrated to Ecuador (Guayaquil), in 1936/37, are asked to contact: Mrs. Ruth Peter, 75 Alexandra Road, London, N.W.8.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Indemnification for French and Dutch Jews

Sir,—We should like to comment on one item in your June issue. You report, correctly, on agreements reached between representatives of the French and Dutch Jews and the German Federal Government to indemnify Jewish victims in those countries for losses suffered through seizure of their household goods and furnishings.

The Council of Jews from Germany always appreciates the granting of indemnification to Nazi victims, of whatever nationality or former or present residence. It has to be mentioned, however, that we have to object very strongly against the method used by the German Federal Government. The Government proposes to satisfy the just and now acknowledged claims of the French and Dutch Jews out of the sum of DM 1,500 million meant for the restitution of property seized in Germany by the authorities from victims of Nazi persecution.

When the Federal Government concluded their agreements with the representatives of Jewry and with the Allied Governments in 1953 and 1955 respectively, restitution payments of the Federal Government (to be distinguished from the payments made in accordance with the Indemnification Law) were indeed limited to a maximum of DM 1,500 million. When the Federal Restitution Law of July 19th, 1957, was passed, this Council at once made it clear to the German authorities that this limitation was no longer in accordance with the financial position of the Federal Republic, and should later be removed. The stated limitation is the more unjustified if victims who were not resident in Germany are also compensated out of the same fund, a method introduced in 1957 by an ingenious legal device and never dreamt of by anybody concerned when the agreements with Jewry and the Allied Governments were concluded. It cannot be right to pay damages out of the

pockets of other victims instead of out of German funds.

This Council has used the discussions it recently had with important German representatives, on which you also report in your June issue, to emphasise this point most strongly. We shall go on pressing for an alteration of the statute to the effect that the justified and legally acknowledged claims of the various groups of victims shall be paid out of German means, without limitation.

Yours, etc.,

COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

W. Breslauer,

Vice-President.

### "An Unsettled Issue"

Sir,—While congratulating you on your excellent article, "An Unsettled Issue", I want to underline its content by our experience. In Linz a/D, the so-called "Judenreferat" was a German Nazi; we were given 48 hours to leave the country (we left in 24) by the German SS, on June 13th, 1938.

Yours, etc.

(Mrs.) STELLA KURREIN

(widow of Rabbi Prof. Dr. V. Kurrein).

39 Hitchin Street,  
Biggleswade, Beds.

### "NOTES ON THE TRIAL OF JESUS"

The first three of several "Notes on the Trial of Jesus", by Mr. Paul Winter, London, have been published in the 50th volume of the semi-annual *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft* (Walter de Gruyter & Co., Berlin). The "Notes" are published in English. The publication, priced at £3 per volume, may be obtained through any bookseller.

## MEMORIAL TO BISHOP OF CHICHESTER

An appeal for a memorial to the late Dr. George Bell, Bishop of Chichester for nearly thirty years, has been launched. The memorial planned is two-fold—a stone screen in Chichester Cathedral and the setting up of a trust fund to carry on the work to which Bishop Bell devoted so much of his life, not the least amongst which were his efforts to bring succour to the persecuted Jews under Hitler.

The distinguished committee which has been set up includes amongst its members the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, the German Ambassador, the Earl of Woolton, and Professor Norman Bentwich. At the inaugural meeting, Professor Bentwich particularly recalled the services rendered by the late Bishop to the cause of the refugees. "Amongst Jews Dr. Bell is held in the most grateful memory for his work for the persecuted under Hitler", he said.

It is hoped that Jews from Germany who found refuge in this country will lend their support to the appeal. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Lord McCorquodale of Newton, Bishop Bell Memorial Appeal, c/o Barclay's Bank Ltd., Chichester.

### SUDETEN GERMANS REMEMBER JAKOB EDELSTEIN

In our April issue we printed a letter by Mr. Jacob Jacobson on the Theresienstadt Ghetto. A reader has now drawn our attention to the *Sudeten-Jahrbuch 1959* (published by Seliger-Gemeinde, Munich), which carries an article by Karl Kern (a non-Jew) on his friend, Jakob Edelstein, who was Judenältester in Theresienstadt until his deportation to Auschwitz.

The article is based mainly on the facts described in H. G. Adler's publications on Theresienstadt, and states that Edelstein was killed because he did not carry out the orders given to him by the SS. Kern writes: "Jakob Edelstein will always be remembered with gratitude and admiration by his friends."

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## CONFERENCE OF JEWS IN GERMANY

### Concern at Anti-Semitism

At its recent conference in Dusseldorf, the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany passed a resolution expressing concern at certain trends in Germany, which were also reflected in manifestations of anti-Semitism. The reinstatement of former active Nazis in public positions, the resolution states, may have contributed to this danger. "It is tragic that fourteen years after the collapse of a régime which brought Germany and Europe to the brink of the abyss, we feel it incumbent upon us to express our warnings."

In his welcoming address, Josef-Hermann Dufhues, Minister of the Interior of the Land Northrhine-Westphalia, declared that a thorough analysis of the past events was indispensable for the restoration of a democratic state. Joachim Lipschitz, Senator for the Interior in Berlin, who was also a guest speaker, warned of the dangers of a reinstatement of the Right-wing parties.

The symptoms of increasing anti-Semitism were dealt with in the report given by Dr. H. G. van Dam, General Secretary of the Zentralrat, and by

several speakers in the discussion.

Dr. van Dam also reported that the number of returnees from Israel was estimated at at least 7,000. Stressing that everything would be done to assist them in their resettlement, he criticised two extreme groups amongst them: those who acted as though they were the guardians of Zionist tradition, and those who now strongly criticised the country which had given them refuge and security during the years of persecution.

Dealing with the re-erection of synagogues, Dr. van Dam stressed that the considerable decrease in the membership of the communities had to be taken into account before deciding on the erection of new houses of worship and their size.

A report on the cultural activities of the Zentralrat, given by Dr. H. Lamm, amongst other things covered the following: training of teachers, youth activities, adult education, community libraries, participation in inter-denominational debates.

## PROF. HEUSS RECEIVES RABBI DR. PRINZ

President Heuss received Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz, President of the American Jewish Congress, in Bonn, when they discussed various aspects of Jewish communal life in Germany.

During the interview President Heuss stressed his opinion that the virulence of anti-Semitism in West Germany had been over-rated and sensationalised in Germany and abroad. He said that the incidents were superficial and isolated. Dr. Heuss referred to the educational programmes, especially in the field of contemporary history, to acquaint German youth of the facts about the Hitler Reich and the persecution of the Jews, and he emphasised that some provinces had already initiated projects in this direction.

In reply to Dr. Prinz's statement that the members of the Jewish community in Germany felt isolated from general life, Dr. Heuss thought this was due mostly to a certain shyness on the part of both Germans and Jews, and not to hostility. He said that the destruction brought about by the Nazis was so great that it was difficult for both to encounter each other without shyness.

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