

## A LINK BETWEEN TWO AGES

## The Leo Baeck Institute

In the course of their history since their dispersion the Jews from Germany and other Central European countries have been faced with four paramount tasks: the consolidation of their political status in their new homelands; the fight for individual restitution and compensation; the rehabilitation of old and needy victims of the persecution by constructive social schemes, and the preservation of their cultural heritage.

Whilst the first task was accomplished shortly after the end of the war, when those refugees who had been admitted as transmigrants were also declared eligible for naturalisation, the AJR still has to safeguard the interests of the Nazi victims in matters of compensation. It has only lately been able to start constructive schemes in rehabilitation, especially of Homes for the Aged, when the proceeds from the heirless, unclaimed and communal Jewish property recovered by the Jewish Trust Corporation had become available.

## Our Spiritual Heritage

But man does not live by bread alone. Our spiritual heritage, shaped by Jewish life in Central Europe in the course of five generations, must also find its expression. It was for this reason that, in 1954, the Leo Baeck Institute was founded by the Council of Jews from Germany, of which the AJR is one of the constituent bodies. The headquarters of the Institute are in Jerusalem, with working centres in New York and London.

It is the object of the Institute to sponsor and encourage scientific research on the history of the Jews in German-speaking countries since their emancipation, and thus to create and preserve for posterity an undistorted picture of this vital chapter of Jewish history. This task can only be achieved—within its unavoidable limitations—by members of our generation, which is the last one with a first-hand knowledge of the Jewish communities in Central European countries before the holocaust. Thus the work of the Institute is of particular urgency.

The *raison d'être* of the Institute, however, transcends the task of initiating and co-ordinating research on the history of German Jewry. The integration of the immigrants into their new environment would be unrealistic and impracticable if they tried to shake off their past. Only by remaining aware of the forces which formed them can they retain their spiritual balance and this be accepted in their country of resettlement. This refers not only to the majority of Jews from Germany, whose social and cultural contacts are more or less restricted to people of their own background, but also to those who come more frequently and more intensively into contact with Jews and non-Jews born in this country. It is not nostalgia for the past but an urge to understand our own position, which prompts us to know more of the life of the community from which we hail—its achievements and shortcomings, its political, economic and cultural problems, and its contribution to Jewish learning and Jewish life in general.

One of the most conspicuous results of the work of the Leo Baeck Institute has been the edition of its Year Books in London. These Year Books have come down to the basic facts, thus transcending the generalities often said or written on German-Jewish topics. This is borne out again by the contents of the Third Year Book, which has

just been published.\* That the publication of these Year Books was made possible and, contrary to many similar ventures, has persevered, is in the first place due to the fortunate fact that the Institute could enlist the expert and experienced co-operation of Dr. Robert Weltsch in the capacity of editor.

Whilst the first two Year Books dealt with a variety of subjects—religious, philosophical, cultural, and historical alike—the stress in Year Book III is placed on the historical field. In the introduction Robert Weltsch not only welds all the articles in the book into an entity by showing the inter-relation between them, but also contributes his own ideas to the subjects raised. One particular aspect of his article is the attempt to define the term "German Jew" as distinct from "Eastern Jew". The demarcation line is not as clear as might appear at first sight for various reasons. One of these is that some territories of Austria and Prussia were Polish until the end of the eighteenth century and, at least in some Austrian provinces such as Galicia, the "Eastern" character of the Jewish communities was to a certain extent retained. Thus Martin Buber, who was born in Vienna but spent his youth in his grandfather's house at Lemberg, once described himself as a "Polish Jew". Similarly N. Israel, who founded the well-known department store in Berlin as early as 1815, and whose descendants we consider as members of an old-established Berlin family, was the grandson of an immigrant from Schneidemuehl, then situated in Polish territory. We also learn of the gradual integration of Jews from Eastern European countries into the life of the Berlin Jewish community. In reverse, there were German Jews who, after the First World War, "went East" to carry out educational work in Eastern Europe.

## Facets of the Year Book

There are innumerable other aspects which are presented in the book and every reader, according to his leanings, will find in it facts hitherto unknown to him. To quote only a few at random: The politician, Ludwig Bamberger, was confidential adviser to Frederick III.—When Walther Rathenau joined the Weimar Government, Paul Nathan foresaw that he would not die a natural death.—When the opera "The Silent Woman", by Richard Strauss, the libretto for which was written by Stefan Zweig, was performed in Dresden in 1934 (it was withdrawn after only a few days due to strong Nazi opposition), Zweig had arranged that his royalties were to be used for constructive German-Jewish relief activity.—Whilst it is general knowledge that descendants of the Court Jews often married into nobility, it may be news to many readers to know that a granddaughter of Veitel Ephraim (Berlin) married Prince Henry XIV of Reuss, a member of a ruling dynasty.—The proportion of foreign Jews in Berlin after the First World War was higher than usually assumed (43,800 out of a total Jewish population of 172,600 in 1925).—On the occasion of the Schiller Centenary in 1859, the director of the Philanthropin, Dr. Sigmund Stern, was invited to be the first speaker at the Frankfurt City commemoration.—We also

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\* Year Book III, published for the Leo Baeck Institute by the East and West Library, London, 1959, 35s. Free of charge to members of the Society of Friends of the Leo Baeck Institute.

## DEADLOCK IN AUSTRO-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS

Just before this issue went to press, news reached us that the Austro-German negotiations on the question of a German contribution towards compensation for victims of the Nazi régime in Austria had reached a deadlock.

The German refusal was motivated, *inter alia*, by the historic course of events ("der historische Ablauf"), as officially-inspired German press notices put it. We feel that precisely the historical course of events established the co-responsibility of both the Austrian Government and the German Government, and that the refusal of the Federal German Government to contribute towards some measure of indemnification for the hapless Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in Austria is totally unjustified.

According to the latest information there is, however, an indication that the negotiations will be resumed.

We sincerely hope that the Federal German Government will see its way clear to revise its present negative attitude.

## BUNDESRUECKERSTATTUNGSGESETZ

## Fristablauf 1. April 1959

Die Frist fuer die Anmeldung von Anspruechen nach dem Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetz ist bis zum 1. April 1959 verlaengert worden. Grundsuetzlich muss die Anmeldung bis zu diesem Tage bei dem zustaendigen Zentralmeldeamt eingegangen sein. Die Frist gilt aber auch als gewahrt, wenn der Berechtigte bis zum 1. April 1959 den Anspruch bei einem unzustaeendigen Zentralmeldeamt angemeldet oder durch Klage vor der Restitutionskammer eines unzustaeendigen Landgerichts geltend gemacht hat. Im Bereich der franzoesischen Besatzungszone (§ 28 BRueG) muss die Klage bis zum 1. April 1959 erhoben werden.

Wenn rueckerstattungsrechtliche Geldansprueche gegen das Deutsche Reich bis zum 1. April, 1959, gemaess den Vorschriften des Bundesentschaedigungsgesetzes angemeldet wurden, so gilt die Anmeldung als fristgemaesse Anmeldung unter dem Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetz bzw. als rechtzeitige Klageerhebung.

Das Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetz regelt Ansprueche auf Zahlung von Schadensersatz fuer Entziehung von Sachen wie Liftvans, Hausrat, Wertpapiere, Schmuck, Platin-, Gold- und Silbergegenstaende, Devisen, Bibliotheken, Briefmarkensammlungen, Uhren, Pelze, Maschinen, Warenlager, Banknoten usw.

## OESTERREICHISCHES KRIEGS-UND VERFOLGUNGSSACHSCHAEDENGESETZ

Die fuer im Ausland wohnhafte Antragsteller bestimmten amtlichen Antragsformulare und Merkblaetter sind nunmehr beim Austrian Desk des United Restitution Office, 183/189 Finchley Road, London, N.W.3 erhaeltlich.

Der amtliche Preis fuer die zur Anmeldung von Hausratsschaden benoetigten Vordrucke betraegt 1/-, fuer die zusaetzlichen Vordrucke fuer Schaden am Berufsinventar 4d.

## SHADOWS OF THE PAST

### INVESTIGATION OF NAZI CRIMES

The Minister of Justice of Rhineland-Westphalia, Dr. Flehinghaus, in a speech in Dusseldorf objected to the demands to discontinue court proceedings against criminal offences committed during the Nazi period—demands claiming to be raised for reasons of principle. According to the Minister's view, the principle of a State based on law would be grossly injured if such men as the concentration camp guards Sommer, Sorge or Schubert were allowed to live as rightful citizens among the population. However, the Minister continued, reproaches concerning delays in proceedings against Nazi criminals were not justified. In North Rhine-Westphalia alone, 135 processes dealing with concentration camp crimes had taken place since the end of the war.

### CID INSPECTORS ACCUSED

Two high-ranking West German CID Inspectors, Corneli and Erdmann, both former Gestapo officials, have been accused by the Sachsenhausen Committee of complicity in concentration camp crimes.

Corneli has strongly refuted the accusation of having been an accomplice in the killing of 27 inmates of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. He declared that his commission had been concerned with corrupt practices of the catering department of the SS in the Oranienburg concentration camp, and had no connection with the political proceedings of the Gestapo commission acting against inmates of the neighbouring Sachsenhausen camp. Corneli stated that this fact had been established in a number of processes after the war directed against the Gestapo commission, and that the case of the death of the 27 inmates of Sachsenhausen had been cleared up then.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST NEO-FASCIST JOURNAL

The County Court in Lueneburg has ordered a session to examine the legality of the anti-Semitic and neo-fascist journal *Der Weg*, which appears in the German language in the Argentine. The editor of the paper in Buenos Aires, Eberhard Fritsch, has been ordered to appear before the court. *Der Weg*, which bears the subtitle "Independent Monthly for Freedom and Order in State, Politics, Economy, Law and Culture", also has offices for the delivery of its issues in Belgium, Italy, Sweden and Spain.

### NIELAND CASE—JUDGE'S RECORD

Enno Budde, the Judge of the County Court in Hamburg who decided against proceeding in the Nieland case, was, according to the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, a champion of Nazi ideology. Budde, who has meanwhile requested to be transferred to a court dealing with civil law, in 1935-36 published articles glorifying Hitler, the "purity of race" and the theories of "blood and soil". In 1925 he is said to have been found guilty of an offence against the Defence of the Republic Act decreed by the Parliament of the Weimar Republic. The Frankfurt paper comments: "In the Nieland affair the law was adequate to ensure conviction. The gentle treatment of those agents of anti-Semitic subversion is sufficiently explained by the judge's past record."

### BALDUR VON SCHIRACH'S DAUGHTER SEEKS HIS RELEASE

It is reported that the daughter of Baldur von Schirach, former head of the Hitler Youth, intends proceeding to Moscow to deliver an application for the release of her father, who was sentenced to twenty years' hard labour by the Nuremberg Tribunal. Her mother previously appealed to the Foreign Office in London to achieve the same object but, according to a recent statement she made, the British authorities took the view that nothing could be done without the consent of the Russians.

### NEO-NAZI INCIDENT

A serious incident occurred at the theatre of the Hall of Congress in West Berlin, where the play "Myself and No Angel"—a chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto—by Thomas Harlan, son of Nazi film producer Veit Harlan, was being performed. A gang of youths, believed to be neo-Nazis, demonstrated their anger during the performance. When, however, Thomas Harlan ascended the stage at the end of the performance and invited the public to sign a petition addressed to the Federal Parliament asking for severe punishment against former concentration camp commandants still at large, the youths threw stink bombs and attacked the speaker. They shouted anti-Semitic slogans, sang "Deutschland Ueber Alles" and attacked members of the audience and the ushers. Seven of the demonstrators were arrested but have since been released. The West Berlin police have opened an investigation into the incident.

### NOVEMBER 9th AFTERMATH

The County Court in Duisburg has declined to open proceedings against Alfred Freter, formerly Major of the municipal fire brigade, who ordered the burning down of the synagogue in Muehlheim during the night of November 9th, 1938. The Court based its decision on the fact that the synagogue was at that time no longer in the possession of the Jewish Community, as the building had been taken over by the town of Muehlheim in October 1938.

The Public Prosecutor has lodged an appeal against this decision, and the case has been referred to a higher court.

### RITUAL MURDER ACCUSATION

In an article published in December last, in the Nuremberg *8 Uhr-Blatt*, entitled "The Ritual Murder of Manau", the paper referred to the death of a five-year-old boy in 1929, and inferred that the culprits must have followed an old Jewish tradition according to which matzos have to be prepared with the blood of a Gentile. "At the time of the investigation", the article stated, "it was stressed that the present Jewish religion had nothing to do with such excesses."

The Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany filed a libel action against the proprietors of the newspaper for publication of a blood libel fraud.

The action was, however, withdrawn after the proprietors had expressed their regret and agreed to make a donation of DM 3,000 to the Bavarian Red Cross.

## COMPENSATION NEWS

### TAXATION

The taxability in the United Kingdom of German "Renten" paid under the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG) was under discussion when representatives of the British and German tax authorities met in Bonn recently. It is learned that no agreement on an alteration of the present position could be reached but that the matter may be followed up on the diplomatic level in the course of the next four or five months. We shall inform our readers on any further developments.

### NAHUM GOLDMANN SEES DR. ADENAUER

Reviewing his meeting with Chancellor Adenauer and members of the German Federal Government, during which he discussed the question of personal compensation to Nazi victims, Dr. Nahum Goldmann explained, at a press conference in Jerusalem, that at present only 60 per cent of the available budgets for this purpose had actually been utilised, because of the slow processing of applications. He had recommended to the German authorities the speeding up of the complicated system of processing, particularly in the Rhineland-Pfalz district which handled the majority of applications from Israel and of stateless Jews.

### REFUSAL OF CLAIM

The Indemnification Office in Schleswig-Holstein has refused the claim of Mrs. Josephine Piendl, a former employee of the St. Raphaelsverein Mission for Emigrants, in Hamburg. The claim is for damage inflicted on her liberty, health and professional career by measures of the Gestapo in 1941. The office in Kiel holds the view that the St. Raphaelsverein was not dissolved on grounds of religion or Weltanschauung but of suspected high treason, and that the claimant had not proved persecution in the meaning of the Federal Compensation Law.

Mrs. Piendl had stated on oath that she was charged by the Secretary General of the St. Raphaelsverein, Dr. Groesser, particularly to assist persons persecuted for their political views and for their race. Her statement continues with details of her endeavours for the release of Jews from concentration camps, of her negotiations with German and foreign authorities and the provision of emigration visas on behalf of the victims of the persecution.

The Minister of the Interior of Schleswig-Holstein has repealed the negative decision of the office and has ordered a re-examination of the claims.

### LECTURE ON RESTITUTION

The distinguished lawyer Dr. Walter Schwarz (Berlin) who is an authority on Restitution and Indemnification and is one of the editors of *Rechtsprechung zum Wiedergutmachungsrecht*, has been invited by the Association of Democratic Lawyers from Germany to give a lecture on the Rueckerstattungsgesetz, commenting on its legal provisions and its application by the courts. The lecture will be held on Tuesday, March 17th at 8 p.m., at 51 Belsize Square, N.W.3.

As the time limit for lodging claims under the Federal Restitution Law expires on April 1st next, the lecture will be of special interest.

### ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS FROM GERMANY

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## ANTI-SEMITISM IN GERMANY

### TV INTERVIEW IN BRITAIN

The Federal Chancellor, Dr. Adenauer, was interviewed on the TV programme, "Panorama". During the interview he mentioned that Nazism and anti-Semitism had disappeared in Germany, and described the judgment of the Hamburg Court in the Nieland case (see previous issue) as incomprehensible.

Dr. H. G. van Dam, Secretary of the Zentralrat of the Jews from Germany, who was also interviewed during the programme, stated that there was no persecution in Germany, but that there were anti-Semitic undercurrents. He stressed that the Federal Government did its best to combat these tendencies.

### TRADES UNIONISTS BEWILDERED

Adolf Kummernuss, Chairman of the German trade union for public services and transport, after his return from a conference of the International Federation of Transport Workers (I.T.F.) in London, reported that the conference had discussed the anti-Semitic tendencies in the Federal Republic. According to Kummernuss, the I.T.F. had expressed its bewilderment and had recalled the causes which in 1933 led to the abolition of democracy. At that time, too, anti-Semitism had been favoured by nationalistic and anti-democratic forces. The I.T.F., Kummernuss continued, had again expressed its good will to assist the democratic forces in Germany.

### GERMAN BISHOP'S CRITICISM

The Suffragan Bishop of the diocese of Limburg, Kampe, has, in the church paper *The Sunday*, sharply criticised anti-Semitic remarks by "unteachable fanatics". In his view, however, these phenomena do not prove the existence of an anti-Semitic movement. The Bishop believes that the resistance against continuing Nazi influence is so difficult because the German people have not yet spiritually overcome National Socialism. The German people turned away from Nazism because of the disastrous external consequences of Hitler but not because of a genuine insight into the depravity of National Socialism.

### INVESTIGATION AGAINST WRITER

According to the information of an official press department in Munich, the investigations, begun as early as May 1957, against 72-year-old writer Guido Roeder in Oberammergau, on the grounds of the publication of anti-Semitic writings, will soon be completed. At present the Psychiatric Clinic of the Munich University is preparing a report on Roeder's mental state. Heimberg, the publisher of the violently anti-Semitic pamphlets, who also published the brochure by Nieland in Hamburg, will appear before a court as well.

### CHRISTIAN-JEWISH COUNCIL APPEAL

The Chairman of the Co-ordinating Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Co-operation in Germany has appealed to the population of the Federal Republic to take measures against relapses into anti-Semitism. The Federal Government, the Governments of the Laender, the universities and schools, the legal profession and "all citizens of good will" have been addressed in this appeal, and have been requested to counteract the work of "demagogues and destroyers of justice and humanity". The Council insists on an intensive campaign of enlightenment and instruction in the educational institutions of Germany, and invokes the help of the Christian churches for this work.

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### JEWISH QUESTIONS RAISED AT SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

At the meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International currently held in London, the revival of anti-Semitic tendencies in Germany was raised by Dr. S. Levenberg, representative of the Israel Labour Party.

Mr. Erich Ollenauer, leader of the German Social Democratic Party, declared that the German Socialists condemn any revival of anti-Semitic tendencies. "We do not want to minimise the gravity of the recent incidents," he said, "but, fortunately, these are isolated occurrences disavowed by the large majority of public opinion in Germany led by Chancellor Adenauer." He expressed the Social Democratic Party's determination to fight anti-Semitism whenever it occurred.

Dr. S. Levenberg also discussed the problem of Austrian compensation for Jewish victims of Nazism with the Austrian Vice-Chancellor, Rudolf Pitterman.

### ACTIONS TAKEN

A waiter, Hans Paul Rabe, has been sentenced by a Dusseldorf Court to six months' imprisonment on charges of libel and public condonation of crimes. The accused insulted a Jewish business man, calling him a "dirty Jew whom Hitler had forgotten to gas". The Court rejected a plea for suspension of the sentence, and stated that it was in the "public interest that punishment be executed".

A reward of 10,000 marks has been offered by the North Rhine-Westphalia Minister of the Interior for information leading to the arrest of the persons who smeared swastikas on public buildings and churches in Dortmund and Horn.

The Upper House of the West German Parliament has approved a Bill sponsored by the Federal Government, imposing fines and penalties for defamation of national, religious and racial groups. The measure now goes to the Lower House and, if approved, will be sent back for a second and final approval by the Upper House.

### IMPRISONMENT FOR DEFAMATION

The merchant Krumiseck, a former high functionary in the Nazi Party, has been sentenced to seven months' imprisonment by the Bielefeld court, on charges of libel, defaming the memory of the dead and condoning Nazi crimes. Last April Krumiseck insulted a member of the Hereford Jewish community. He declared it was "unfortunate that not all the Jews have been gassed" and that it was imperative to "shoot or poison the Jews in Israel." In court the accused stated he sincerely regretted his remarks and that he was not an anti-Semite. He offered to pay 1,000 marks to the Jewish community as a "voluntary atonement" if the community withdrew the charges against him.

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learn for the first time that Dr. Leo Baeck had been in touch with members of the anti-Nazi resistance movement and that, when a manifesto for "The Day After" was drafted, his version was chosen.

We only quote some factual examples from the book. The actual value of the essays does not consist in the compilation of the facts but in their assessment in the light of German-Jewish historiography. It would, however, transcend the unavoidable limitations of this article to review, in the ordinary way, the twenty essays contained in this important symposium. These essays cover the following wide range of subjects:

Ernst Simon: "Martin Buber and German Jewry"; Selma Stern-Taubler: "Eugen Taubler and the Wissenschaft des Judentums"; Ernst Feder: "Paul Nathan"; Joseph Leftwich: "Stefan Zweig"; Eleonore Sterling: "Jewish Reaction to Jew Hatred in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century"; Adolf Asch and Johanna Philippson: "The Emergence of the K.C."; F. L. Carsten: "The Court Jews"; Herbert Seeliger: "Origin and Growth of the Berlin Community"; Arthur Galiner: "The Philanthropin in Frankfurt"; Fritz Friedlaender: "Trials and Tribulations of Education in Nazi Germany"; Eugen Mayer: "A German-Jewish Miscellany"; Hanns G. Reissner: "The Histories of 'Kaufhaus N. Israel' and of Wilfried Israel"; Eduard Rosenbaum: "Albert Ballin"; Walter Schwarz: "A Jewish Banker of the Nineteenth Century (M. Plaut)"; Kurt Wilhelm: "Jewish Communities in Scandinavia"; Yomtov Ludwig Bato: "Italian Jewry"; Max Mayer: "A German Jew Goes East".

The book concludes with excerpts from Leo Baeck's writings introduced by Hans Reichmann; a bibliography of publications on German Jewry, 1957, compiled by Ilse R. Wolff (Librarian of The Wiener Library) and a comprehensive Index. It is enhanced by a number of photographs.

### Unique Collection

Whilst the production of the Year Books is conducted from London, one of the main achievements of the New York branch has been the creation of a unique collection centre of books, periodicals and documents relating to German-Jewish history. Contacts with German-Jewish communities in South American countries have been strengthened by a recent lecture tour by Professor Ernst Simon (Jerusalem), sponsored by the Institute's headquarters in Israel. This venture proved most successful, and made a considerable impact on the South American communities, which feel somewhat out of the current of German-Jewish life after the dispersion.

The Institute has also initiated and sponsored the production of other publications, such as that on Rahel Varnhagen (by Hannah Arendt); Leopold Zunz (correspondence edited by Nahum Glazer); Heinrich Heine (by Professor Hans Kohn) and, last but not least, works by the late Leo Baeck. Further publications are in the course of preparation.

The work of the Institute can only be successful if it can rely on the good will and co-operation of the community which it serves. This is not only essential from a financial aspect. Even more important is the fact that, for an enterprise such as this, constant dynamic contact with the community is indispensable. Societies of Friends of the Leo Baeck Institute have therefore been formed in various countries. The British branch was founded about a year ago (address: 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3; annual subscription fee 2½ gns.). All members receive the Year Books and the Institute's Bulletins free of charge, and other publications at considerably reduced rates.

An initial appeal, sent to a limited number of people, has already met with sympathetic response, indicating the keen interest of the Jews from German-speaking countries to preserve their spiritual heritage. The aims of the Institute would be decisively assisted if all those who cannot be approached individually but who can be reached through this journal, showed the same solidarity to the cultural aims of the community undertaken by the Institute as they have done to the legal and charitable tasks undertaken by the AJR.

W. ROSENSTOCK.

## IN HAUPTMANN'S WAKE

### 70th Birthday of C. F. W. Behl

C. F. W. Behl, senior of German Hauptmann scholars, will be 70 years of age on March 30th. Destined for a legal career, he pursued it with gusto. It was as much a calling as a vocation, for an outstanding trait of his character is his strong sense of justice—a feature which made this friendly man the most considerate censor in the Berlin Police Presidium's Theatre Department. He lost this post in 1933, partly on account of his pro-Semitic activities. Cold-shouldered by the Nazis, he was placed in charge of the Water Police, since his record as an official was impeccable and he was, too, an unmistakable "Aryan". After the last war, the Americans appointed him President of a law court and now, in retirement, literature is his consuming interest.

Until his retirement he spent his days, like Immermann, whom he rather resembles with his Biedermeier side-whiskers, at a desk loaded with files, and his evenings were spent on Mount Helicon. He wrote some verse, sprinkled with humour and wisdom, which was published five years ago by a bibliophile society and, since the end of the war, he has sent his friends his reflections on every post-war year. Some of these were printed in the New York *Aufbau*, with whose editor, Manfred George, Dr. Behl has long-standing associations. Manfred George's first editorial job was that of deputy editor of Dr. Behl's periodical *Der Kritiker*—his private hobby run at his own expense. Although no fees were paid, Manfred George, Ludwig Marcuse, Heinrich Eduard Jacob, the writer of this appreciation, and other authors, willingly contributed to the periodical.

In 1922 Behl issued a special number of his reviews on the Gerhart Hauptmann Festival in Breslau. Throughout his life Behl has served Hauptmann as a devoted and staunch henchman and acted, for some time, as his Secretary when Hauptmann had to part from his Secretary, Elizabeth Jungmann. In his Will, disregarded by Hauptmann's family, the poet entrusted Behl, together with Felix A. Voigt, with the final edition of his collected works. It is to Dr. Behl's acquaintance with Hauptmann's archives that we owe some bibliophile editions of the poet's unpublished works.

Above all, however, there are Behl's own works. "Zwiesprache mit Gerhart Hauptmann" (Desch, Munich, 1949), the pamphlet "G. H. Ueberblick über Leben und Werk" (Holzner Verlag, Kitzingen, 1952) and, together with Voigt, "Chronik von Gerhart Hauptmanns Leben und Werk" (Bergstadt Verlag W. G. Korn, Munich, 1958). Here Hauptmann's faithful Eckermann did more than anyone else to clear Hauptmann's "wounded name", and to restore the poet's image for an unknowing posterity.

### Commemorating Max Pinkus

The latest addition to the memory of Gerhart Hauptmann, is a private publication by C. F. W. Behl (mentioned in this journal a short while ago), devoted to Kommerzienrat Max Pinkus, the kingly merchant and the poet's Jewish friend. (300 copies printed by Bergstadt Verlag W. G. Korn, Munich.) Among the contributions in this souvenir book are Hauptmann's letter poem on the occasion of Pinkus's 70th birthday (1927); Felix A. Voigt on Pinkus's extensive "Schlesienbucherei"; an appreciation by Frederick W. J. Heuser, Nestor of American professors of German; personal reminiscences by Elizabeth Beerbohm-Jungmann; Ludwig Jauner's history of the foundation of the Hauptmann Archive; Johannes Maximilian Avenarius's record of how Pinkus collected "Hauptmannia", and of his meeting with the poet, and the co-editor Walter A. Reichardt's selection of Pinkus's letters. More than any other publication of this kind, the Max Pinkus book gives us both a background of Hauptmann's work and a sociological study of a prominent representative of the Jewish middle class in Germany.

### Selection from Moritz Heimann's Writings

Moritz Heimann, Gerhart Hauptmann's brother-in-law (his second wife's sister's husband), was the model for Dr. Boxer in the play "Der rote Hahn". For many decades Heimann was reader and chief adviser to the S. Fischer Verlag, and his discovery of many a promising writer contributed to the success of the famous firm.

But Heimann had manifold talents, and was also poet, playwright, novelist and essayist. Last year marked the 90th year of his birth (he died in 1925) and the S. Fischer Verlag, now in Frankfurt, considered it a *nobile officium* to publish a small selection of his writings under the heading "Wintergespinnst" (85 pp., DM 2.20). They are all exemplary pieces of German prose, and have a special message to tell readers of today.

The story after which the little volume has been named is indicative of Heimann's sense of nature and of his insight into the soul of a teenage boy, and of the behaviour of a village community in Mark Brandenburg. Some of his essays—on Goethe, Nietzsche, Hebel, Thoireau, the political anxieties of an unpolitical man—are in the best German tradition, and two autobiographical studies reveal how this village boy from Kugel (Mark Brandenburg), lived a life free of inner conflict. His family were the only Jews in the village; they kept to their Jewish ways and were respected by their neighbours.

An aphorism of Heimann's compares his German-Jewish existence with the two foci of an ellipse. As Willy Haas says in his excellent postscript to the book, Heimann's aphorisms are of the same rank as those of the master of aphorisms, Lichtenberg, and appear in all his critical, epical and dramatic work.

LUTZ WELTMANN.

### A BOOK AND A BIRTHDAY

Adalbert Stifter. *Geschichte seines Lebens*. By URBAN ROEDL. pp. 400, illus. Francke A.G., Bern. Frs. 23.50.

Each human being from birth carries within himself the seeds of his whole existence. Neither he nor anybody else knows what these are. They unfold and determine his life, and it is the biographer's task to tell us the secret of a man's essence. A biography is good or bad in the measure that it succeeds in this task. Yet the innermost urges and instincts of another person can only be unravelled when something like an inner bond exists between the writer and his chosen subject. As Urban Roedl, the author of the present book, has recently attained his 70th year, it will also be my pleasant task to say something about him.

Stifter once wrote of the "schoenen, sanften, tiefen Ideale, die mir vorschweben". For generations he has brought calm to people in turmoil and distress. He has shown the way to the silent beauty of nature, to that wisdom and serenity which overcomes the sufferings of our miserable earthly existence. And yet . . . the man who could by the magic of his art, distil this wonderful balm, put an end to his life in the most dismal manner. What is the secret of this appalling discrepancy?

Urban Roedl unfolds the novelist's life from its beginnings in a village in the Bohemian forest to its bitter end after much suffering.

After the great success of his first stories, the salons of Vienna were open to the shy man from the provinces. He was received in the salon of the Jewish Baroness Henriette Pereira-Arnstein, who belonged to the same family which helped Beethoven, and who was held in high esteem by Goethe. There he met Grillparzer, who became his admired friend.

At another of the Jewish salons of the time, that of the famous philanthropist Joseph Wertheimer, he was introduced to Betty Paoli (her real name was Barbara Elisabeth Glueck), whom Grillparzer called "den ersten Lyriker Oesterreichs". Soon a friendship developed, based on mutual respect and understanding. Why have Adalbert Stifter's

writings survived to the present day, whilst nearly all the "Heimatsdichter" and tellers of village stories of the 19th century have sunk into oblivion? Stifter saw and felt the enduring and the eternal behind the fleeting appearances, the casual words and deeds of his characters. He laboured to make his style conform to his vision.

Stillness in a higher sense is like the stillness of the sea and comprises unfathomable depths and the storms and disasters which may break loose at any moment. But at the same time that stillness is overpowering in its beauty and its message that the elements endure, whatever the insignificant mortals plan and do. That which endureth—it is tempting to make the Jew its symbol. Rembrandt did it in portraits of old rabbis. Stifter created the character of *Abdias*. He is the Oriental Jew who wanted to flee from the ancient mission of his people to believe, to live in and for the eternal more than for the temporal. He amasses a fortune, he marries a beautiful woman, but she dies in childbirth. He takes the baby girl to Europe. Soon he must recognise that she is blind. And yet, she is his only child whom he loves dearly. But one day lightning gives her back her sight only to kill her later. In the first version of the story, *Abdias*, chastened by suffering, wise because of old age, at last returns to the true destiny of the Jewish people.

Such at least is Roedl's interpretation and it sounds convincing enough. Altogether, the biography is not only a wonderful gift for all who like and read Stifter but as the picture of a writer's life, full of deep and illuminating general remarks, it should make fascinating reading for any lover of good literature. And last but not least, it is not without humour. Stifter liked good food and drink. During his last illness he suffered hunger which he could not satisfy. Roedl takes this quotation from Stifter: "Wie schrecklich ungluecklich muessen Laender sein, in denen Hungersnot wuetet!"

But who is Urban Roedl? I will let you into the secret: he is a fellow-countryman of Stifter's, he lives in London and his real name is an anagram of his *nom de plume*. Sometimes when he quotes opinions about Stifter, he seems to reveal his own character: "Mir gefaellt schon seine konsequente Absonderung vom Literaturpoebel, sein stillbefriedigtes Insichleben. . . ." Certainly, Roedl keeps clear of those who are the dregs of the literary world. This content with himself is as true as it was in Stifter's case; but the opposite is equally as true. Just like his subject, he seeks the eternal in the ephemeral, quality on the busy market of literature and art. Unlike Stifter, he is not afraid lest great quality should manifest itself in the most unusual and modern guise. He worked at the Bauhaus in Weimar, where Klee, Kandinsky, Feiniger were his friends. He admires Mondrian, but he has also written a book about Mathias Claudius. The realm of the spiritual elite does not know the petty distinctions of the modern and the old fashioned. He is dedicated to the life of the spirit. I am glad to say that this is borne out in his daily life. He is a true gentleman. On behalf of all his friends I wish him *ad multos annos*.

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## SANDWICH REVISITED

At the toll-bridge, flanked by two medieval ramparts, the car stops. Here the road leaves the little town of Sandwich for the seaside resorts of the Kentish coast, passing after three kilometres a place called Richborough.

There it was again, after twenty years—the tree-shaded avenue, the rural riding school, and the camp. . . . A cement factory had moved in, at least into one section, judging by the noise and dirt. But the greater part of what was once the Kitchener Camp had fallen into oblivion; the huts were dilapidated, the roads covered with grass, the whole terrain looked empty and abandoned . . .

And yet, 5,000 Jewish men from Germany and Austria, and many of their families, owe their very lives to this forgotten spot. Just twenty years ago a rescue drive had sprung into operation, here in England's south-eastern corner. Its conception was novel and daring: to extricate as many Jewish men as possible from the grip of the Nazis in the shortest time possible, by setting up a transit station at a safe distance from Germany.

After the November pogroms in 1938, releases from the concentration camps were only granted to people who could produce an immigration visa for another country. Yet the actual chances for immigration anywhere were pitifully limited, and proceedings dangerously slow. Thus the idea was born to take men out of the danger zone to the Kitchener Camp in England, and to treat them as transmigrants so that there they could safely wait for their final emigration, provided they fitted into any known category.

In Germany, a confirmation by the Palestine Office or the Hilfsverein; in Vienna, a corresponding document from the Kultusgemeinde, proved sufficient to establish a candidature for the Kitchener Camp. The most vexing question was whom to select from the vast number of applicants. Which Jewish man, up to the age of 45—this was a qualifying condition—was not in deadly danger? The task of the selection committees was heart-breaking, and it speaks for their high degree of integrity that two of their Chairmen in Berlin (as mentioned in the November issue of this journal) remained at their posts till they were deported to extermination camps.

### Transit Centre Richborough

In the beginning of 1939, an advance contingent was sent to Richborough. From the time of the First World War there existed a military camp named after Lord Kitchener, which was since in disuse. With proper repairs and extensions it could be converted into a large transit and reception centre. The first group began surveying what had to be done, and it was March before the actual building work started in earnest. Professor Norman Bentwich and the late philanthropist Otto Schiff, of the Jewish Refugees' Committee which, jointly with the British Government, was responsible for financing the project, planned to make this camp a model of self-aid and self-administration. The first inmates, therefore, were engineers, architects, technicians, electricians, carpenters and people who were able and prepared to help with the actual building and road laying.

Within a few months a strange transformation was taking place. Not only did the erstwhile military barracks change into a veritable camp city with all amenities, but also the old, picturesque town of Sandwich awoke from her centuries-long sleep. Suddenly, thousands of men thronged her narrow lanes, talking in loud voices, dressed outlandishly, who did not understand English or, worse, mutilated it by their pronunciation. They were allowed to leave camp only with a permit and at certain hours, yet these hours sufficed for their first encounter with the local population.

The people of Sandwich, shocked by the events in Nazi Germany, tried to be kind to the foreigners—they talked to them in the streets, gave them lifts in their cars, even invited them here and there, although the only hotel in town

was "out of bounds" for refugees—always, however, did they give vent to their hopes that these transmigrants would leave the hospitable shores of England again, once the danger had passed. It so happened that the refugees first became acquainted with the conservative, small-town, insular element of the English people, their customs and prejudices, and their way of cooking. No wonder that they soon found a nickname for their camp; instead of Richborough, they called it "Porridgeborough".

Not only in their hearts but also in their pockets did they carry something out of harmony with the idyllic landscape, its soft contours and colours—the remark in their passports, stamped beneath the British visa: "For transit only". Transit—where? True, some were genuinely on their way to the United States, or to Palestine, but the majority had no destination, and whatever documents the Jewish authorities had issued, they were more fictitious than real.

### Families Rescued

The problems of their future were overshadowed by the worries about their families whom they had left behind. Here, too, the Kitchener Camp proved a blessing: the fact that the men were already resident in England helped to obtain the much coveted "household permit" for their wives, i.e. the permission to come to Britain although on condition that the women should work as household helps. Taking into consideration all those who were, directly or indirectly, saved by means of the Kitchener Camp, the figure of 15,000 would not seem too high.

In those days the rescue operations were a nerve-racking, uncertain struggle against time. The darkening clouds over Europe brought the men behind the fences in Richborough near to panic—time was short and so much had yet to be done to get their nearest and dearest out of the Nazi hell. And yet, each one had his personal problems. There were those who, not so long ago freed from concentration camps, were suffering from the newly imposed restrictions and were developing a kind of camp psychosis; others taking it to heart that they had to live on public charity, with weekly pocket money doled out—sixpence plus a postage stamp of 2½d.

For all these afflictions, there was one therapy—work: the study of languages, and the maintenance and administration of the camp. Communal life was served by a camp journal, a theatrical group, and a camp university moulded on the pattern of Jewish adult education. Most popular was the camp orchestra, which was soon giving concerts in neighbouring towns; another common "language", better understood by the townsfolk than the Refugee-English, was provided by tennis and football, and local and camp teams met frequently.

In August, when war had become a certainty, last desperate attempts were made. Day after day, transports trickled through from the Continent, only in scattered groups, and each one was welcomed like a long-lost brother. Regular camp routine had ceased, and even the lecture halls and class rooms were filled with bunks and people. The normal working schedule was abandoned for "national service", which meant filling sandbags on the dunes and placing them around public buildings—only a small sample of what was to come later. Most of the men shortly after volunteered for the British Army, whose Pioneer Corps accepted aliens even of "enemy nationality".

After the war the British Government generously changed the status of the transmigrants, and the German "Judenspass" with the visa "For transit only" has long been replaced by a British passport. And Sandwich has again relapsed into that tranquillity from which it was so rudely awakened—awakened to save thousands of lives.

H.F.

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### Conference of Provincial Councils

One hundred and fifty Delegates from all parts of the country attended the Conference of Provincial Representative Delegates held in Hull. The conference wound up by passing a resolution calling on the Board of Deputies to immediately investigate the specific needs of each small community, to divide the country into regions each based on the larger Provincial Councils, and to request the Councils to call a conference in their area. Alderman L. Science, the Lord Mayor, in his opening address to the conference stated: "Not a soul will wish to decry the magnificent work of the Board of Deputies. But local problems in some measure call for local solutions. There is the problem of reciprocal facilities between towns when families move. There are the problems of ministration for very small communities who cannot provide their own clergy and teachers, of the provision of up-to-date facilities for Jewish education, and of countering assimilation. And unfortunately there still remains in some areas the question of Jewish defence."

### Israelis in London

Dr. Helena Kagan visited Mansion House, when she presented the Lord Mayor of London with a silver-covered Bible. Dr. Kagan, who was in London to attend the annual conference of the Federation of Women Zionists, is the first woman to receive the Freedom of the City of Jerusalem.

Miss Yael Dayan, daughter of General Moshe Dayan, former Chief of the General Staff of the Israeli Defence Forces, made a "Come to Israel" challenge to young Jews in this country during a lecture to the Amhurst Young Zionist Group. She also had strong words for some people in this country who tried to "lose" their Jewishness.

### Anti-Semitism at Home

The Manchester Branch of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen (Ajex) passed a resolution protesting strongly against the letting of the Manchester Free Trade Hall to Sir Oswald Mosley for a public meeting. Members condemned the attitude of members of the Manchester City Council who had allowed the letting to pass unopposed. The Jewish councillors, who had objected to the action taken by Ajex in sending a letter to the Town Hall Committee, had agreed to raise the matter themselves in the Town Council. Not only had they not done so but they had also persuaded their non-Jewish colleagues not to do so. It was pointed out that there were ten Jewish councillors and three Jewish aldermen on the Manchester City Council.

The Chairman of the Branch read a manifesto which it was proposed that Ajex should issue. It stated that "the recent recrudescence of militant fascism and anti-Semitism at home and abroad demands the greatest possible vigilance and activity by Ajex".

Anti-Semitic references appeared in an article in the Glasgow *Paisley Daily Express*. The article, on "Direct Trading", dealt with the question of small traders being driven out of business, and stated that small businesses were being swallowed up "either by Jews or price-rings". After representations, an apology had appeared in the paper which it was thought, however, was not quite adequate.

### Victor Gollancz on Baptism

Victor Gollancz, the author and publisher, was interviewed on the B.B.C. programme, "Personally Speaking". He described his family's Jewish Orthodox background, against which he rebelled at a very early age. He also stated that he had felt attracted by the teachings of the New Testament but, nevertheless, had not adopted the Christian faith, mainly for two reasons: firstly, he did not agree with all the dogmas of Christianity and, secondly, like most Jews, he was against deserting a minority group such as the Jewish one.

Joseph Leftwich

## POLAND TODAY

My first place of arrival in Poland was Warsaw. I went, of course, to the site of the Warsaw Ghetto, and stood by the plaque near the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial, which marked the Umschlagsplatz, where hundreds of thousands of Jews were rounded up for extermination. I visited Lodz and all the former Jewish "shtetlach" round there—the places where my own parents had been born.

Then I went to Cracow and to Oswiecim (Auschwitz), forty miles from Cracow, and to Wroclaw—the former German Breslau, city of Lassalle, Graetz and Zacharias Frankel. It is a drab, ugly town. Two-thirds of it was destroyed by the war. Here and there a few noble old buildings remain. The Germans have been almost completely replaced by Poles. In the Jewish cemetery the war memorial to the Jews of Breslau who fell fighting for the Germans in the First World War still stands. The famous Jewish Theological Seminary where Frankel and Graetz worked is now the Jewish community building. Repatriates live there, have their communal kitchen, their synagogue, their workshops, even a small ice cream factory. The courtyard was full of bustle—filled with repatriates and their children.

But as I walked across the bridge that spans the Oder at Wroclaw, I could feel Germany's eye on the city, and I understood some of the dark sullenness in the faces of the Polish inhabitants; they are in the advance line.

Cracow is one of the most beautiful cities I know. Its palaces and churches, fortifications, statues, carvings, paintings, have been untouched by the war. The old Jewish quarter is a fascinating place. Cracow, which had 60,000 Jews, now has 3,000; 2,000 belong to the religious community and about 1,000, I was told, are religiously observant. The Old Synagogue, which dates from the 14th century, is now a Polish national monument. When I was there builders were at work restoring it, as far as possible, to its original character. In the old cemetery facing it, I stood by the Ohel

of the great Rema, Rabbi Moses Isserles. Another famous rabbi who lies in Cracow is Yom Tov Lipman Heller. In Cracow I was shown the famous Estherka House, where she lived with her father, a Jewish tailor, and where King Casimir the Great visited her. Near Cracow is the ruined Lobzow Palace which Casimir built for her, and where she is reputed to be buried.

Most Cracow Jews were exterminated during the Hitler régime, and those who live there now come from other places, but mainly from the surrounding former Jewish towns and villages which are now Judenrein. The President of the Cracow Kehillah, Jakubowicz, for instance, before the war lived in the town of Oswiecim, where the Germans afterwards built their death camp.

In the Jewish community building I came upon Jews discussing Torah. I was impressed by a lanky, red-bearded Jew of 45, a former member of the Cracow Kehillah Board, who had returned a few weeks before as a repatriate from Russia. He had his little son of six with him, and he sat over a Gemorah.

### Religious Life in Cracow

I found Jewish religious life stronger in Cracow than anywhere else in Poland. But in many other places there is a nostalgic feeling about the old Jewish ways of life, including traditional religious Jewishness. The children of repatriates from Russia were mostly uncircumcised. Rabbi Zvi Bornstein, who was recently sent to Poland by the Agudah in America, circumcised twenty-one children in Lodz between the ages of five and fourteen. The parents wanted their children circumcised. When I remember how often I was told that many Jews will not have their children circumcised because they do not want them physically marked for the destroyers, as they themselves were marked, I realise how strong is the Jewish desire for identification through the sign of the covenant. The things that happened to Polish Jewry under Hitler will not bear thinking about. So much Jewish life, so many synagogues and yeshivot, so much Jewish faith and piety, were massacred. But their memory is stamped in the minds of those who survived.

Polish Jewry has experienced more than one decline and more than one massacre. As Dubnov wrote: "The Jew witnessed the birth of Catholic Poland. He has seen Poland in bloom and decay." The memory of the Chmelnicki pogroms of 1648 was never erased and those pogroms, by uprooting the Jews of the Ukraine, White Russia, Lithuania and Poland, mingled them all, so that the Jews of all Eastern Europe are essentially one. There was also the large German-Jewish emigration into Poland after the Crusades. They too became one with Polish Jewry.

In Poland I met Christians who, at the risk of their own lives, saved Jews. I found two in the Jewish Home for the Aged in Lodz, where they are being cared for as a mark of gratitude. I met a Christian Pole who had been an inmate of Oswiecim because he had been caught hiding a Jew in his home. There may not have been many such people, but as Michael Zylberberg, who now lives in London, has said: "Every one of us who has survived owes his or her life to some non-Jewish Pole who knew that we were Jews, hid us and enabled us, by his protection, to pass for non-Jewish Poles, at the risk of his own life. Many indeed paid with their lives for shielding Jews."

I met many Jews in Poland who find their sense of Jewishness and their sympathy with Israel growing. They go about Poland more and more sadly, oppressed by the weight of the Jewish dead, by the memory of the Kielce pogrom after Poland's liberation, by the smoke of the crematoriums, which fill their minds and blur their eyes. They do not speak about it. They feel it too deeply. I am reminded of the words of Aaron Zeitlin, the Yiddish poet, who said: "If Jeremiah sat by the ashes of Israel in Poland today he would not cry out an Ekha, a Lamentation; with the lost millions of his people he would maintain a deep silence."

## CONCENTRATION CAMP SEQUELS

### SACHSENHAUSEN TRIAL

#### Life Sentences for Defendants

The trial against the two former guards of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, "Iron" Gustav Sorge and "Pistol" Wilhelm Schubert, has concluded with sentences of hard labour for life by the Bonn Criminal Court. They were found guilty of having committed 67 and 46 individual murders, respectively. There is no death penalty in Western Germany.

The two former guards had already done eleven years' forced labour in Siberia, for complicity in the murder of 10,800 Russian war prisoners. The Bonn Court tried them for the murder of Jews and political opponents of Nazism.

This is believed to be one of the grisliest trials ever conducted in German history. For more than three months the Bonn courtroom has been filled with onlookers who have often been unable to conceal their horror and incredulity at the stories of the brutality in the concentration camp.

The trial has had all sorts of salutary results. It has, for instance, shown how a régime of terror can make ordinary human beings into indescribable sadists. Sorge was a kind husband and father, and his wife could only remember him once chastising one of his own children. Then it was Sorge, and not the child, who blubbered. Schubert was regarded by his fellow-S.S. men as a mere buffoon.

The trial also threw light on the characters of respected members of society. Dr. Ortman, a surgeon today in Kippenhiem, was once an S.S. doctor at Sachsenhausen. He strenuously denied that prisoners were maltreated, but when asked about one prisoner brought to him after a whipping he casually admitted: "His backside was cut to shreds".

It was also revealed during the trial that the underground organisation of the former S.S. is inordinately alive.

Finally, the trial has resulted in the collection of a mass of factual details about the concentration camp, has drawn the attention of legal authorities to several cases requiring investigation, and has put facts squarely before the German public. It is encouraging that out of the mass of letters written by private persons to the court about this trial, only one was anti-Semitic in tone.

### DEMAND FOR SUSPENSION OF CAMP DOCTORS

Nineteen doctors from Western Germany and other European countries, all former inmates of the Auschwitz concentration camp, have, in an appeal addressed to the German medical profession, demanded the suspension of doctors who committed crimes in concentration camps. The appeal, published by the Auschwitz Committee, puts on record that these doctors, whose duty it was to help the sick and to save human lives, in most cases arbitrarily and without regard for professional procedure designed death. In spite of the horrifying abuse of their profession, these men continued as doctors today, and a number of them had not been brought to trial. Doctors who had served the wholesale murder in the concentration camps should not be permitted to bear the title of doctor—helper of mankind.

### MAUTHAUSEN TRIAL

Carl Chmielewski, 55, for many years Commandant of the section Gusen I in the concentration camp of Mauthausen, is to be charged with murder in 175 cases. He is accused of having tortured and murdered thousands of prisoners of various nationalities. In the course of the trial, to be held at Ansbach, evidence is expected to be given by some 60 witnesses, both German and from abroad. With Chmielewski in the dock will be a former concentration camp guard, Walter Junge, described as a "professional criminal". Prisoners in the Gusen camp, especially Poles and Jews, were murdered by way of so-called "death-baths".

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## BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

### LEO ENGEL 70

It seems incredible that Dr. Leo Engel will be 70 years of age on March 31st. His many friends know his youthful vitality, his untiring zest for work, his temperamental though kindly nature. But his older friends, among whom this writer is happy to be included, also know that his life has been a hard one.

He achieved the influential and distinguished position of Secretary-General of the German Federation of Wholesale and Export Trade (Zentralverband des deutschen Gross- und Ueberseehandels, later Reichsverband des deutschen Gross- und Ueberseehandels), and was the Federation's main driving power from its inception (which was his own idea), shortly after the First World War. In this capacity he rendered eminent services to the development of the German wholesale trade and, as this trade was to a very large extent conducted by Jewish firms, he has earned the gratitude of numerous Jewish business men.

As a student of economics, when the well-known liberal economist Professor Franz Oppenheimer became his teacher, determining Engel's liberal outlook on economic and political life, he had to earn his livelihood. Before gaining his degree, his thoughts turned to the stage for a short time, but whether Don Carlos or Posa attracted him more it is difficult to know.

During the First World War, the German Government made use of Dr. Engel's vast knowledge and experience of economics in trade negotiations abroad. It was the beginning of a brilliant career and of a cultivated hospitality, enabling Leo Engel and his wife to indulge in their passion for music in their beautiful Berlin-Dahlem home.

All this came to an end in 1933. In England, Dr. Engel again had a hard life, but he was ably supported by his vivacious and witty wife. He never failed to take a constructive interest in the fate of his fellow-refugees, and he was instrumental in organising the AJR, of which he is a Board member.

This short and necessarily incomplete account of Leo Engel's first seventy years would, however, still be more incomplete without mention of the human touch which has always characterised his life and work, whether as a devoted son and brother, husband and father, friend and colleague, or as a helpful adviser to all in need.

LEON ZEITLIN.

### ADOLF LESCHNITZER 60

The educationist Dr. Adolf Leschnitzer, head of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages at New York City College, recently turned 60 years of age. He rendered outstanding services to the German Jews under the Hitler régime when he was in charge of the School Department of the Reichsvertretung. Because of his expert knowledge, his initiative and his courage, he took a responsible part in organising the education of the German-Jewish youth after 1933 by the establishment of Jewish schools and by giving them guidance in their work. Since 1952, Dr. Leschnitzer has also, as a guest professor, lectured on the history of German Jewry at the Free University, Berlin. His works include "Saul und David", a thorough and widely recognised study of the German-Jewish symbiosis.

### HERMANN SCHUELEIN 75

Mr. Hermann Schuelein, a leading expert in the brewery trade, has celebrated his 75th birthday in New York. In Munich, where he lived prior to his emigration, he was director of the large brewery combine which comprised Unions- and Kindl Brauerei and Loewenbraeu. In the United States he has been associated with Liebmann Breweries, well known by its "Rheingold Bier". Mr. Schuelein also takes an active part in the work of the American National Conference of Jews and Christians and of various other organisations.

### JULIUS PINSCHER 75

Julius Pinschewer, inventor of the "Werbeilm", celebrated his 75th birthday in Bern.

### HUGO STERN 70

It is learned only now that our friend, Mr. Hugo Stern, recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Born in Bocholt, he lived in Dresden until he came to this country in 1936. Mr. Stern has always been an active supporter of Jewish causes. This was reaffirmed on the occasion of his birthday, when he not only made a generous donation towards our work for the Old Age Homes but also asked his friends, instead of making presentations to him, to act in the same way. However, apart from assisting when required, he also takes considerable personal interest in the tasks of our community. The AJR therefore considers it a great privilege that he is associated with its work as a Board member. We wish Mr. Stern many years to come of happiness and unimpaired health.

### SIGMUND HIRSCHHEIMER 70

Sigmund Hirschheimer, co-founder of the West German Plywood Works in Wiedenbrueck, recently celebrated his 70th birthday.

After his resignation from the post of partner of the Thalheim Brothers timber firm, forced upon him by the Nazis, he had to emigrate to many countries before he settled down in England in 1938, where he founded the Thames Plywood Company in London. A year later Sigmund Hirschheimer directed the establishment of an affiliated factory in Canada and, in 1947, he took a leading part in a similar scheme for Brazil.

In 1949 he returned to Wiedenbrueck and succeeded in having his business restored to him. As senior of the biggest plywood factory in Europe, he is continuing with his life's work.

Sigmund Hirschheimer has continuously assisted the rebuilding of synagogues in Germany as well as Homes for the Aged and other charitable institutions. He has substantially contributed towards the erection of the new building of the University of Jerusalem and has given bursaries to an orphanage in Israel.

### HANNS HEIMAN 80

On February 14th the well-known economist, Dr. Hanns Heiman, now living in Quito (Ecuador), joined the distinguished club of Refugee Octogenarians. Dr. Heiman, who, like most Berliners, hails from Breslau, settled down in Berlin after studying economics in Heidelberg. He started his very successful career as a practising economist with the not very enjoyable job as assistant in the *Austellungsamt für die deutsche Industrie*, an offshoot to the powerful *Centralverband der Deutschen Industrie*. Later, apart from manifold activities as an efficient representative of textile and industrial trade associations, he took a keen interest in Kalergi's Pan-European movement, to which he contributed a topical publication. Like so many German Jews, Dr. Heiman has always been a conscious Jew and a liberal-minded German, and a good European. For a number of years he has lectured on economics at the University in Quito. Now he and his wife enjoy a well-deserved *otium cum dignitate*. May they enjoy it for many years to come.

L.Z.

### PROFESSOR HERBERT KRAUS 75

Herbert Kraus, Professor Emeritus of public law at the Goettingen University, has celebrated his 75th birthday in Goettingen. He was the founder of the "Institut fuer Voelkerrecht" at the Goettingen University and, in this capacity, edited collections of documents on the Peace Treaty of Versailles and on European problems after 1945.

### ROBERT SACHS 75

The member of the representative body of the Jewish Community in Berlin, Robert Sachs, recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Robert Sachs, son of an apothecary appointed as purveyor to the Court in Imperial times, lost his own factory manufacturing bronze articles in 1933. During the period of the persecution he lived in hiding in Berlin until the liberation in 1945.

### LOTTIE REIZENSTEIN EXHIBITION

It is exactly 130 years ago that John Constable was appointed a member of the Royal Academy. After his election he paid the traditional courtesy visit to the President, who told him that he was very lucky to have been elected at all as he never painted anything historical or heroic but just landscapes. The history of art has turned full circle. Again, nature and landscape are rejected forms, unworthy of artistic inspiration. Expressions of these forms meet with but a contemptuous smile from the schools which observe abstract shapes, colours, dreams, perversities—even stains and spots.

It is therefore a sign of great courage that Lottie Reizenstein keeps to her passionate love of land, sea and sky in her exhibition of paintings at the Ben Uri Art Gallery (14 Portman Street, W.1. Mon.-Fri. 10-5, Sun. 2-5, until March 16th). Last summer she visited Yugoslavia for some time, and brought back a charming collection of oils, gouaches and water-colours. I think that she is particularly happy in this last medium. Her swift sketches made from nature seem to breathe the life of a little town, of sailing boats, of rolling hills and high mountains. Anybody who has been to Yugoslavia will, in visiting the exhibition, feel the blissful shock of recognition: the glowing heat of Rab, the uncanny desolation of Zadar, the architectural wonders of Dubrovnik. A painting of Korcula has almost the bewitching flow of lines and the sensuous colour of a Renoir.

It is good and comforting to know that the earth, in spite of some modern art, is still beautiful; and that there is a pair of eyes which delights in it so that we can share in this delight.

A. ROSENBERG.



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## IN MEMORIAM

### FELIX J. SAMUELY

Mr. Felix J. Samuely, who died in London on January 22nd, was a pioneer of structural engineering. He was born in Vienna in 1902, graduated in Berlin and came to England, as *The Times* put it, "just over 25 years ago with little money but with an unbounded enthusiasm". He became a teacher of structural engineering at the Architectural Association school, where he educated a whole generation of young architects in new ways of building. The methods of education introduced by him were of profound influence. He loved to teach and went on doing so and lecturing to schools and architectural societies to the very end.

Felix Samuely's brilliance enabled him to pass the examination of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1941 (for he was interested in many things and at that time it was aeronautics), and the examinations of the Institute of Structural Engineers and of the Institute of Civil Engineers in 1944. His first major job was the Bexhill Pavilion for Erich Mendelsohn, the German-Jewish architect, where he introduced an all-welded steel structure novel to this country. Simpsons, in Piccadilly, followed, and since 1945 he acted as engineer for a large number of buildings. His really great work came with the South Bank Exhibition of 1951. In consultation with the architects concerned, he was responsible for the Power & Production Pavilion, the Transport Pavilion and the Skylon. Recently he acted as structural engineer for the new American Embassy in Grosvenor Square and for the British Pavilion at the Brussels Exhibition. He was also the consulting engineer for the new Hall of the New Liberal Jewish Congregation at Belsize Square, where a four-legged reinforced concrete space frame carries not only the roof but part of the school and meeting rooms above.

The architects with whom he collaborated will not only remember him for his always ready help in solving the most difficult problems and for his brilliance but will remember him for his extreme kindness and modesty and his devotion to work. This work was a major contribution to structural and architectural progress and will remain a monument to his genius for a long time to come.

The untimely death of this gifted, unassuming and lovable man will be deeply mourned by all those who knew him, and our sympathies go out to his widow and his aged mother.

H. J. REIFENBERG.

### OSCAR FRIEDMANN

MRS. LOLA HAHN-WARBURG writes:

"I have been asked by many to write another obituary on Oscar Friedmann, who died last December. I will try to put into words not only my own feelings but those of my co-workers and more than 700 children who came to this country in 1945 from concentration camps.

"I had the privilege of working with him daily for many years. He brought rare qualities to his work as head of the first reception camp for young survivors of the concentration camps. He gave every one of the children and young people under his care the feeling that he had endless time for them. He was calm and balanced, a good listener, with a sense of humour, and he could laugh with the youngsters.

"His great achievement was to restore to these hundreds of youngsters the confidence they had lost. Many of them, hardened by experience, had lost their faith in mankind. Friedmann always kept his word and reasoned with every boy and girl. He was firm in his decisions, and his approach to life was a challenge to the children, so that he was able slowly to build up their pride again and kindle the urge in them to become independent and not to rely on charity.

"Many men and women who came into contact with him in former times will ask themselves, when they run into difficulties: what would Oscar Friedmann have advised?"

### CHARLES ADLER

The conductor Charles F. Adler died in Vienna at the age of 69. He was chief conductor of the Berlin Radio Orchestra from 1924 to 1933. He emigrated to the United States, where he became conductor of the New York Chamber Orchestra. For the past two years he lived in Vienna. Adler was an expert on the music of Gustav Mahler.

### DR. JULIUS SPANIER

Senator Dr. Julius Spanier has died in Munich at the age of 78. Born in Munich, Dr. Spanier opened his practice in his native city in 1907. Together with Professor Hecker in 1914 he established medical care for babies as a public institution. In 1933 he was deprived of his office as visiting doctor of schools, and five years later he was no longer allowed to use his academic title and had to confine his professional services as Heilbehandler exclusively to Jews. In 1942 he was deported to Theresienstadt together with his wife. They returned to Munich, after their liberation in 1945, where Dr. Spanier immediately resumed his profession and became the chairman of the regional Union of Physicians and the director of the Hospital for Babies. He took a leading part in the reconstruction of the Jewish community in Munich, and was the community's President from 1945 to 1953.

### DR. BERNHARD GUTTMANN

The author and journalist, Dr. Bernhard Guttman, born in Breslau, has died at the age of 89 in Buchenbach, near Freiburg in Breisgau. Guttman was in the top rank of the staff of the old *Frankfurter Zeitung* and co-founder of the magazine *Die Gegenwart*. Before the First World War he directed the London office of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, and from 1919 to 1930, as the Berlin correspondent of the paper, he was one of the most important commentators of the political development of the Weimar Republic.

In 1952 Guttman received the Goethe plaque as "one of the most prominent Jewish citizens of Frankfurt" and the Federal Republic recognised his services by awarding him the Order of Merit.

Guttman's publications include "England im Zeitalter der bürgerlichen Reformen" and "Das Ende einer Zeit", and a volume of memoirs, "Schattenriss einer Generation 1888 bis 1919".

### DR. ORA MEYERHARDT

Dr. Ora Meyerhardt has died at the age of 58 in Frankfurt/Main, only shortly after she and her husband had resettled there.

Dr. Meyerhardt began her career as a specialist for nervous diseases in Bocholt, but had to leave Germany after two years of successful work. In Tel Aviv she became the director of the best-known private hospital for children afflicted with diseases of the brain. In 1955 she was elected chairman of the Israel branch of the International Union of Female Graduates and, in 1956, of the International Union of Women Doctors. A special grant from the Max Planck Institute in Bonn for research into behaviour physiology led her to Frankfurt in September 1958.

A number of Dr. Meyerhardt's publications have appeared in Israeli and European journals and her book on educational problems will be published by Ullstein this spring.

### DR. HANS ARON

The pediatrician, Dr. Hans Aron, died in Chicago in his 78th year. Prior to his emigration, he was director of the Children's Clinic of the Breslau University Hospital, and he was also head of the Jewish Children's Hospital of that city. After Dr. Aron's arrival in the U.S.A., he became a professor at the Chicago University. He performed signal services in the introduction of new methods for the treatment of children's diseases.

### DR. JUSTIN GOLDSTEIN

It is learned, with regret, of the death of Dr. Justin Goldstein in his 81st year. Prior to his immigration, he was a well-known and widely respected lawyer in Nuremberg. In this country, he was for several years on the staff of the United Restitution Office as a legal adviser and, in this capacity, was of the greatest assistance to many victims of Nazi persecution. He was also a member of the AJR since its inception.

Dr. Goldstein's modesty, kindness and his strong sense of justice, will be gratefully remembered by all those who knew him.

### DR. ALICE SCHATZKY

We have regretfully to report the death in London, after a long illness, of Dr. Alice Schatzky (née Koppel), formerly of Breslau. Her late husband was Dr. Georg Schatzky, the former Chairman of the AJR Cambridge group, and she herself took an active interest in the work of the group. During the last few years of her life, Dr. Schatzky practised medicine first in Cambridge and later in London.

The wide circle of people who knew her, both in her professional and in her private life, will mourn her untimely passing.

### PROFESSOR ALFRED KOHN

Professor Dr. Alfred Kohn, the retired holder of the chair for histology at the former German University in Prague, has died in his 92nd year. He was an honorary president of the International Anatomical Society. During the Second World War he was incarcerated in Theresienstadt.

### MAX KUKIL

Max Kukil, chairman of the Committee of Socialists persecuted under the Nazi régime, and a prominent member of the German Labour Party, has died at the age of 54. Kukil, who had himself suffered in a concentration camp for many years, worked in close co-operation with the Jewish organisations to achieve the common object of securing the rights and claims of the surviving victims of the persecution.

### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BISHOP OF CHICHESTER

As was reported in a previous issue of this journal, a sculpture commemorating the late Bishop of Chichester, Bishop G. K. A. Bell, was placed over the entrance to a new church at Harrow Weald. An illuminated text has now also been placed in the church. This text reads as follows:

The figure of St. Michael, over the entrance to this church, is the work of David Paul Koenigsberger (known in England as David Paul), a distinguished Viennese sculptor of international reputation. He came to London in 1939 as a refugee from Nazi persecution, became a naturalised British subject in 1947 and lived and worked in London until his death in May, 1956.

Bishop G. K. A. Bell, to whose activities on behalf of refugees the statue is a tribute, was Bishop of Chichester from 1929 until early in 1958. One of the first Christian leaders in this country to recognise the dangers of Nazism, he played an important part in pleading the cause of its victims and in working for them, through the Church of England Committee for non-Aryan Christians and the Christian Council for Refugees from Germany and Central Europe. The Bishop's personal friendship and help were extended to hundreds of individual refugees, and he was mainly responsible for bringing to England a group of seventy pastors, from the German Confessional Church, with their wives and families. Several of these pastors subsequently entered the ministry of the Church of England, and are still in this country.

The St. Michael statue is the symbolic expression of the artist's desire, shared with many other refugees, to record in permanent form their deep sense of gratitude for the Bishop's endeavours on their behalf. The carving of the figure was David Paul's own contribution to the project, and he may be seen at work on the clay model in the accompanying photograph. The cost of the stone, of tools and life models, as well as of the tablet in the church porch, was met by contributions from refugees and a number of their British friends.

Bishop Bell died on October 3rd, 1958, the day before the consecration of this church. "A saintly man and a very dear friend" was the way in which one of the refugees described him. None who came into contact with him could fail to be impressed by his truly pastoral concern for the needs of ordinary men and women, whatever their race, nationality or religion. But he was also a Christian statesman, fearless in speech and action against all forms of oppression and discrimination. Of him it may surely be said that, like the Archangel Michael himself, "he was a prince who stood for the people of God" (Daniel xii, 2).

H. W. Freyhan

## A NEW MAHLER BIOGRAPHY

Mahler's music has been slow in gaining ground in this country; indeed, at one time, it was suggested that his art does not travel. Predictions of this kind are, however, often defied by events and in Mahler's case, much of the change that has lately taken place is due to the great performances and recordings jointly undertaken by Bruno Walter and Kathleen Ferrier in recent years. In addition, some critics have detected links between Mahler and certain present-day composers, notably Britten and Shostakovich.

In any case, it is significant that one of the leading musical writers in this country, Donald Mitchell, should have felt induced to devote years of intensive study to a large-scale book on Mahler. The first volume has now been published.\* It covers the first twenty years of Mahler's life, up to his first engagement as a conductor in 1880. The last chapter contains a very thorough and detailed account of those early works which survived Mahler's self-criticism. Much was destroyed by him, and it is all the more distressing to learn that even now, almost half a century after his death, some of the remaining manuscripts have not yet been made available for inspection.

Mr. Mitchell's survey of Mahler's childhood and adolescence follows the high standards that are characteristic of English biography. Sympathy and detachment combine to produce a well-balanced picture of Mahler's unbalanced genius. A noteworthy sense of proportion marks Mr. Mitchell's treatment of Mahler's Jewish origin; to him, Mahler's social status as a Jew caused but one of the many tensions which formed his turbulent personality, and it was not even the most decisive.

Mahler's father was a freethinker, and in view of the lack of religious observances in the parental home, it is doubtful whether the boy had much,

\* Donald Mitchell: "Gustav Mahler: The Early Years". Rockliff, 42s.

or any, contact with Jewish music; there seems to be no information on what would be a point of vital interest. On the other hand, Mahler certainly did not escape the consequences of his birth: "I am thrice homeless: as a native of Bohemia in Austria, as an Austrian among Germans, and as a Jew throughout all the world. Everywhere an intruder, never welcomed." To this, Mr. Mitchell adds: "Anti-Semitism dogged Mahler's footsteps from his early years onwards, and even today it is not a spent force: evaluation of his personality and achievements, judgments of his music, are still distorted by this antique feud."

"Distorted by this antique feud"—this is indeed a far cry from the racist fantasies of certain German writers on the subject!

But Mr. Mitchell does not leave the problem at that, and it would be another distortion to omit his further remark: "Anti-Semitism must be accounted a major tension in the constitution of Mahler's personality, though of course his birth as a Jew had, too, its positive side, both in the make-up of his character and his music."

Mahler's social status was even more complex than appears from his own description: as Mr. Mitchell rightly emphasises, he was also an alien among the Slavonic majority of Moravia, since his family was German-speaking. But the German minority would not accept him because of his Jewish origin.

Mr. Mitchell does not share the view—frequently held—that "analogies" may be "drawn between Mahler's music and the collapsing Austrian empire. Mahler showed little interest in politics, and it is my belief that events much nearer home play a decisive rôle in the formation of character." He then qualifies this statement to some extent, and one may perhaps add that it is not so much the political as the cultural climate of the period

which is reflected in Mahler's art: late romanticism and an extreme degree of individualism ("Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen"—Mahler, "Last Songs").

The "events nearer home" which produced the fundamental tension in Mahler's personality were the frequent conflicts between his parents. In 1910 Mahler sought an interview with Freud, during which he referred to these traumatic experiences. In one particular instance, he had rushed out of the house into the street when a hurdy-gurdy began to play a popular Viennese tune. According to Freud's report, "in Mahler's opinion the conjunction of high tragedy and light amusement was from then on inextricably fixed in his mind, and the one mood inevitably brought the other with it." Rarely has a composer revealed thus the most private sources of his imagination. It is worth mentioning that Freud was impressed by Mahler's intuitive understanding of psychology.

The significance of this psychological background is obvious and merits the attention which Mr. Mitchell gives to it. Fortunately, he is too good a musician to overrate it unduly: his analysis of Mahler's works rests firmly on musical facts.

It is strange that during his early years Mahler never contemplated conducting; his inborn genius for it was "accidentally released" by engagements undertaken for purely financial reasons. His original aim—apart from composing—was to become a pianist; curiously enough, the only "record" we have of his performing is a pianola-roll on which he plays the Finale from his Fourth Symphony. But, as Mr. Mitchell remarks, "we can still hear the Mahler tradition in some aspects of, say, Klemperer's performances of Beethoven or Walter's of Mahler".

A great deal of painstaking research has gone into this first volume, yielding very valuable results, and making one hope that its continuation will not be long delayed.

## PAUL WECHSLER

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### OTTO FRANK SUES DEFAMER

Otto Frank, father of Anne Frank, has sued Lothar Stilau, a secondary-school master in Luebeck, for libel, defamation of the dead and anti-Semitic remarks. The schoolmaster, who has since been suspended from his post, had written that Anne Frank's Diary was a "forgery bringing some millions into the hands of those that benefit from the German defeat".

### SMUGGLING OF NAZIS

The director of the foreign department of the American Jewish Committee, Ralph Friedman, stated in a speech in New York that agents of the United Arab Republic had smuggled "former Nazi propagandists and Nazi criminals" from Germany into Egypt. In a telegram to the Federal Chancellor, Dr. Adenauer, the Committee requests the German Government to devote particular attention to the discovery and prosecution of agents from the United Arab Republic who indulge in illegal activities inside the Federal Republic.

### FAMILY EVENTS

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

#### Births

**Fink.**—On January 28th, a daughter Susan Hilary, to Ursula (née Nathan) and Heinz Fink, 100 Regal Way, Harrow, Middlesex.

#### Wedding Anniversaries

**Braun.**—Leon and Fanny (née Englander), formerly Hamburg, Altona, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on February 26th.

**Joseph.**—Mr. Salomon and Mrs. Selma Joseph (formerly Trier) celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on February 28th. 74 Empire Court, Wembley Park, Middx.

#### In Memoriam

**Weiss.**—In memory of darling Tommy, who left us suddenly on March 30th, 1956, not quite eleven years old. To the world he was only a grain of sand; to us he was the whole world.

#### Deaths

**Breuer.**—Mr. Armin Breuer, formerly of Berlin, died February 5th at the age of 70. Deeply mourned by his wife, brother, relatives and friends. Mrs. Eva Breuer, 4 Belsize Park, London, N.W.3.

**Danielsohn.**—Mrs. Margarete Danielsohn (née Neufeld), our beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and sister, passed away on February 2nd. Deeply mourned by Charles and Ruth Danson, 6 Ridge Hill, London, N.W.11; Dr. Erwin and Mrs. Etta Japha; Mrs. Alice Kemp.

**Fürstenheim.**—Dr. Otto Fürstenheim—formerly Rechtsanwalt und Notar, Hanover—died at the age of 79 at North Finchley, at the home of his English friends, who had looked after him with great affection for the last eighteen years.

**Haberland.**—Mrs. Hedwig Haberland, formerly of Berlin, died on January 31st. Deeply mourned by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and all her relatives and friends. Lili Fisher, 83 Platt's Lane, London, N.W.3. Erna and Hans Abel, 4 Grindall Place, St. Bees, Cumberland.

### AWARD FOR VIENNA COMMUNITY OFFICIAL

The President of the Austrian Federal Republic has awarded the title "Regierungsrat" on Wilhelm Krell, head of the Jewish Congregation Office in Vienna.

### AUSTRIA ON "THE GERMAN PAST"

The Vienna newspaper, *Wiener Montag*, in an article entitled "The German Past", objects to the creation of a central authority for the persecution of Nazi crimes. The article states that such an authority would be an "official means of German self-defamation".

### AUSTRIAN PAPER CONFISCATED

The Austrian journal *Der Trommler* has been confiscated because of an article entitled "Ist das Neofaschismus?" The editor, Konrad Windisch, who is the leader of the organisation Community of National Youth Unions in Austria, has been arrested. The alleged writer of the article, Hans Venatier, has not yet been arrested because he is at present living in Germany.

## AJR AT WORK

### Social Services Department

#### Employment Agency

The lack of jobs in the last few months has proved a contributory factor to the depressed state of many of our fellow-refugees. We would be grateful if we could be informed of any vacancies so that we may be able to help those seeking employment.

#### Attendance Service

This service is in great demand lately because of the outbreak of illness at this time of the year, and we are glad to be able to help both the sick and the unemployed.

#### Radio Wanted

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### MISSING PERSONS

#### Enquiries by AJR

**Mrs. Senta Friedberg** (née Isaak), formerly of Essen-Steele, Germany. Believed to have emigrated to England. It is desired to know whether she is still alive and, if so, her whereabouts, in connection with property accruing to her.

**Siegfried Herz**, matriculated at the Marzellen-Gymnasium in Cologne in 1910. Believed to have taken a degree in medicine.

**Joachim Singer**, born 27.12.1920 in Leipzig. Emigrated to England from Leipzig in January 1939.

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Must have comprehensive command of German or French language.

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Only those with appropriate education and experience need apply.

Write complete details in first letter to Box 493.

**Marx.**—Mrs. Aenne Marx passed away on February 18th. Deeply mourned by her husband, Alfred Marx (30 Corringham Road, London, N.W.11), mother, sisters and other relatives.

**Philipp.**—Mrs. Jenny Lotte Philipp (née Seligsohn), formerly of Berlin, died in Buenos Aires on January 23rd, shortly before her 75th birthday. Deeply mourned by her children and their families in London, Buenos Aires and Ejn Vared (Israel).—Susanne and Werner Rosenstock, 77D Compayne Gardens, London, N.W.6.

**Schatzky.**—Dr. Alice Schatzky (née Koppel), our beloved sister and aunt, passed away peacefully on February 2nd, in her 61st year. Mrs. Helene Biberstein (née Koppel), 4 Chesterford Gardens, London, N.W.3.

### CLASSIFIED

#### Situations Vacant

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Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

## GERMAN FILMS IN ISRAEL

For some time now there has been an animated discussion in the Israeli press about the propriety of cultural relations with Germany. It was brought about by two events—the plan for a joint German-Israeli film of "Nathan the Wise" and the fact that German-language films now hold second place in the country's cinema fare—after Hollywood, but before English and French productions.

*Haaretz*, the Liberal Hebrew daily, attacked the "Nathan" project on an ideological plane: it said that Lessing's proclamation of religious tolerance, newly edited by Jews and Germans, would advance the erroneous impression that religious intolerance had stood between the two peoples, and not an outburst of nationalistic, racial, bestial instincts. The resentment in Israel against "Nathan the Wise" led also to a ban of a proposed theatrical tour of a Viennese cast, with Ernst Deutsch in the lead.

No doubt this interpretation does justice neither to Lessing nor to the interpreters. When the Deutsches Theater in Berlin opened its doors again under Allied auspices after the conquest of the city, the play was chosen as a political demonstration. Both the Nazis, who had had it banned, and those who performed it in 1946 understood its message well: the classical message of humanism, the great declaration of tolerance. Lessing exemplified tolerance by way of the religious problem, but

neither friend nor foe has ever taken it to be limited to religious matters only, has ever assumed that Lessing's idea of tolerance could be divided into certain labelled categories and that his humanisms did not embrace all fields of action and thought.

Even more lively is the discussion in Israel about the German-language films which are imported from Austria and are very popular among the cinema-going public, strangely enough among Sabras and North Africans no less than among "Continental". This is all the more remarkable as in all their measures against the German language, official circles always alleged that the Israelis would not permit the use of German in public. Just the opposite happened, and those films, though of little artistic value, have a tremendous draw.

*Haaretz* again recalled the "dignified restraint" with which the Londoners had received Bundespräsident Heuss and castigated the undignified attitude of the Israeli cinema-goers. However, no reminder is needed for readers in Britain of the many German theatrical companies which have since 1950 toured the British Isles from London to Edinburgh (during last summer's Edinburgh Festival the musical attraction was provided by the Stuttgart opera), and of the first German post-war film which was shown at the Academy as early as 1948.

More weighty is the argument that there can be no reconciliation with German film production, for it was German film production that twenty years ago concocted the murder piece, "Jud Süß". But what else happened twenty years ago? At that time German shipyards were busy building U-boats, and today they are building ships for Israel, practically her whole merchant fleet, including four up-to-date passenger liners, gladly frequented by Israeli travellers. As compared with this, German film companies enjoy the advantage that all of them have been established after 1945 and that the Allied authorities which issued the licences at least made an attempt to exclude Nazis.

It is true that amicable diplomatic relations exist between Israel and Austria, but it is equally true that the relations between the Jewish people and Austria are less amicable, Austria having so far refused to make suitable amends to her Nazi victims.

The other day I saw a 90-minute documentary on Israel, "Paradise and Melting-Pot", made here by a German team and destined for showing in the Bundesrepublik—by the way, the best film ever made about Israel. On request, the Israeli Ministry of the Interior waived its ban and freed this film for performance in the country—with one proviso: only in a Hebrew synchronisation (although it already contains many original Hebrew dialogues). While Austrian films are permitted in German, German films are only allowed in Hebrew—but who would seek for logic in the jungle of sentiment and resentment?

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## GERMAN AMNESIA—FACING THE PAST?

The subject of the leading article in our February issue is discussed in The Wiener Library Bulletin 1958 No. 5/6. It is reported that a former high-ranking army officer, in an article headed "The Impact on Foreign Policy of Domestic Behaviour" published in the journal *Aussenpolitik*, June, 1958, stated that "Germany is constantly in danger of feeding an already existing distrust because observers abroad often remark on the absence among Germans of any earnest endeavour to take stock of, and come to grips with, their humiliating recent past". The writer goes on: "We would love to pretend that the 12 years of Hitler did not exist in our history. We wish our history books would end with the year 1933 and begin again with 1945, or better still 1948, with one page in between just saying 'It was a mistake'."

According to the same source, the Germans' relation to their history is discussed in *Die Zeit* by

Professor Fritz Ernst of Heidelberg University. The author dwells on "the peculiar cleavage in our public consciousness". Whereas part of the press, learned journals, students of history, make efforts to teach and to learn the lesson of the past, things are very different among the common people, "in the political conversations in the trains, in the pubs, etc." Professor Ernst considers it a serious danger "that the bulk of the nation has not yet accepted the reality of their history".

This subject was also dealt with in a lecture delivered in London on January 19th by Paul Schallueck (Cologne), under the auspices of The Wiener Library. The title of this address "Von deutscher Vergesslichkeit" shows, by itself, the trend of the speaker's thought. He saw the most hopeful aspect in the attitude of the German students and in the persistent work done by all West German radio stations, which persistently devotes many features to this subject.

## NAHUM GOLDMANN ON GERMAN ANTI-SEMITISM

Dr. Nahum Goldmann told a press conference in Jerusalem that the Bonn Government was greatly disturbed by anti-Semitic manifestations, and was hastening strong legislation. He said that, while present manifestations involve former Nazis and were not serious as a whole, he had warned German leaders that Nazi anti-Semitism also had had "small beginnings". It was, moreover, very serious that a German judge—found to have been a former Nazi—had acquitted the distributor of anti-Semitic literature.

### "THE HYPERSENSITIVES"

The *Salzburger Volkblatt*, a newspaper appearing in Salzburg, in an article entitled "The Hypersensitives", minimises the offences of Nieland in Hamburg and Stilau in Luebeck and states: "If there is anti-Semitism in West Germany at all, the people affected by it are not without guilt", and the paper continues to blame "the strong Jewish influence on the press, radio and television, theatre, etc."

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