

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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AFTER THE ELECTIONS

Together with the whole electorate, Britain's new citizens too performed their duty and went to the polls last month. There was, of course, no such thing as a "Jewish" vote, and the AJR certainly has no party allegiance. Every voter, old or new citizen, decides his stand according to his own political conviction. A general election of this kind is a good lesson for people of Continental origin, who grew up in a different political climate. The virtues of British democracy have set a pattern to the world, that has not been equalled anywhere. Commentators this time complained of the low level of many arguments in this campaign; the Editor of *The Times* was furious because it did not live up to the momentous issues confronting humanity in this age of tremendous change and of unprecedented danger. This may reflect the limits of human capacity of keeping pace with the rapid development. It also shows that responsible spokesmen are vigilant and aware of the dangers to which democracy is always exposed.

Yet it would be difficult not to be impressed by the way in which the campaign was conducted and concluded: the spirit of fairness and tolerance, the absence of violence and sensationalism, the appeal to reason. Even during the battle and also after the result was known, the leaders of the parties and other national spokesmen, in spite of their differences of opinion, showed an impressive sense of national unity. All know that in British constitutional life the Opposition has an important part to play, which in some respects is not less responsible than that of the Government itself.

Scandal in the City

It was an unfortunate coincidence that during the election campaign a financial scandal in London "stole" the newspaper headlines, and was for many days the most sensational topic of public discussion. From our point of view, it is regrettable that a number of Jews were involved in this matter. The fact that one of the prominent figures of this affair was an observant active member of the strictest Orthodox branch of Judaism, added a point of tragic irony, especially during the month of the highest Holy-days. We cannot wonder that popular newspapers elaborated what in their view was a picturesque story of a particular piquancy, and it would be preposterous to accuse them of anti-Semitism when they stated (not invented) facts and adorned them in the usual way.

As the matter is now *sub judice*, we naturally must abstain from discussing the details of the case of Mr. Grunwald. We do not accept the thesis of racial solidarity, but it cannot be denied that—rightly or wrongly—there is a wider and more general aspect which cannot fail to disturb us. The publicity devoted to this case and the names quoted in this and other connections, may evoke the view that the desire to become rich by a short cut, by easy though daring manipulations, would be a specifically Jewish predilection.

The truth is that the great majority of the Jews—including those who have found refuge and a new home in this country—are hard-working people, not less than any other element of the population. If a Jew offends against the law, or even against the rule of honest commercial behaviour, we sometimes notice in certain quarters an inclination to construct a link between the man's failure and his Jewishness. Generalisations offer themselves too easily to the simple mind, and more frequently with regard to Jews than to other defined groups.

British Fairness

We do not know what the outcome will be, but if a great number of people—among them small savers—would be injured, that would certainly be appalling. In this judgment all decent men would be united, and there is no difference between Jews and non-Jews in that respect. On the other hand, Jews of Central European origin remember some notorious financial scandals in the era of the Weimar Republic, which were used by an unscrupulous anti-Semitic propaganda to smear the name of the Jewish people. We are sure that the great majority of British people is immune to a similar temptation, and the reports of alleged anti-Semitic exploitation of the Grunwald case, which appeared in some newspapers abroad (as well as in Israel), were exaggerated, if not misleading. Overt anti-Semitic implications on the Continental pattern were almost absent in the press and in public comments. Yet, an undesirable effect may have been created in simple minds by the facts themselves.

It would, however, be superhuman to resist the opportunity offered for party propaganda by such an issue at the height of an election. Labour used it to attack the whole system of "take-over bids" so spectacularly displayed during the last year (although only few people outside the City know exactly what that means). Some Tory newspapers retorted with ugly remarks alleging that some Jews connected with Labour were in the same class, and that the stir aroused by the Jasper-Grunwald affair may harm some of Labour's Jewish candidates; the implication being that at least parts of the electorate might have been influenced by the events in an anti-Semitic direction. We may assume that such improper stimulations of anti-Jewish feelings for party purposes, however isolated, were but an unpleasant by-product of the election fever.

The "Jewish" side of the drama was underlined by the involvement of the State of Israel. The constant reminder in daily news stories that an alleged culprit had gone to Israel, and that scores of British correspondents were sent to interview him, may have evoked the idea in many readers that Israel was a suitable refuge in such cases. The legal or juridical details do not interest the man in the street on whose subconscious the headlines imprint

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LET US REMEMBER

November 9th, 1938

At this time our minds go back to the events of twenty-one years ago, when the synagogues were set on fire and over 30,000 Jews were thrown into concentration camps. The November pogroms marked the beginning of a new phase of the humiliations, degradations and persecutions we had had to endure since 1933: now we had definitely become outcasts and now emigration was no longer a matter of choice but of life or death.

In a way the cruel pressure we had to endure in the long run had some positive aspects. The pogroms were an unmistakable signal that we had to leave the country with the least possible delay, and it is significant that during the few months left before the outbreak of the war, 100,000 Jews left Germany—almost as many as during the preceding five-and-a-half years, when the total number of emigrants amounted to 150,000.

It is sorrowful that, nevertheless, so many of our nearest and dearest had to be left behind because of the restricted immigration policy of a number of great countries. This gives even more importance to the contribution made by this island in rescuing so many Central European Jews in the hour of their direst need: of the 100,000 German Jews who were able to escape, not less than 40,000 found refuge in this country, and to this number about 35,000 from Austria and Czechoslovakia were added. This deed will never be forgotten in our history.

Turning to the present trends in the country from which we were expelled we are, time and again when trying to assess the real position, faced with almost unsurmountable difficulties. Each month we have to record happenings which indicate symptoms of extreme nationalism and anti-Semitism. On the credit side, there is also reassuring news, such as the statements made by Professor Heuss, Dr. Adenauer and the Bishop of Hanover, which readers will find in this issue. Perhaps we may also consider it as more than a coincidence that this November issue carries reports of the re-erection of synagogues, especially in Berlin, Cologne and Worms which, like all Jewish houses of worship in Germany, were destroyed that fateful November night.

For the Jews who now live in Germany and who are not unaware of their precarious position, such gestures may be of no little importance in the regaining or strengthening of their feeling of security. For us, it may be a source of comfort and satisfaction that our past sufferings have not been forgotten, and that there are people in Germany who genuinely desire to make amends.

DANK AN THEODOR HEUSS

Der Praesident des "Council of Jews from Germany", Dr. Siegfried Moses, hat an Professor Dr. Theodor Heuss anlaesslich seines Ausscheidens aus dem Amte das folgende Schreiben gerichtet:

10. September 1959

Sehr geehrter Herr Bundespraesident!

Es ist mir ein Beduerfnis, Ihnen, Herr Bundespraesident, bei Ihrem Scheiden aus dem Amt den Dank der durch unseren Council vertretenen Juden aus Deutschland auszusprechen. Als ehemaliges Mitglied des Praesidiums der Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland weiss ich von Ihren freundschaftlichen Bindungen an Dr. Otto Hirsch und Dr. Leo Baeck, den ersten Praesidenten dieses unseres Council, dessen Nachfolge anzutreten ich die Ehre hatte.

Ich weiss auch von Ihren engen Beziehungen zu zahlreichen deutschen Juden, mit denen Sie fuer gemeinsame humanistische Ideale und freiheitlich politische Ziele gewirkt haben. Manchem dieser Maenner oder ihren Witwen sind Sie nach Antritt Ihres hohen Amtes tatkraeftig und fuer-sorglich eine Stuetze gewesen. Dafuer danken Ihnen die Frauen und Maenner, die sich Ihrer Hilfe erfreuen durften und deren Lebensabend durch das von Ihrer moralischen Autoritaet so stark gefoerderte Wiedergutmachungswerk von aeussersten Sorgen frei ist.

Unsere Gemeinschaft aber dankt Ihnen fuer die Gesinnung, aus der Sie zur Ehrung des Andenkens der deutschen Juden aufgerufen und fuer die ergreifenden Worte, die Sie so oft zum Ausdruck dieser Gesinnung gepraeagt haben.

Die deutschen Juden haben sich kraft juedischer Tradition und historischer Entwicklung von jeher humanistischen Idealen verpflichtet gefuehlt. Sie, Herr Bundespraesident, haben durch Ihre Amtsfuehrung diese Ideale im Leben der deutschen Bundesrepublik zu verwirklichen

gesucht. Wie Sie als taetiger Foerderer eines neuen deutschen Humanismus in die deutsche Geschichte eingehen werden, so wird auch die juedische Geschichte Ihrer als der deutschen Persoenlichkeit gedenken, die nach der Katastrophe im Geist dieses Humanismus Bruecken geschlagen hat.

Meine Kollegen im Praesidium des Council und unseres Leo Baeck Instituts uebermitteln Ihnen durch mich ihre Gruesse. Mit unserem Dank senden wir Ihnen unsere herzlichsten Wuensche fuer die Jahre Ihrer Musse.

Ihr sehr ergebener

SIEGFRIED MOSES.

Prof. Heuss hat dieses Schreiben wie folgt beantwortet:

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Moses!

Freundlichen Dank fuer Ihre so liebenswuerdigen Zeilen vom 10. September. Es war fuer mich immer eine nicht nur politische Aufgabe, sondern auch eine menschliche Selbstverstaendlichkeit, gegenueber dem Schrecklichen, was geschehen ist, mit unverkleideter Deutlichkeit meine Stimme zu erheben, und ich weiss, dass diese Gesinnung auch alle meine Mitarbeiter durchdrungen hat.

Es war sehr liebenswuerdig von Ihnen, mir Ihre Worte stellvertretend fuer die zur Auswanderung gezwungenen juedischen Menschen deutscher Herkunft auszusprechen. Sie wissen selber, wie viele persoenliche Freunde ich in England, in Amerika und sonst noch in der Welt aus diesem Menschkreis besitze.

Mit freundlichen Empfehlungen

Ihr

THEODOR HEUSS.

LOANS FROM REVOLVING FUND

As readers will know, a Revolving Fund, under the auspices of the AJR, has been in operation for the past three years. Loans free of interest may be granted from this Fund to persons whose restitution or compensation claims are still pending, and who are in immediate need of financial assistance. Repayments become due after the claims have been settled.

So far, loans to the amount of about £21,000 have been granted, of which about £15,000 has been repaid. The loans were usually between £100 and £150 but, in exceptional cases, slightly higher sums were also approved.

Persons who wish to apply for loans must submit evidence that the award of compensation or restitution payments is ultimately to be expected. The claims qualifying under the existing legislation also include those under the Bundesrueckerstattungsgesetz, in which the second part of the procedure, the "Befriedigungsverfahren", is still pending. Loans are only granted if the claimant requires immediate help for special reasons such as towards the cost of education, training or a house or flat or for purposes of health or profession. Applications should be sent to the Revolving Fund, Association of Jewish Refugees, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3.

Persons who are inadequately housed and who have the opportunity of obtaining permanent accommodation in a house or a flat may, within certain limits, also obtain assistance from a fund administered under the auspices of the Allocations Committee of the Central British Fund, if other sources at their disposal are insufficient to cover the total cost. Applications may be submitted through the AJR.

WITNESSES WANTED

Concentration Camp Janowska (Lemberg)

Persecutees who were interned in the Janowska Concentration Camp, or in the labour camp of the Deutsche Ausruestungswerke (DAF) during the years 1940 to 1943, are requested to get in touch with the Bundesministerium fuer Inneres, Abteilung 13, Wien 9, Rossauerlaende 7-9, in order to bear witness in proceedings against a former concentration camp guard.

Mauthausen Concentration Camp

Former internees in the Mauthausen and Gusen concentration camps able to give evidence against former S.S. Guard Josef Meuther, are asked to write to Staatsanwaltschaft Aachen.

LIST OF TRIESTE LIFT VANS

A list of owners whose lift vans were confiscated in Trieste is now available. Interested persons may view it at the AJR offices.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND INDEMNIFICATION LEGISLATION

In New York a delegation representing the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria recently conferred with the new Austrian Foreign Minister, Dr. Bruno Kreisky. The Jewish leaders urged that the Austrian Government expand existing indemnification legislation through comprehensive amendments, so as to provide compensation for Nazi victims heretofore excluded from benefits, and for economic losses suffered by all persecutees as a result of Nazi action. They also called for indemnification to the Jewish communities of Austria for synagogues and related communal insitutions destroyed during the Nazi era, and for aid to those communities along the same lines as the Government pursued with other religious bodies.

In the course of the conference, the delegation stressed that "existing legislation is grossly inadequate to secure a minimum of compensation for losses and injuries suffered by victims of Nazi persecutions in Austria. More than twenty years have elapsed and many of the victims, among them aged and needy, are still awaiting satisfaction of their claims".

Dr. Kreisky told the delegation that their request for compensation for synagogues and other communal property was justified. The Jewish communities should, he said, receive similar compensation to that already being given to the Christian churches which suffered losses during the Nazi régime.

The principal objective of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, set up in 1952 by 22 world and national Jewish organisations, is the improvement and implementation of Austrian measures for the compensation of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE ON COMPENSATION

At a press conference held under the auspices of the Vienna Jewish community on October 1st, Amtsdirektor W. Krell complained that the Jewish victims in and from Austria were denied compensation both by Austria and Germany. "Austrian Jewry," he said, "demands that attention be given at the earliest opportunity and simultaneously to the claims of all victims of persecution. Austria has in the State Treaty renounced the claims of her nationals against Germany, and was accorded the German property in the zones of Austria occupied by the Western Powers. Subsequently Austria handed over large assets to the German Federal Republic, which could have been used for compensation purposes.

"The claims of the Austrian Jews are clearly defined and cannot be whittled down; they include compensation for the destroyed synagogues and an amendment to the victims' welfare legislation."

Dr. F. L. Brassloff (World Jewish Congress, London) took issue with the erroneous view commonly held in Austria that the Jewish victims do not require any compensation payments: "A great number of them, as a consequence of measures of the Nazi era, live in the greatest stress or in very restricted circumstances. Any further delay in satisfying their claims creates only new bitterness and is a disservice to the cause of reconciliation."

The press in Vienna and a number of important papers abroad, including the London Times and the New York Times, published reports on the conference.

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FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS PROMISED

At a meeting of the Federation of Anti-Nazi Resistance Organisations held at The Hague, at which delegates from twelve European countries participated, Alfred Frenzel, Chairman of the German Parliamentary Committee on Indemnification Questions, declared that the individual claims of the victims of Nazi persecution would be settled by the end of 1963.

GERMAN PEACE PRIZE FOR PROFESSOR HEUSS

The German Booksellers Association's Peace Prize has this year been awarded to Professor Heuss. At the ceremony in the Frankfurt Paulskirche, the former President of the German Federal Republic interpreted the ideas of Lessing, whose conception of peace and tolerance, he said, should guide the nations.

STRESEMANN REMEMBERED

A meeting to mark the 30th anniversary of the death of Dr. Gustav Stresemann took place at his graveside at the Luisenstaedische Friedhof in Berlin, in the presence of his widow, Mrs. Kaethe Stresemann, his son, Dr. Wolfgang Stresemann, and representatives of the authorities. In his memorial address Mayor Amrehn recalled the late statesman's work for peaceful co-operation between the European nations. His devotion to his political ideals should be an inspiration to the politicians of our time.

After the Elections

Continued from page 1

themselves. It was gratifying that the Israeli Government acted as it did in order to rescind this psychological effect. Many prominent Jews in this country also resented the abuse of Israeli hospitality by elements against whom charges were preferred. Maybe these events have shown that the so-called Law of Return, proclaimed in the first enthusiasm at the foundation of the State of Israel, had in it an element of naïveté which, according to some Israeli views, requires reconsideration. It appeared almost as a sad irony that the Aliyah Conference convened in London last month, met with little response while, at the same time, Israel had to send back unwanted Jewish visitors.

We all have learned that the facts of Jewish life are not as simple as some theoreticians would sometimes assume, and that changing realities create new aspects and problems. Undeniably, we all suffer from the psychological remnants of the past, and sometimes Jewish thinking is based on ideas and fears which do not conform to modern conditions. In a free and open society a group of citizens cannot be made responsible for its members over whom it has no jurisdiction. Certain rumours, spread in newspaper stories or otherwise, seemed to indicate such an idea of collectivity. Collective responsibility is a concept based on the absurd race theory of Nazi faith, and no such theory should be allowed to influence judgment, as Mr. Ben-Gurion pointed out last week in connection with Israel's attitude to the Germans (when he declined to condemn good-willing young Germans for the sins of their fathers).

Although we reject racial theories, we do not deny the desirability—indeed the necessity—of carefully considering the whole vast complex of psychological and moral facts and forces which were stirred up in recent weeks. It might well be that some of us take these things too lightly, and that the predominant scale of values in Jewish life in this materialistic age should be reassessed.

ADENAUER ON EDUCATING GERMAN YOUTH

When Federal Chancellor Adenauer received Irving Engel, Honorary President of the American Jewish Committee, in Bonn recently, he discussed with him questions concerning the education of German youth so that they should be imbued with democratic principles to counteract neo-Nazi propaganda. "Much more remains to be done in educating Germans in democratic principles," said Dr. Adenauer to Mr. Engel, but he predicted this will be accomplished quickly now that the country has achieved a large measure of economic well-being.

NEW GERMAN SCHOOL BOOKS INCLUDE HISTORY OF PAST THIRTY YEARS

For the first time, new history school books just issued by the West German Government include the period between the two world wars. Thousands of West German school children now learn of the history of the past thirty years, including the Nazi concentration camps and the mass murders. The new school books officially confirm, for the first time, the existence of concentration camps, and describe how Germany sank "into a period of horror greater than she ever experienced before" under the Nazis.

TEACHERS DISCUSS ANTI-SEMITISM

A three-day conference on anti-Semitism in Hamburg was attended by about forty teachers. Professor Dr. Dietrich Goldschmidt (Berlin) explained the sociological aspects of anti-Semitism. Oberstudiendirektor Gustav Pfnausch spoke on anti-Semitism in schools, and stressed the need to give pupils an undistorted picture of the events under the Nazi régime. Many teachers, he said, tried to evade the issue.

STUDENTS' PETITION

Students of the Free University of Berlin have sent two petitions to the Federal Parliament and to the Parliaments of the Laender, urging the legislative bodies to dismiss from office judges and lawyers who had sentenced innocent people to death during the rule of the Third Reich. They also demanded that doctors who had tortured and killed prisoners in the concentration camps should be prohibited from practising.

WORMS SYNAGOGUE TO BE RESTORED

Amongst the synagogues destroyed by the Nazis was the famous one in Worms, built in the eleventh century. The synagogue is now to be reconstructed on its former lines, and the foundation-stone was laid on September 27th. The ceremony consisted of a memorial hour at the old Jewish cemetery, where famous rabbis are buried. A ceremony was also held on the synagogue site, as well as a reception in the town hall.

The addresses were delivered by Rabbi Dr. E. Roth; Rabbi Dr. E. I. Lichtigfeld; the Minister of the Interior, Dr. G. Schröder; the General Secretary of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany, Dr. H. G. van Dam; the Head of the Israeli Mission, Dr. F. E. Shinnar; representatives of the Protestant and Catholic clergy and of the municipality of Worms.

BISHOP OF HANOVER TO COUNTERACT ANTI-SEMITISM

The Bishop of Hanover, Dr. Hans Lilje, has said that he regards it as "one of his most important duties as Bishop of the Protestant Church to do everything in his power to counteract the still surviving anti-Semitism in Germany". He thought that the best that could be done to this end was to enlighten Germans on what Jews had done and were doing every day in Israel. His own journey to Israel had filled him with "sincere admiration" for the Jews who, he felt, had found their way back to their "Maccabean past".

A STAUNCH ANTI-NAZI

80th Birthday of Professor Max von Laue

In his tribute to the physicist Professor Max von Laue on the occasion of his recent 80th birthday, the Nobel Prize winner Professor Otto Hahn, in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, describes the shame von Laue suffered when, in the spring of 1933, "his beloved and revered friend Albert Einstein was expelled from the Berlin Academy of Science. He almost considered it as a personal ignominy and has never overcome it". Later on, von Laue had the courage to attack the Nazi "Physikpaepste" Johannes Stark and Philipp Lenard and, in his memorial address on Fritz Haber (1934), he exclaimed: "Themistocles ist in die Geschichte eingegangen nicht als der Verbannte am Hofe des Perserkoenigs, sondern als der Sieger von Salamis." The Nazis did not dare to take steps against him.

After the collapse, von Laue was the only German scientist to be invited to an international congress held in London in 1946 and, shortly afterwards, on the tercentenary of Newton's death, he and Planck were the only German delegates to the celebration. In 1951 von Laue was appointed Head of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut (now renamed "Fritz-Haber-Institut"). He is now relieved of his official duties but, in spite of his great age, he is still active in the field of research.

GERMAN LEADERS CONTRIBUTE TO JEWISH PROJECTS

Chancellor Adenauer has contributed DM. 1,000 to help renovate and redecorate an old synagogue in Sandhausen, near Heidelberg.

Former President Heuss contributed an amount of DM. 5,000 to the recently founded library, Germania-Judaica, in Cologne.

INTRODUCTION OF YELLOW STAR COMMEMORATED

The introduction of the Yellow Star is commemorated in a leading article in *Die Zeit*, written by Thilo Koch. The author claims that the "biological destruction of the Jews by industrialised execution" was a "geheime Reichssache" and was unknown to the population. This did not, however, apply to the Yellow Star, and Koch requests every reader to ask himself whether he showed sympathy to at least one of these unfortunate people.

CZECH JEWISH LEADERS IN EAST GERMANY

An official visit to East Germany has been paid by a delegation of Czechoslovakian Jewish leaders. The delegation included Rabbi Davidovic of the Prague Jewish community and a secretary of the congregation, Dr. Iltis. Several visits were paid to official personalities in East Germany, and the delegation also had a meeting with the Secretary of State for Church Affairs.

"URANIA" AT FORMER B'NAI B'RITH SITE

The site of the former B'nai B'rith building in Berlin's Kleiststrasse is to be used for the erection of a new "Urania" House. The former "Urania" premises in East Berlin were destroyed during the war.

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Egon Larsen

THE AMAZING GRUENSPAN CASE

A Show Trial that Never Was : Secret Nazi Files Reveal the Truth

It was with a kind of shock that I heard that Herschel Feibel Grünspan, or Grynspan as he spelt his name originally, is still alive. Now in his late thirties, he lives under an assumed name in Paris, the scene of the drama which served Hitler as a cue for the Kristallnacht in November, 1938—the savage curtain-raiser of the tragedy that ended with the murder of six million Jews. No doubt, Hitler would have proceeded with his massacre even if the shots in the German Embassy in Paris had never been fired; still, it is an amazing fact that the man who fired them has survived although he was in the hands of the Nazis for nearly five years.

How was this possible? Some time ago, the Institut für Zeitgeschichte in Munich went into the matter and produced from the secret Nazi files the true facts about the case.* They tell an almost incredible story.

The Deed and the Motive

On the morning of November 7th, 1938, the 17-year-old Jewish refugee from Hanover, Herschel Grünspan, bought a second-hand revolver in a Paris shop and went to the German Embassy in the Rue de Lille. At the entrance he met a man who seemed to know his way about the building, and asked him where he could find the Ambassador. The man—who happened to be Count Welczek, the Ambassador, himself—told him to apply to the porter. Grünspan said something about an important document he wanted to give to the Ambassador, and the porter showed him into the room of one of the junior members of the Embassy staff, 29-year-old Legation Secretary Ernst vom Rath, who told the visitor to sit down by the door behind him. Grünspan drew his revolver and fired five shots; although the distance was no more than six feet he missed three times, the fourth shot only grazed the victim, but the fifth wounded him fatally. As he pulled the trigger, the excited Grünspan shouted that he wanted to avenge the oppressed Jews.

Two days later, vom Rath died in hospital, and only a few hours after his death the storm troopers and the anti-Semitic mob smashed and looted the Jewish shops, burnt down the synagogues, and dragged tens of thousands of Jews off to the concentration camps all over Germany. Hitler imposed on the German Jews a fine of 1,000 million marks.

In view of further developments it is interesting to note that Grünspan did not know whom he was shooting; indeed, he may have believed that it was the Ambassador. The victim, vom Rath, son of a Frankfurt civil servant, had been in Germany's foreign service since 1932, and joined the Nazi Party early in 1933 without gaining any prominent position in the Party hierarchy. He was certainly not an important personality, and from the point of view of Grünspan, who was out to find a prominent object for his deed of revenge, that was not wholly successful. No doubt he had been inspired by the example of David Frankfurter, who killed Wilhelm Gustloff, leader of the German Nazis in Switzerland, in February, 1936.

Like Frankfurter, Grünspan wanted to carry out an act of protest against the oppressors of his people. He was outraged because his parents and sisters—together with nearly 500 other Polish-born Jews—had been expelled from their home in Hanover, taken to the Polish border, and handed over to the Polish authorities who, however, were extremely reluctant to accept these unfortunate people. In fact, thousands of Jews (the action was carried out in a number of German towns) seem to have roamed the no-man's-land between the German and Polish border police for a day or two (October 28th-29th, 1938), unable to find roofs over their heads.

One of Grünspan's sisters sent him a postcard from Zbaszyn (Bentschen), dated October 31st, with a short description of their expulsion and tribulations. The brutality of the Nazis towards his family shocked him deeply, and after a few days of indecision he bought the revolver.

* *Der Fall Grünspan*, by Helmut Heiber, Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte, Munich, pp. 134-172, April, 1957.

In judging his deed one must not forget that he was only a boy of 17. He had come to regard Hanover, where his parents had settled in 1911 and where he was born, as his home. He had gone to school there until 1935, studied for a year at the Frankfurt Yeshivah, and then visited an uncle of his in Brussels with a view to preparing his own emigration overseas. In 1937 he went to another uncle in Paris, but his emigration plans did not develop much further. A return to Germany was out of the question. Besides, he had some trouble with his Polish passport and his French visa. His insecurity must have contributed to the dark mood of the young man; but at the root of his personal problems was again the Nazi régime.

Perhaps the most ironical aspect of the Grünspan case is the great probability that he, too, would have been caught in Hitler's murder machinery, and ended in a gas chamber—but for the fact that he killed a Nazi official. With his deed he had become too "important" for Auschwitz.

Grünspan was kept in a Paris prison for a year and a half while the authorities prepared his trial without undue haste. Money for his defence was being collected in America; among the group of lawyers who offered their services were such prominent men as Henri Torrès and de Moro-Giafferri. There were the usual tussles and rivalries, and eventually de Moro-Giafferri remained as principal counsel.

A few days before the outbreak of the war Grünspan volunteered for the French army, but was not accepted. At last in June, 1940, while the Germans were already approaching Paris, the public prosecutor submitted the murder charge against him. Shortly before the fall of Paris, Grünspan and a number of other prisoners were taken first to Orléans (where his file was left behind to be picked up by the Germans), and eventually to Bourges.

He was called to the prison director, who wanted to get rid of this embarrassing inmate, and told that he was free. Grünspan said he would rather stay as he did not know where to go or what to do, but he was simply chucked out of the prison, and was at once caught in the stream of refugees making their way to the south.

In Vichy France

According to German documents, he appeared a fortnight later at the gates of the Toulouse prison and asked to be allowed to stay there as he had been refused shelter by everybody. This was granted. Meanwhile, the German Secret Field Police in Paris inquired about Grünspan's whereabouts, and after the conclusion of the armistice, Vichy's Ministry of Justice told them that he was in Toulouse.

The Vichy authorities were under no obligation to extradite a Polish subject under the armistice terms. But now there appeared on the scene a man who had set himself the task of delivering Grünspan to the executioner. His name was Professor Friedrich Grimm, lawyer and publicist, who had written a number of extremely nationalistic books and brochures during the Weimar Republic, and defended some Fehme murderers. He had joined the Nazi Party early, and made himself very useful to the régime in the courts. Ribbentrop and Goebbels entrusted him with a number of tasks. He acted for Gustloff's widow at a Swiss court, trying to establish the guilt of "international Jewry", and in the anti-Jewish press trial in Cairo, acting for the Nazi Club in Egypt.

Abetz, Hitler's lieutenant in conquered France, brought Professor Grimm with him to Paris, and Grimm at once got in touch with Vichy in order to get hold of Grünspan. Vichy complied, and Grünspan was in the hands of the Gestapo already in the last days of July, 1940. Then he was sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp as a "special detainee" and eventually, in the summer of 1941, to Moabit, the Berlin remand prison. There was no doubt that Grünspan was to be used as the central figure in a great show trial intended to prove that the Jews were Germany's implacable enemies. This was made clear by an internal

Foreign Ministry communication (January, 1941) stating that "Ministerial Counsellor Diewerge of the Ministry of Propaganda, has been given the special task of working on the case against the murderer Grünspan from the propagandist point of view".

Professor Grimm, too, was busy. He had secured for himself a brief for vom Rath's father, who intended to claim damages at the trial. But Grimm went far beyond his brief by publishing, early in 1942, a 160-page book entitled "The Grünspan Trial"—an extraordinary publication in more than one way.

A Life-Saving Absurdity

It reads like a public prosecutor's indictment in a case that had not even opened yet, written by a private lawyer who had been given access to the documents. Perhaps it was the fruit of a labour of love, or rather hatred, for Grimm intended to show that Grünspan had been chosen as a tool by some mysterious Jewish power. ("His deed becomes plausible only if one assumes that some third party, who wanted it to happen for political reasons, caused him to carry out the attempt", wrote Grimm. "In so far as the case is like that of Frankfurter.") Perhaps, however, Grimm was commissioned to write this inculcation; the Foreign Ministry rather than the Propaganda Ministry or that of Justice may have been his patrons. Be that as it may, the publication of such an indictment in a case *sub judice* seems an amazing perversion of all legal standards, possible only in a totalitarian system. The authorities who later denazified its author must have taken a very tolerant view indeed.

For Grimm, the show trial against Grünspan was a foregone conclusion. But meanwhile things had taken a rather unexpected turn. Early in January, 1942, Goebbels and his men at the Propaganda Ministry decided to inform the German public on February 4th, the anniversary of Gustloff's death, that Grünspan was in German hands and that his trial would begin a fortnight later. Towards the end of January, however, it was stated at another meeting at the Ministry of Justice, presided over by the notorious Freisler, that Vichy had fixed the date of the Riom trial—which was to deal with France's "war guilt"—for the middle of February, and it was decided to postpone the Grünspan case for a few weeks to give it full propagandist treatment; for the limelight was to be turned on the "power" behind Grünspan, World Jewry.

But already on January 24th, Goebbels confided to his diary: "The Grünspan murder trial is being discussed again. Grünspan has found the impudent argument that he had a homosexual relationship with the dead vom Rath. This is, of course, an insolent lie; however, it is cleverly conceived, and if proffered in a public trial it would no doubt be used as the main argument in the propaganda of our enemies. I have, therefore, arranged that only part of the proceedings will be public, and the rest behind closed doors."

According to an American interviewer who spoke to de Moro-Giafferri in 1947, it was this resourceful lawyer who suggested to Grünspan that line of defence. Grünspan, said de Moro, did not know what his counsel was talking about, but de Moro seems to have persuaded him to adopt the story that he had brought vom Rath in touch with homosexuals, and vom Rath had refused to pay the agreed "fee" to Grünspan. De Moro knew that Hitler could never have swallowed the ignominy of having raised his arm for the "German salute" at the State funeral of a man accused, or even suspected, of homosexual activities.

At a later stage Grünspan himself refuted the sordid story; yet, oddly enough, it dominated the case. The Nazi leaders seem to have been scared stiff at the mere possibility that one of their diplomats might appear as a homosexual. Hitler himself was said to be extremely touchy on this point—after all, Röhm and his associates had been liquidated in 1934 not because they had been plotting against the Führer but because their sexual activities were an embarrassment for the régime.

Continued on page 5, column 1

The Amazing Gruenspan Case

Continued from page 4

Also, there was no evidence whatsoever to be found that Grünspan had been the "tool of World Jewry". Grimm had been unable to proffer any, and the public prosecutors working out a formal indictment did their job so badly that the Propaganda Ministry refused to accept it because it "ignores completely the political background and consequences of the deed" and failed to represent Grünspan as an "exponent of an all-Jewish conspiracy against the Reich". The trial, postponed to May, 1942, was put off again; according to Goebbels's diary the Führer expressed doubts as to Freisler's ability to handle the case, and the President of the People's Court, Thierack, was charged with preparing the trial. Goebbels, on the other hand, was worried because somehow the story about vom Rath's alleged homosexuality had found its way even into the bill of indictment; and who would have known better than Goebbels that *semper aliquid haeret!* Unethical as de Moro's absurd invention may appear, there is little doubt that it saved his client's life.

The rest of Grünspan's story is quickly told. His trial was postponed again and again because of the usual intrigues and tugs-of-war between the Ministries of Justice, Propaganda and Foreign Affairs. Every time when a new or revised bill of indictment was circulated some high-up Nazi was sure to veto it. Grünspan, although frequently in handcuffs, was relatively well treated while the Gestapo was waiting for the order to start the brainwashing process in preparation for the trial; but as no decision could be reached as to *what* exactly the accused should confess, the treatment never started.

The final shelving of the trial seems to have been due also to considerations with regard to French susceptibilities; Ribbentrop was working hard to get more co-operation out of the French people. Ex-Minister Bonnet had at first consented to appear as a witness, but told Grimm that he had now "serious doubts." Goebbels mentioned this in his diary and added: "Besides, the question of par. 175 (homosexuality) makes things so uncertain that we cannot now embark on such a delicate trial." Hitler told Freisler that "for the time being" the trial was off, and he himself would give the order when it should begin.

That order never came. The war ended, and Grünspan, freed by the Allies, chose to return to France (his relatives had reached Palestine before the war); according to French law, the case against him had lapsed. Among the many strange tales from the history book of our times this is surely one of the strangest—that of a man who lived because he killed.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Jewish M.P.s

The newly elected Parliament includes 22 Jewish M.P.s, 20 of whom are Labour and two Conservatives, as in the last Parliament. Two Jewish Members of the previous Parliament, I. Mikardo and M. Orbach, were not re-elected, but two newly elected Members are M. Galpern, Lord Provost of Glasgow, and D. Ginsburg, economist and writer. The following are the names of the other Jewish M.P.s:

L. Abse, A. Albu, F. Allaun, Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, M. Cliffe, J. Diamond, M. Edelman, B. Janner, G. Jeger, Sir Keith Joseph, L. M. Lever, N. H. Lever, M. Lipton, J. J. Mendelson, E. Shinwell, J. Silverman, S. S. Silverman, G. R. Strauss, Dr. B. Stross, D. Weitzman.

Queen Honours Israeli Ambassador

Mr. Eliahu Elath, the former Israeli Ambassador, was presented with two signed photographs of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh by the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, Major-General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones, who called at the Israeli Embassy to make the presentation. This is an exceptional honour conferred by the Queen on departing diplomats very rarely and is considered by diplomatic observers to be testimony not only to the Queen's personal esteem for the Ambassador, but also to the cordial relations between the two countries.

Aliya to Israel

Emigration of British Jews to Israel has increased. During 1958, 614 emigrated as compared to 535 and 300 for 1957 and 1956 respectively. These figures are taken from a report on British emigration to Israel, prepared on behalf of the Aliya departments of the Zionist Federation and the Jewish Agency, for the two-day special conference on aliya recently held in London.

Rabid Hungarian Anti-Semites

The author and publisher of "The World Conquerors—The Real War Criminals", are believed to be Hungarian refugees and are associate editors of the viciously anti-Semitic periodical, *Hidfo*, published in Hungarian here. "The World Conquerors", *The Jewish Chronicle* writes, contains scurrilous allegations about the so-called secret powers of world Jewry. It makes the notorious forgeries, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," read like a children's fable.

It is understood that the book is actually published in Germany and that, after a complaint, the matter is being investigated, and that the Attorney-General in this country is concerned with the selling of the book and the periodical here.

New Chief Scientist

Sir Solly Zuckerman, Sands Cox Professor of Anatomy at Birmingham University, has become Chief Scientist to the Ministry of Defence—a post carrying with it a salary of £7,500 a year. Sir Solly is an active worker for the British Friends of the Hebrew University and is also Deputy Chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy and Hon. Secretary of the Zoological Society of London.

First Jewish Country Club

An elegant eighteenth century mansion, Kendal Hall, between Radlett and Elstree on the main A5 road, has been purchased together with 16 acres of grounds for London's first Jewish country club. A non-profit-making company has been incorporated, and will develop the property and its amenities as a centre where Jewish people can meet and enjoy their leisure hours in delightful surroundings.

New Jewish Day School

The Golders Green Jewish Day School, the sixth to be founded by the Zionist Federation, was recently opened. It is situated on the site of Barclay House, Finchley Road, and is to have a kindergarten and a primary. Miss B. Richman has been appointed Acting Headmistress, and Rabbi E. Newman, Honorary Principal.

New Synagogue in Golders Green

The new synagogue of the Golders Green Beth Hamedresh at The Riding, was recently consecrated in the presence of the Chief Rabbi and the Haham. The congregation had previously been accommodated in Broadwalk Lane. The majority of the members of the Golders Green Beth Hamedresh are refugees from Germany. Their spiritual leader, Rabbi Dr. E. Munk, had officiated in Berlin prior to his emigration. The major part of the cost for the erection of the new building was covered by donations from members, and the remainder by grants from the Claims Conference and the Jewish Trust Corporation.

Herbert Samuel Hall

The Chief Rabbi and a large and representative gathering of Anglo-Jewry were present when Lord Samuel recently opened the Herbert Samuel Hall at the New West End Synagogue. Members of the Samuel family were also present at the service. The new centre was erected by the congregation as a spontaneous tribute to their most distinguished member.

NEWS IN BRIEF

DESECRATION OF BRESLAU CEMETERY

The Polish authorities have ordered an investigation into reports of illegal dealings in Jewish tombstones at Wroclaw, formerly Breslau, in Western Poland. It is reported that local masons have been stealing old tombstones from the old Jewish cemetery, which is unguarded and in a state of great neglect. The new tombstones manufactured in this way are sold at high prices to Jews locally. Jewish leaders in Wroclaw have complained to the authorities.

JEWISH SOCIAL WORK IN GERMANY

Care for aged Jews in Germany is dealt with in the latest issue of *Juedische Sozialarbeit*, the bulletin of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle of the Jews in Germany. The bulletin also carries a supplement dedicated to the memory of Dr. Paul Eppstein, one of the leading officials of the Reichsvereinigung, who was murdered by the Nazis in Theresienstadt 15 years ago. Tribute is paid to him by Berthold Simonsohn and Jacob Jacobson. Readers interested in receiving this or previous issues of the *Juedische Sozialarbeit*, are advised to get in touch with Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland, Frankfurt/Main, Hebelstr. 17, III.

VISITORS TO ISRAEL

The publisher Dr. Gottfried Bermann-Fischer and the writer Ernst Schnabel paid a visit to Israel as guests of the Government. Ernst Schnabel is the author of the book on Anne Frank, "Spur eines Kindes".

THEODOR HERZL-HOF IN VIENNA

The Vienna Municipal Council has named a newly erected block of flats "Theodor Herzl-Hof", after the Zionist leader, who spent most of his life in Vienna. The block is situated in Leopoldsgasse.

GERMAN TV BROADCAST ON PERSECUTION

The Hamburg broadcasting station dealt with the problems arising out of the crimes of the Nazi State against the Jews, in a TV broadcast entitled "... Als waer's ein Stueck von dir". Participants in the feature, broadcast by Schier-Gribowsky, included Jeanette Wolff (MdB), Dr. H. G. van Dam, General Secretary of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland, and Karl Marx, Editor of the *Allgemeine*.

BERLIN FASANENSTRASSE

Consecration of the Community Centre

When in 1912 the synagogue in the Fasanenstrasse was consecrated I was only a boy. Later, as a member of the Executive of the Jewish Community in Berlin (Gemeindevorstand), I had the opportunity to speak in the synagogue a few times. I had also seen the ruins of the burnt-out synagogue; and now I have been witness to the consecration ceremony of the new community centre built in its stead; I have been witness to the prophetic saying (Isaiah 58, 12) to which Rabbi Dr. Salzberger referred in his sermon:

"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places,
Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations."

When I was asked by the Council of Jews from Germany if I could represent the Jewish refugees at the ceremony I gratefully accepted the mission. I had been in Berlin repeatedly since the end of the war, and I always remembered, remembered, and could not forget. And this time I remembered the night I suddenly woke up in my flat in Passauerstrasse 2 and became aware that the small Orthodox synagogue behind this building had been set on fire and—within a few minutes—was informed that similar infamies were being committed in all parts of Berlin and in all parts of Germany.

The ruins of the Synagogue Fasanenstrasse have been completely pulled down and a new and modern building has been erected in its place. Naturally I felt estranged at first—a feeling that again and again overcomes everyone who before the war lived in this destroyed and rebuilt city. However, as a reminder of the past and a call to the future, a free standing portal and a column have been erected in front of the modern building made of stones from the previous building. The column bears the two tablets which remained and which proclaim to every passer-by in Hebrew and German the eternal admonition: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself".

Memories Revived

Unforgotten, unforgettable memories will be alive till the last breath within the Jewish refugees who grew up in Germany in the firm conviction that the barbarism of previous centuries could never recur in the civilised democracy of the twentieth century, yet had later to face the unsurpassed horror of the Nazi abyss. These memories create a painful mixture of feelings in the refugee, dreams and nightmares, revival of hopes today, fear of a new deception tomorrow.

The new building is planned as a community centre for Berlin Jewry and the authorities of the city of Berlin unanimously resolved to hand back the property for this purpose to the Jewish community, and to bear the costs of building. It contains study rooms and a library, club rooms and a restaurant and, most important, of course, a very big and a smaller hall which will be used as a synagogue on Holy-days and for cultural meetings of various kinds at other times. This hall, in which the consecration took place, is extremely well constructed and is dignified, simple and pleasant. Three small domes through which light pours into the festive hall remind one, in a very appropriate way, of the three big domes which were characteristic of the old synagogue. The very expedient building is the work of two young German architects, Herr Heise and Herr Knoblauch, who are also erecting the new synagogue in Essen.

A thousand guests attended the opening of the centre, among them very many leading personalities of German political and of Jewish life. The President of the Jewish Community in Berlin, Herr Heinz Galinski, who by his persistent efforts and useful initiative has done a great deal to re-establish the community and has also been the main instigator for the erection of the new centre, opened the remarkable list of speakers. He reminded those present of the tragic events during the Nazi terror, and paid tribute to the personalities who once

guided the Jews in Berlin, among them Leo Baeck, who had so often occupied the pulpit of the Synagogue Fasanenstrasse, and Heinrich Stahl, the last President of the "former" Berlin Jewish Community, who died in Theresienstadt. Herr Galinski spoke of the unbreakable union of the Jews of Berlin with all Jews in the world, especially with those originating from Berlin and those in Israel. He expressed the hope that the new centre would be a place for prayer and reflection but no less also a meeting-place for Jews and Gentiles as well as for young people of all groups, so that the next generation of Jews and non-Jews in Berlin would know and trust each other more. He warned against the renewed activities of those who were still sowing hatred and who still did not want to see how much Jews have done for the good of Germany. He thanked the Senate of Berlin for their understanding, support and co-operation.

Looking Ahead

The Lord Mayor of Berlin, Herr Willy Brandt, then spoke. He turned the thoughts of those present from the past to the future. Aware though we were, he said, that the wounds had not healed, even after 15 years, and that the shadow of the past still darkened the hour, we must look forward again. The words of Moses Mendelssohn which were printed on the invitation card, "Love Truth! Love Peace!" must again become our guide; tolerance must be strengthened. The new building should help man again to find the past to his brother; it should be a centre of loving tolerance and honest respect for every true conviction. In this spirit Herr Brandt handed over the key of the new building to Herr Galinski.

After a short address by the President of the Parliament of Berlin, Herr Henneberg ("restitution is not enough, we must again give our Jewish fellow-citizens a true 'Heimat'"), the Chief of the French Sector of Berlin, General Jean Lacomme, spoke in the name of the three Commanders of the Western Powers. How true when he said that the war had not started on a certain day 20 years ago, but that the fire of the Synagogue Fasanenstrasse and of the other synagogues had already been acts of war and that the ruins of the synagogues were ruins of the Nazi war!

Minister Ernst Lemmer expressed the greetings and good wishes of the Federal German Republic. He reviewed the history of the friendship of Jews and Gentiles in Germany since the time of Moses Mendelssohn and Lessing to the days of Liebermann and Reinhardt, Hermann Cohen, Walter Rathenau, Rudolf Mosse and many many others who had enriched German life and culture. He assured the Jews of Berlin ("Berliner Mitbürger jüdischen Glaubens") that the Government of Germany was determined to stop any return to barbarism. He welcomed the fact that Jews had come back to Germany. This he regarded as a gleam of hope, as otherwise there was the danger that the past would develop into a complex. The Jews, Minister Lemmer said, cannot forget, even if the non-Jews do not want to remember.

The last speech was made on behalf of the Israeli Mission in Germany by Botschaftsrat Meroz, himself a born "Berliner". He added to his greetings the statement that Israel does not claim to have a monopoly on Jewish existence, that they recognise that there are other forms of life in which Jewish existence can be satisfactory and that every Jew has the right to decide for himself where to live. But Jewish life without Israel can now no longer be contemplated.

Finally Rabbi Dr. Salzberger, in his consecration of the building, reminded those present that it was an old custom in Jewish life that the synagogue was also a community centre. We could not forget, but it was a religious duty to forgive. In this spirit he expressed the hope that the new building would really be a place to meet and a monument of reconciliation and atonement.

The Adaun Aulom, beautifully rendered by the choir of the Synagogue Pestalozzistrasse, with

Kantor Nachama as soloist, ended the deeply moving and encouraging ceremony.

On leaving the new building my thoughts again wandered into the past and into the future.

1912-1959. What tremendous changes in one city in less than a lifetime! 1912: Consecration of this first synagogue in the West of Berlin, designed by the architect Ehrenfried Hessel, the seventh synagogue of the Berlin Jewish community, honoured during that year by a visit from Kaiser Wilhelm II. Two Berlin Rabbis, Dr. Bergmann and Dr. Hochfeld, consecrated the new place of worship. At that time Berlin Jews numbered 145,000, increasing in the following decade to over 170,000. And since: World War I, revolution, the Weimar Republic, inflation, the Third Reich, persecution, World War II, annihilation. 1933: Berlin with 160,000 Jews; 1939: with 75,000 Jews; 1944: 5,400 Jews; 1959: 7,000 Jews!

Will the new community centre become the signpost for a new and happier future? Will it mark the beginning of a new, settled generation of Jews in Germany? Are Jews in Germany again becoming full German citizens, rooted in the land of their choice and not eventually uprooted anew? Will the hope expressed in the document put in the foundation of the old synagogue and repeated in the document in the foundation of the new building become true at last: "Möge der Bau bis in die fernsten Zeiten seiner hohen Bestimmung dienen. Möge er immer wahre Gottesfurcht, Nächstenliebe und Sittlichkeit fördern zum Heile der Menschheit"?

The future of the Jews living in Germany is closely linked up with the political and economic future of Germany itself, with the future of Berlin especially. The people in Berlin are calm and confident that their rights and their freedom will be preserved in all the political negotiations of these days and at the forthcoming Summit meeting. They will, I trust, not be disappointed.

But, in the end, human beings everywhere are in the hands of the Lord, the Almighty, and to Him turned my thoughts at the end of the journey, humbly and full of thanks that He had rescued me and had allowed me to be present as the only member of the "old" Gemeindevorstand at this historic event.

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DEUTSCHJUEDISCHES JUBILAEUM IN BUENOS AIRES

Unversehens haben sich die arbeitsreichen Jahre der Emigration so zahlreich aneinandergereiht, dass das deutsche Judentum in der Zerstreung bereits seine eigenen Gedenktage zu feiern beginnt. Manches Ereignis aus dem Vierteljahrhundert, seit es in seiner Sicherheit aufgestoert und in viele Teile auseinandergerissen wurde, hat mit der Zeit etwas wie die Patina des Geschichtlichen erhalten. Geschehene Dinge werden allerdings nicht allein durch Zeitablauf historisch, und was aus dem schwierigen Werdegang der deutschen Juden in ihren neuen Siedlungslaendern Geschichte wird, und was nur Episode bleibt, ist heute noch nicht klar. Die Frage, ob die Geschichte der deutschen Juden 1933 oder 1938 geendet hat, wie manche meinen, oder ob sie, wie die der Juden Spaniens nach 1492, in anderen Entwicklungsformen weitergeht, wird erst aus der Perspektive viel spaeterer Zeiten festzustellen sein. Die Jubilaeen, die man in unserem Kreise heutzutage feiert, sind darum nicht mehr als Marksteine an einem Weg, von dem noch niemand weiss, wohin er fuehrt.

Trotz aller dieser Einschraenkungen kommt dem Ereignis, dessen hier gedacht werden soll, zumindest fuer die deutschjuedische Gruppe in Argentinien besondere Bedeutung zu. Es ist nun zwei Jahrzehnte her, dass in Belgrano, einem wichtigen Stadtviertel der argentinischen Landeshauptstadt, von aus Hitlerdeutschland ausgewanderten Menschen neue juedische Gemeindeeinrichtungen ins Leben gerufen wurden, die—das darf heute schon als gewiss gelten—eine legitime Fortfuehrung der fruheren Gemeindeformen darstellen. Dass dies gerade in dem Stadtteil Belgrano geschah, ist kein Zufall, denn in diesem vielfach von europaeischen Einwanderern verschiedener Nationen bevorzugten Bezirk von Buenos Aires hatten sich gleich von Anfang an auch die deutschjuedischen Emigranten angesiedelt, vielleicht nur deshalb, weil dort bereits einige juedische Familien deutscher Sprache lebten. Diesem Stadtteil galt von Beginn an ihre besondere Zuneigung, in ihm entdeckten sie etwas wie eine zweite Heimat, ihm gaben sie im Laufe der Jahre mit das Gepraege. Heute wohnen in Belgrano mehr als 10.000 Juden aus Deutschland und Oesterreich, das ist gut der vierte Teil der Eingewanderten; sie gruppieren sich um verschiedene juedische Gotteshaeuser und fuehren ein Gemeindeleben, wie es in aehnlicher Geschlossenheit nirgendwo sonst in Argentinien moeglich waere. Es ist denn auch nur in Belgrano zur Gruendung von Gemeinden rein deutschjuedischer Praegung gekommen.

Auch dass es gerade vor zwanzig Jahren geschah, dass dieses Gemeindeleben begann, war kein Zufall, sondern entsprach einer notwendigen inneren Entwicklung. Es gab damals in Buenos Aires bereits eine Juedische Kulturgemeinschaft ("JKG"), die zu den Hohen Feiertagen 1937 von Emigranten gegruendet worden war. Aber sie war mehr Bildungsverein als Gemeinde und entfaltete ihre Taetigkeit mehr im Stadtzentrum von Buenos Aires, nicht in dem entlegeneren Belgrano. Auf ihre Initiative und in ihrem Rahmen wurde, unter der entscheidenden Mithilfe einer Gruppe jugendlicher Einwanderer, zu den Feiertagen 1938 ein Saalgottesdienst auch in Belgrano organisiert. Es war fuer viele ein ergreifender, unvergesslicher Augenblick, als dort zum erstem Mal im noch fremden Land die altvertrauten Melodien ertoent und auf altgewohnte Weise gebetet und gepredigt wurde. Aber damals gab es noch keinen Rabbiner aus Deutschland in Argentinien, auch andere organisatorische Voraussetzungen fehlten, und so blieb dieser erste Ansatz zunaechst ohne sichtbare Wirkung. Als man 1939, also gerade vor 20 Jahren, abermals zu den Hohen Feiertagen ruuestete, waren bereits mehrere deutschsprachige Rabbiner ins Land gekommen. Die Zahl der Einwanderer war gewachsen, einige wenige hatten ihre wirtschaftliche Position schon ein wenig gefestigt. Zudem war eben gerade, im September 1939, der zweite Weltkrieg ausgebrochen, und die Gemueter waren erregt und empfaenglich. So kam es denn im Anschluss an die Feiertage, im Oktober 1939, im Zuge eines unabweisbaren inneren Beduerfnisses, zur Gruendung der drei

deutschjuedischen Gemeinden, die bis heute in Belgrano wirken.

Es ist oft bedauert worden, dass es nicht gelungen ist, die im Jahre 1939 lebendig werdenden Bestrebungen zu juedisch-religioesem Zusammenschluss in einer einzigen Gemeinde zu zusammenzufassen. Diese Kritik hat innere Berechtigung. Es war denn auch ein sonderbarer Zufall, dass die verschiedenen Gruppen, die damals an einer Gemeindegruendung arbeiteten, nichts von einander wussten, bis der Start schon oeffentlich erfolgt war, ein Zeichen uebrigens, wie sehr die Notwendigkeit einer solchen Massnahme in jenen Tagen auf der Hand lag. Spaeter kam es dann nicht mehr zum Zusammenschluss.

Am einheitlichsten unter den 1939 ins Leben gerufenen Gemeinden ist wohl die Asociación Religiosa Achdus Jisroel, die einen streng gesetzestreuen Charakter traegt. Sie blieb auf einen relativ kleinen Kreis von Familien beschaenkt. Demgegenueber ist Culto Israelita de Belgrano eine ausgesprochen liberale Gemeinde, deren Mitglieder sich von Anfang an aus einer buergerlichen Mittelschicht zusammensetzte. Die Entwicklung dieser Gemeinde war innerlich keineswegs krisenfrei, und gerade im Verlauf des letzten Jahres kam es aus kaum verstaendlichen Gruenden zu einer Abspaltung aus ihrem Kreis, die die Gruendung einer vierten Gemeinde, des Circulo Religioso Israelita Bet Israel, zur Folge hatte. Am ehesten verwirklichte den Gedanken einer traditionellen Volksgemeinde, weder nach der

liberalen noch nach der orthodoxen Seite sich bindend, die Nueva Comunidad Israelita, die auch zahlenmaessig die groesste werden sollte. Sie erreichte auch aeusserlich den sichtbarsten Erfolg, indem sie die formschoene, zugleich moderne und stilgemaesse Chaim Weizmann-Synagoge mit dem dazu gehoerigen Gemeindehaus bauen konnte, die heute als das Symbol deutschjuedischen Lebens in Argentinien angesehen werden darf.

Das Wirken der Gemeinden in Belgrano in den nun vergangenen zwanzig Jahren war vielfaeltig und umfasste alle Gebiete, auf denen juedische Gemeinden je taetig gewesen sind, von der Jugendarbeit ueber die Fuersorge bis zum Lehrhaus; dabei wurde die Einordnung in das allgemeine Gefuege der argentinischen Juedenheit nicht ausser Acht gelassen. In ihrer Praegung waren sie alle ein wenig "sueddeutsch" und ein wenig kleinstaedtisch, entsprechend dem Wesen der Mehrheit der nach Argentinien eingewanderten Juden. Sie hatten Schwierigkeiten vielfacher Art und mussten Kinderkrankheiten ueberwinden und Irrwege gehen, ehe sie sich als fest fundiert erwiesen, und auch heute noch ist manches an ihnen zu verbessern und zu vervollkommen. Aber sicher ist, dass sie sich als starke und vitale Kraefte im Aufbau der Einwanderergruppe erwiesen haben und heute ihre lebensvollsten Einrichtungen sind. Ob ihr Beispiel ueber den lokalen Rahmen hinausgeht und symptomatische Bedeutung hat, wagen wir nicht zu beurteilen. Dass diese zwanzigste Wiederkehr ihrer Gruendung aber wenigstens fuer die deutschen Jueden in Argentinien ein bemerkenswertes Ereignis und ein wuerdig zu feierndes Jubilaeum ist, steht ausser jedem Zweifel.

DR. KURT JULIO RIEGNER (Buenos Aires).

EINWEIHUNG DER KOELNER SYNAGOGUE

Dr. Konrad Adenauer, selbst ein geborner Koelner, vor 1933 lange Zeit und nach 1945, fuer eine kurze Spanne, der erste Nachkriegs-Oberbuergermeister seiner Heimatstadt, hatte es sich trotz einer leichten koerperlichen Behinderung nicht nehmen lassen, der feierlichen Weihe der Wiedererrichtung der im November 1938 ausgebrannten Synagoge in der Roonstrasse zu Koeln persoenlich beizuwohnen. Es lag ihm sichtlich am Herzen, bei dieser Gelegenheit im Namen der deutschen Oeffentlichkeit die Versicherung abzugeben, dass die Bundesrepublik ein Hort der Ordnung und ein Schild der Gerechtigkeit sei. In einer kurzen Ansprache, die den Hoehpunkt des eindrucksvollen Weiheakts bildete, rief er Erinnerungen an eine leidvolle Vergangenheit wach und gedachte der guten Beziehungen, die fruher, zu seiner Amtszeit, zwischen Synagogengemeinde und Stadtverwaltung bestanden haben. Indem er die Frage aufwarf "Wer haette 1938 dieses Ereignis von 1959 fuer moeglich gehalten?" gab er der Hoffnung auf eine bessere Zukunft Ausdruck.

Die Synagogenweihe war in der Tat, zumindest aeusserlich, fuer Koeln ein Ereignis, auch wenn sich ernste juedische Betrachter bei solchen Anlaessen immer wieder fragen, einmal ob sich die Umwelt der Tragweite des unmenschlichen Geschehens bewusst ist und—bleibt, und zum andern, ob die Zukunft der juedischen Gemeinschaft in Deutschland so gewaehrleistet ist, dass der Neubau oder die Wiedererrichtung einer raumlich grossen und architektonisch bemerkenswerten Kult- und Gebetsstaette wie der Koelner (mit einem prachtvollen Gemeindefestsaal, Gemeindeverwaltungsbueros, Bibliothek, juedisch-historischer Erinnerungsstaette usw.) gerechtfertigt erscheint. Die Antwort auf diese Frage formulierte das Vorstandsmitglied der Gemeinde, Jacob Birnbaum, etwa so, dass die Zukunft "weniger von uns als von unserer Umwelt abhaengt". Toleranz genuege nicht; hinzukommen muesse die Ueberwindung alles Trennenden. Das neue Koelner juedische Gotteshaus (mit Gemeindezentrum) solle allen Menschen offen sein.

Das alt-neue Gotteshaus, entstanden nach den Plaenen des Architekten Helmut Goldschmidt-Koeln, wirkt durch seine Dimensionen und durch seine gediegene kuenstlerische Gestaltung grosszuegig-wuerdig. Es bietet Platz fuer 400 Maenner und 300 Frauen. Die urspruengliche Form der 1899 im neuromanischen Stil erbauten Kuppel-synagoge konnte bewahrt werden. Ihr fruheres Innere ist dadurch veraendert worden, dass in

Hoehung des Emporegeschosses eine Decke eingezogen wurde, sodass in das so neugewonnene Erdgeschoss der 500 qm umfassende Versammlungs- und Festsaal, mit allen Moeglichkeiten der modernen Technik ausgestattet, eingebaut werden konnte—eine Loesung, die ausgezeichnet geglueckt ist.

Der Inaugurationsgottesdienst war von Rabbiner Dr. Zwi Asaria (Koeln), der die Weihpredigt hielt, gestaltet. Ihm assistierten der stimm schoene Kantor M. Korn (Koeln) und bei der Einholung der zahlreichen Thorarollen die Rabbiner Dr. I. E. Lichtigfeld (Frankfurt a.M.), Dr. L. Salomonowicz (Duesseldorf), Dr. Marcus Melchoir (Kopenhagen) sowie der britische Army Chaplain.

Unter den zahlreichen Ehrengaesten bemerkte man neben dem Bundeskanzler den Kultusminister des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Werner Schuetz (Duesseldorf), den Leiter der Israel Mission (Koeln), Botschafter Dr. F. E. Shinnar, den Koelner Oberbuergermeister Theo Burauen, den Koelner Oberstadtdirektor Dr. Max Adenauer, Vertreter der Kirchen Koelns, des in Bonn akkreditierten diplomatischen Korps sowie der juedischen Gemeinschaft in der Bundesrepublik, an der Spitze der Generalsekretaer des Zentralrats der Juden in Deutschland, Dr. H. G. van Dam. Bei dem sich an die Feier anschliessenden Empfang deuteten mehrere der nichtjuedischen und juedischen Ehrengaeste in ihren Glueckwuenschen zum Gelingen des schoenen Werks die Bedeutung der Vollendung des Baus fuer das juedische Leben und fuer dessen Zusammenhang mit der grosseren Welt.

Die Koelner Presse widmete diesem 20. September ausfuehrliche, rueckschauende, Namen und Daten, Gestalten und Vorgaenge festhaltende Berichte, gestuetzt auch auf die Grussbotschaften zu der Einweihung, darunter eine von Kardinal-Erzbischof Josef Frings, vor allem aber auf das von Dr. Asaria herausgegebene neue Buch "Die Juden in Koeln von den aeltesten Zeiten bis zur Gegenwart" (Verlag J. P. Bachem, Koeln 1959, Preis DM 24.—); zu den Mitarbeitern an dieser umfangreichen und reich illustrierten Neuerscheinung gehoeren u.a. Museumsdirektor Dr. Otto Doppelfeld, der inzwischen in New York gestorbene fruhere Koelner Gemeinderabbiner Dr. Adolf Kober, Universitaetsprofessor Dr. Alfons Silbermann-Koeln, der ehemalige Koelner Stadtkonservator Professor Dr.-Ing. Hans Vogts und Wilhelm Unger.

E. G. LOWENTHAL (Frankfurt a.M.)

SHADOWS OF THE PAST

PERSECUTION OF NAZI CRIMES

Activities of Central Office

DECISION ON GROUP DEFAMATION

In Hanover the District Court decided that the Jews, as a group, could be offended or defamed not only as a race or religious community but also as surviving victims of Nazi persecution. This decision was mentioned in the case of Arthur Goetze, who was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for publishing an anti-Semitic leaflet in 1957. In sentencing Goetze the District Court stressed that the fight against anti-Semitic tendencies was a solemn task of the German legal authorities.

NATIONALIST EX-SOLDIERS MEET

The Stahlhelm, the nationalist ex-soldiers' organisation, at a meeting organised in Oldenburg, denounced "tearful appeasement journalists and pacifist theologians". The main speaker was Professor Pascal Jordan, a Christian-Democratic Bundestag M.P., who bewailed the lack of "police powers" to be used against opinions which might give "indirect" comfort to the enemy.

FASCIST LITERATURE CONDEMNED

The increasing publication of fascist and other anti-democratic literature in Germany has been condemned by the union of German printers and paper workers at a conference held in Hanover. The union appealed to its members to refuse to participate in the production of anti-democratic periodicals and newspapers, and pointed to the growing activities of reactionary, fascist and other extremist elements in the Federal Republic.

FORMER S.S. HOLD KEY POLICE POSITIONS

The West German Union of Public Services, Transport and Traffic revealed that leading positions in the police departments of North Rhine-Westphalia were "systematically being penetrated by former S.S. officers", and that "the majority of all leading positions and nearly all key positions in the criminal investigation department of this Federal State are already being occupied" by persons who had been members of the Nazi S.S. and had even held high positions in the S.S. This, the union stated, constituted a political problem of great importance because these former S.S. members now controlled almost the entire personnel of the police departments. Recent developments had shown that they were selecting former Nazis in most cases for leading police posts.

WAFFEN-S.S. SUPPORT PRESENT REGIME

The recent annual meeting of the Waffen-SS "Hiag Friendly Society", at Hameln, attended by 16,000 members, was specially designed to make the point that the Waffen-SS are increasingly concerned to stress their allegiance to democracy. The national chairman, ex-General Kurt Meyer, urged support of the present régime. "We have not as former fascists joined hands with former Reds; we have all joined hands as Germans, trying to see unity above diversity", he said.

It is suggested that the present "wave of democratisation" may be due to the fact that the Waffen-SS pension claims have now been granted after many years.

A special message was received from the Socialist Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, who welcomed the Hiag effort to "stand for liberty and democracy."

"REICHSPARTEITAG" IN BREMEN

Under the above heading, several German papers have reported on the recent meeting of the German Reichspartei held in Bremen. The Deputy Party Chairman is Otto Hess, nephew of Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess. It is understood that the assembly, which was attended by 392 delegates, took place for the purpose of "leading the Party to victory under the Reichsadler and the black-white-red banner".

The programme adopted at the meeting, according to the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, included mobilisation of the West German population; withdrawal of all occupation forces; the fight against the "lie of Germany's sole guilt for the World War".

ORGANISATION OF NAZI YOUTH

A Young European Society, organised under the auspices of *Nation Europa*, the German monthly journal of the Fascist International, recently held a meeting in Coburg. The *Frankfurter Rundschau*, in its report of September 3rd, describes the brown uniforms after the Nazi pattern and the symbol adopted as "a substitute for the Swastika". "They say 'European' and mean the establishment of a Greater Teuton Empire", says the correspondent. The leaders of the movement include Arthur Erhardt, Editor of *Nation Europa*; A. E. Frauenfeld, former Nazi Commissar for the Crimea and one Prager, who is said to have referred to the German crimes: "The whole guilt propaganda is merely a Moscow trick designed to keep Europe divided."

At present, among the crimes being investigated by the Central Office for the Persecution of Nazi Crimes is that of the extermination measures in Lithuania during the years 1941 to 1944. Any persons able to supply information on what occurred in the districts of Kowno, Wilna and Schaulen are asked to get in touch with the Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen in Ludwigsburg (Wuerttemberg).

Right-Wing Parties Protest

At its national assembly, the German Reichspartei (DRP) passed a resolution protesting against the establishment of the central office to investigate accusations against Nazi criminals. It was stated that the activities of the office were only grist for the mill of Communist world propaganda and all enemies of Germany.

A similar protest was launched on behalf of the German Party (DP) in a letter written by its Parliamentary Chairman Schneider to Federal Chancellor Adenauer. Schneider asks for amnesty for Nazi war criminals "in order once and for all to defeat the bitter past, now fourteen years old".

NO PENSION FOR SCHLEGELBERGER

The Minister of Finance for the Land Schleswig-Holstein has decided that the former Secretary of State of the Ministry of Justice, Dr. Franz Schlegelberger, did not qualify for a pension under the "131-Gesetz". The decision is based on certain activities of Schlegelberger during the years 1941 and 1942. An appeal against the decision has been lodged by him.

After the war Schlegelberger was sentenced to life-long imprisonment by an Allied Court, but was later released by the Americans. A letter written by him to the head of the Reich Chancellery in October, 1941, revealed that he had ordered the execution of a Jew sentenced to 2½ years' imprisonment.

FURTHER TRIALS

In Wiesbaden, the Supreme Court has quashed the 1957 verdict of a lower court, and is to have a retrial of two former Gestapo men on charges of having been concerned in the deportation of Jews. One of them had been sentenced to two and a half years' hard labour and the other was acquitted.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST TEACHER

On the application of the Bavarian Jewish communities, proceedings have been started against Rudolf Treffurth, a teacher at a training school in Neu-Ulm. Treffurth is accused of making defamatory remarks against Jewish business people and about Judaism in general. He was first placed in custody but later on released on bail.

FORMER POLICE PRESIDENT ARRESTED

Adolf Heinz Beckerle, Police President of Frankfurt from 1933 to 1941, has been arrested, and proceedings have been started against him on suspicion of having taken a leading part in the deportation of Jews in Bulgaria, where he was Ambassador during the war. Beckerle was a prisoner of war in Russia, and was released in 1955.

MAJOR-GENERAL REMER ON BAIL

Former Major-General E. O. Remer, who on Hitler's orders put down the revolt of July 20th, 1944, thus becoming guilty of the death of the resistance fighters, was arrested on suspicion of a fraud amounting to DM 250,000. The proceedings are still pending.

In spite, however, of a lower court having refused bail, Remer has been released on bail by the Oldenberg Supreme Court.

DEATH SENTENCE IN LUBLIN

A Polish court in Lublin has pronounced sentence of death on the Polish citizen, Fryderyk Tomke. As a member of the German police Tomke took part in the persecution of the Jewish and Polish population during the war, and became an accomplice in numerous cases of murder.

The ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES needs YOUR help! If each member would get just one friend to fill in the form hereunder, our work would be tremendously advanced. Now, more than ever, we need the support of all members of the community, young and old. Our work in the sphere of social services is rapidly increasing. We are actively engaged in the management of three Old Age Homes, and are preparing plans for further Homes, apart from many other activities such as the constant care for the interests of the community in matters of restitution and indemnification and questions of taxation.

Approach one or more of your friends NOW to become a member of the AJR.

The Secretary,
Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain,
8, Fairfax Mans.,
LONDON, N.W.3.

I herewith join the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain at a monthly/yearly contribution of £..... (the usual minimum contribution is £2 per year). I enclose:

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(in block letters)

ADDRESS.....

ISRAEL AND GERMANY

THE FOURTH KNESSET

When these lines go to print 1,179,329 eligible voters—20 per cent more than at the last election—will have decided on the face, features and future of the fourth Knesset: 2,502 polling stations helped them to do so. According to the law, a list must obtain at least one per cent of the votes cast in order to gain a seat in Parliament. This quota will probably be 8,000 votes.

Simultaneously with the Knesset elections 94 local councils were elected, including Arab villages, as compared with 62 in 1955. Ten times as many representatives were voted in to serve on municipal and local councils as were elected to the Knesset—1,200 as against 120. Municipal elections were held for the first time in the towns of Eilat, Ashkelon and Bat Yam.

The election campaign, only interrupted by the High Holy-days, dragged on for two full months, eating up money and manpower. The enormous effort of the parties is vividly illustrated by the statistics of one week-end at the end of September. On that date, Mapai was holding 250 mass demonstrations, public meetings and regional conferences of party workers, meetings in immigrant settlements and development areas, as well as a special convention of industrial workers and a one-day seminar for textile workers. On that same week-end the Herut Movement had organised 22 meetings, mostly in the open air; the General Zionists 20 meetings; the National Religious Party (Mizrahi) 50 meetings; Achdut Ha'Avoda 40 meetings; Mapam 50 public gatherings and members' conferences; and the Progressive Party 15 meetings. Agudat Israel had its own methods: addresses were given in favour of their lists every Shabbat in hundreds of synagogues throughout the country.

No major landslide was expected, and the parties long before election day already had their eyes on a possible new coalition. There were ten new candidates among Mapai's first 40, which was the number of its members in the last Knesset. The General Zionists changed almost half of their list following the withdrawal of six of their 13 members in the Third Knesset. The National Religious Party brought three new faces into their 11 first places including a woman candidate, Achdut Ha'avoda and the Progressive nominated two new candidates each, while all five Mapai-affiliated Arab Knesset candidates are new on the national roster.

HERBERT FREEDEN (Jerusalem).

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SOCIAL SERVICES IN ISRAEL

A recent publication of the Israeli Ministry of Social Welfare, Research and Planning Division, on social service programmes in Israel (March 1959), forms part of a more comprehensive survey submitted last year to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The author is Dr. Ruth Horovitz (formerly Frankfurt/Main) who, prior to her re-emigration to Israel, lived in England where she took an active part in the work of the AJR. The extent to which aid in one way or another is required in Israel, with its steadily growing population, is reflected in the figures given in the report: during the budget year 1957-8, 18 per cent of Israel's population received some form of assistance; the majority of the beneficiaries (80 per cent) had reached the country after the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948. In 21 per cent of the cases the assistance consisted of monetary grants; most of the other cases were assisted by counselling. Altogether 214 welfare bureaux have been established all over the country under the auspices of the Ministry. The widespread social programme to a high extent designed by the need to absorb the newcomers, covers care for all generations; it also includes training for social welfare by the Paul Baerwald School, an integrated part of the Hebrew University.

STATEMENTS BY BEN-GURION AND ADENAUER

In an interview published in the Israeli daily, *Haaretz*, Mr. Ben-Gurion expresses the view that the rising German generation cannot be held responsible for the crimes committed by the Nazis. However, this did not mean that one was entitled to forget these crimes. He was in favour of German tourists visiting Israel, and also pointed out that, as with other nations, Israel had to try to come to terms with Germany.

In an interview published by the Israeli evening paper, *Maariv*, Federal Chancellor Dr. Adenauer points out that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic and Israel at this juncture would be against Israel's own interests. It would cause ill feeling among the Arab countries, and would give them an additional argument for a united front against Israel.

GERMAN JEWS IN ISRAEL

The Rosh Hashana issue of the *Mitteilungsblatt*, issued by the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, carries a most interesting article by Georg Herlitz on the balance of the aliya from Central Europe.

In the economic field, he writes, Central European Jews have been instrumental in building up new industries. They have also introduced a new type of agricultural co-operative. The author refers especially to the contribution of Central European Jews in the fields of scholarship and research. Many have also proved qualified for higher civil service. Others have taken an active part in the political life.

On the other hand, Central European Jews have not, in his opinion, integrated into the country's Hebrew culture. Many of them were still not sufficiently familiar with the language of the Jewish people, and the literature read by them was mainly German or English. It was most desirable that, in order to take a full part in the life of the country, the German Jews should try to amend this position.

POSITION OF JEWS IN GERMANY

The relationship of the Jews in Germany to the German State and to the State of Israel, is outlined by David Melchior in an article published in the *Allgemeine* of September 18th. "The Jew in Germany—every Jew in Germany—is not faced with any conflict as far as his obedience to the laws of the State is concerned." The author outlines the difficulties of coming into closer contact with the majority population, and states that the feeling of insecurity vis-à-vis German Gentiles is due to the fact that they cannot forget what happened under the Nazi régime.

As regards the relationship to Israel, Mr. Melchior stresses that the Jews who live outside that country do not consider themselves as Israelis abroad but that, notwithstanding their attachment to Israel, they regard themselves as citizens of the countries in which they reside.

Old Acquaintances

U.S.A.: New York's *Aufbau* has now been in existence for 25 years.—H. G. Luft has written a study on the life and work of Eric Pommer, for publication in the October/November issue of *Films in Review*.—Walter Reisch's story "The Big St. Bernard" is to be staged by Ch. Brackett.—Ludwig Marcuse has written an introduction for a new collection of Heine's works.—Grete Mosheim's ex-husband, millionaire J. Gould, has died at the age of 88.—Ludwig Donath is to appear in the Broadway production of "Only In America".—Rolf Gerard is to do the décor for Anouilh's "Time's Fool".—Billy Wilder has commenced preparations for his next film, "The Apartment".—Henry Koster is to direct "The Story of Ruth".

Obituary:—Gerhard Ritterband, who was discovered by Ernst Lubitsch for "Die Puppe", in which he appeared with Ossi Oswalda in 1919, has died in Berlin at the age of 55.—Johannes Riemann, who commenced his career with Reinhardt and eventually became Henny Porten's partner, has died in Konstanz at the age of 68.—71-year old Fritz Penzoldt, husband and biographer of Sigrid Onegin, has died in Magliaso (Tessin).—The Nazi author Hans Grimm, who wrote "Volk ohne Raum", has died in Bavaria at the age of 85.—The actor, Heinz Klingenberg, died in Schweinfurt, aged 54.

Germany:—Juergen Fehling, who could not work for many years owing to ill health, is to direct "Miss Julie" in Munich.—Gottfried Reinhardt's production of the reissue of "Menschen im Hotel" has been a success, especially for Heinz Rühmann, star of the film.—Gustav Froehlich is appearing in "Ehekarussell" in Munich.—Werner Finck is appearing in Priestley's "Seit Adam und Eva" in Hamburg.—Gustaf Gruendgens has returned to Berlin after an absence of seven years, where he presented his production of "Faust II"; he has been invited to show "Faust I" in Moscow in December.—Eric Burger, formerly of *Berliner Tageblatt*, whilst on a visit from New York wrote a Theodor Wolff feature for the Cologne radio.—Kate Kuehl is scheduled to appear in Schnitzler's "Gruener Kakadu" in Berlin.—G. W. Pabst is preparing a film, "Die Judith-Legende", for production in Israel.—Ludwig Berger's comedy, "Nacht in Zaandam", will be televised in January.—Fritz Lang is to direct "Unter Ausschluss der Öffentlichkeit" for Brauner.—Piscator has produced "Don Carlos" in Munich.—Hans Albers has expressed the desire to take the part of Dr. Juettner in a reissue of "Alt-Heidelberg".—Walter Rilla and Leon Askin are to appear in a TV production of "Die Entscheidung" in Baden-Baden.

Milestones:—89-year-old Eduard von Winterstein celebrated his 70th anniversary on the stage by playing Nathan at the Deutsches Theater in East Berlin, where he lives. Theodor Fontane was present when the lovable actor made his first stage appearance in 1889; he has survived Otto Brahm, Max Reinhardt and his entire generation. His son, Gustav von Wangenheim, is a well-known personality in Eastern Germany.—Robert Gilbert turned 60 recently in Locarno, where he is living. The son of the late Jean Gilbert, he wrote the lyrics for many of the hit tunes for "White Horse Inn" and "Congress Dances". He survived the Nazi régime in the States.

Home News:—Anton Walbrook is to appear in "Ein Glas Wasser" in Berlin, with Heidemarie Hatheyer.—Ferdie Mayne appeared in Achard's "My Friend Rollo" in Oxford.—Hanne Miller and Fritz Schrecker are to appear in "Beyond the Curtain," starring Eva Bartok.—Marcel Hellman's production of "North West Frontier", directed by J. Lee-Thompson, with Kenneth More, Lauren Bacall and Herbert Lom, has been shown here.—Peter Illing will be in "Bluebeard's Ten Honeymoons," starring George Sanders.—Erna Pinner's new book, "Born Alive", has been published by Cape here.—Robert Siodmak's "The Rough and the Smooth", based on Robin Maugham's best-seller, with the German star Nadja Tiller and décor by Ken Klaus Adam, has received good reviews here.

PEM

BIRTHDAYS

FRIEDRICH BRODNITZ 60

We have only now learned that Dr. Friedrich Brodnitz celebrated his 60th birthday on September 25th in New York.

Remembering Dr. Brodnitz's outstanding services to German Jewry, we recall the years before 1933. Under the guidance of Ludwig Tietz, Fritz Brodnitz together with other members of his generation, then built up the Deutsch-Juedische Jugendgemeinschaft, a non-Zionist youth movement which, in its educational programme, aimed at a comprehensive Jewish attitude. Many of its leaders also advocated the participation of non-Zionists in the work for Palestine.

As one of the best known exponents of the "Richtung Tietz", Friedrich Brodnitz participated in the Central-Verein debates on the pressing Jewish questions of that period, and he was also a much-sought-after speaker of the Keren Hayesod. In all these spheres he was a personality in his own right. If he was often referred to as "der 'junge' Brodnitz", it was only to distinguish him from his father, Justizrat Dr. Julius Brodnitz, and was not meant as a diminutive.

In 1933, when his newly built practice as a laryngologist could no longer give him sufficient scope, Friedrich Brodnitz placed his services at the disposal of the Reichsvertretung, of which he became Public Relations Officer. At the same time he became Chairman of the Reichsausschuss of the Jewish youth organisations, in succession to Ludwig Tietz.

Four years later he emigrated to the United States. There he had to start from the beginning and is now a well-known figure in his profession. Voice training is his particular interest, certainly not by chance but because his medical proficiency is linked to a deep understanding and love of music. He has several scientific and popular books on this subject to his credit, and was invited to read a paper at a recent international medical congress in London.

His professional commitments now leave Dr. Brodnitz less time for Jewish activities. During the first years of his residence in New York he was President of the Congregation Habonim, but he is still actively associated with the work of the Congregation and is also a Board member of the Federation of Jews from Central Europe.

Throughout the years Friedrich Brodnitz has retained his loyalty to those with whom he was associated in Germany, through common Jewish activities and by personal friendships resulting therefrom. It is, therefore, not out of a sense of duty but out of personal affection that we wish him health, happiness, and success for many years to come.

DR. CURT RADLAUER 75

Ministerialrat a. D. Dr. Curt Radlauer (Berlin), recently celebrated his 75th birthday.

Under the Weimar Republic, he was in charge of the Press Department of the German Foreign Office. He resigned as early as September 1932 as a protest against the policy of the Papen Cabinet. During the war, he helped Propst Gruber to assist persecutees who had gone underground. After the war he founded the Protestant assistance organisation for former racial persecutees. In this capacity in 1949 he became a Board member of the Federation of Representative Bodies of Political, Racial and Religious Persecutees, and he has always taken a leading part in safeguarding the interests of the Nazi victims in the field of restitution and compensation.

DR. IMMANUEL LEWY 75

Dr. Immanuel Lewy recently celebrated his 75th birthday in New York. He was a pupil of the Orthodox Berlin Rabbinical Seminary, and then studied modern languages and became a school teacher. From 1923 he taught at a school in Berlin Neukölln. After 1933 he was a lecturer at the Jüdische Lehrhaus, and spent the war years in London. He is now a member of the fortnightly journal *The Reconstructionist*, to which he contributes articles on Biblical and Jewish subjects.

ALBERT REIMANN 85

Many of those who know Mr. Albert Reimann, the founder and director of the famous Reimann-Schule in Berlin, will be surprised to learn that he will be 85 years of age on November 11th. He not only looks considerably younger, but he has also retained an open mind. Thus we may see him at gatherings and lectures, and we may enjoy discussing with him not only the past but also current events.

Yet the past is bound to have played an important part in the life of a man who may look back on achievements almost unique in their particular field. These achievements were cruelly curtailed by the events after 1933, but they have left their indelible imprint on the memory of numerous former—and present—residents of Berlin. Perhaps they are not always seen in their proper perspective. The Reimann-Schule became known to the public mainly through its annual "Reimann-Baelle", and its actual importance as an outstanding educational institute in the arts may sometimes not be sufficiently taken into account. Yet this drawback need not be overestimated as, all over the world, there are artists who owe their vocational training and success to the Reimann-Schule. The regard in which the school was held by official quarters in pre-1933 Berlin was manifested in many ways and on many occasions.

It is only fitting that, last year, on the occasion of his 84th birthday, the Federal German Republic paid tribute to Albert Reimann by awarding him the Federal Cross of Merit.

Mr. Reimann came to this country before the outbreak of the war. He bore the initial difficulties unavoidably linked up with the fate of a refugee, with dignity and cheerfulness. He has been associated with the AJR since its inception, and we consider it a privilege that he is a member of our Board. We cordially wish him many years to come of undiminished health and vigor.

ARTHUR ABRAHAMSOHN 80

Arthur Abrahamsohn wird am 29 November 80 Jahre alt. Er ist in Danzig geboren und war in Stettin ein geachteter Anwalt beim Oberlandesgericht. Seine Frau Alice stammt aus der angesehenen Stettiner Kaufmannsfamilie Cronbach.

Ich lernte ihn in Stettin im Jahre 1920 kennen. Fast 40 Jahre sind seitdem vergangen und welche Veränderungen sind in dieser Zeit eingetreten. Ihm ist, wie allen verfolgten Juden, seine Existenz vernichtet worden, er hat die Leiden der Haft in einem Konzentrationslager erdulden müssen; er und seine Familie mussten nach England auswandern.

Er ist hierdurch nicht bitter geworden. Er hat sich seine ruhige abgeklärte Auffassung des Lebens bewahrt. Er hat immer allen geholfen und fuer die juedische Allgemeinheit gearbeitet. Er war in Stettin Leiter des Juedischen Waisenhauses und zuletzt Vorsteher der juedischen Gemeinde. Hier in England ist er ein interessiertes Mitglied der AJR, und er hat dem United Restitution Office und der Wiener Library in ihrer Arbeit geholfen. Durch sein gleichmaessiges und ruhiges Wesen und durch seine staendige Hilfsbereitschaft hat er sich auch hier viele neue Freunde erworben.

Alle Stettiner und alle seine neuen Freunde und Bekannte gratulieren ihm herzlichst zu seinem 80. Geburtstag, und wuenschen ihm von Herzen fuer die Zukunft alles Gute, insbesondere tut dies sein alter Freund

K. FRIEDLANDER.

RABBI DR. J. ANSBACHER 80

Rabbi Dr. Jonas Ansbacher recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Prior to his emigration, he acted as rabbi of the Adath Yisroel Synagogue in Stuttgart and later in Wiesbaden. In this country he was rabbi of the Adath Yisroel Synagogue in Hampstead, from which office he retired a few years ago.

Rabbi Ansbacher has been a most interested member of the AJR since its inception. We extend our very best wishes to him on this occasion.

DR. ROBERT O. HELD 70

Dr. Robert O. Held will celebrate his 70th birthday in New York on November 5th.

Prior to his emigration, he was a well-known lawyer in Munich, and was a Board member of the Munich Anwaltskammer and of the Association of German Lawyers. He is now an attorney-at-law, and has taken a prominent part in the fight for just restitution and compensation.

A recent monograph written by Dr. Held, "Umrechnung der Kaufkraft im Entschädigungsrecht", has been quoted in many decisions, and he is also a constant contributor on restitution and compensation problems to legal papers in Germany and to the *Aufbau*. Dr. Held has for many years also been an active member of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe.

His many friends all over the world take this occasion of thanking him for all he has done for our community, and wish him many years to come in health and happiness.

PROFESSOR WALTER A. BERENDSOHN 75

Walter A. Berendsohn, formerly Professor of Literature at Hamburg University, recently celebrated his 75th birthday in Sweden, where he now lives. His works include publications on Heinrich Heine, Thomas Mann and Hugo von Hofmannsthal. He was appointed Guest Professor at the Stockholm University after his emigration.

DR. FRIEDRICH ROSENHAFT 60

Dr. Friedrich Rosenhaft, Hamburg, recently celebrated his 60th birthday. He was a practising lawyer in Hamburg until his emigration in 1933, and returned to his home town in 1950. Dr. Rosenhaft is also a member of the Board of the Hamburg Jewish community.

CILLY NEUHAUS 75

Mrs. Cilly Neuhaus recently celebrated her 75th birthday in New York. She is a daughter of Rabbi Carlebach (Lübeck), and together with her husband, the late Rabbi Leopold Neuhaus, she survived the Theresienstadt camp. During the first period after the war she worked for the Jewish survivors of the Nazi persecution in Germany. Throughout her life she has been most active in Jewish communal work.

FRIEDRICH BURSCHELL 70

The author, Friedrich Burschell, recently celebrated his 70th birthday. During the war he lived in Oxford, but returned to Western Germany after the war. His works include a biography on Jean Paul, and a short while ago he published an illustrated biography on Schiller.

KARL OTTEN 70

The writer, Karl Otten, who now lives in Locarno, recently became 70 years of age. "Die Botschaft", published by him two years ago, received the Albert Schweitzer Prize.

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AUTHORS IN EXILE

There are few vocations whose members are as closely tied up with their country of birth as that of an author. Not only because the language with all its subtleties is the indispensable tool of their craft, but also because the driving force of their activities is derived from the spiritual atmosphere in which they spent the formative years of their lives. The impact of the catastrophe in 1933 was therefore a particular blow for those writers who had to leave Germany for political or racial reasons or who left their homeland voluntarily because they refused to compromise with the new régime.

A record of exiled authors, who in 1934 formed the "P.E.N. Zentrum deutschsprachiger Autoren im Ausland (Sitz London)", has been published recently. It is edited by the Centre's Hon. Secretary, Gabriele Tergit, with the help of one of her predecessors, Wilhelm Sternfeld. The occasion of this 92-page volume (stencilled due to the printers' dispute at that time) was the P.E.N. Congress in Frankfurt, about which Gabriele Tergit reported in the September issue of this paper.

The fate of the four authors who took the main initiative in founding the Centre is, in a way, symbolical for many others: Ernst Toller committed suicide; Rudolf Olden was drowned when the "City of Benares" was torpedoed on her way from England to the U.S.; Max Hermann-Neisse died a natural death in London, but his poems reveal how heartbreaking exile was for him; the late Lion Feuchtwanger had a narrow escape when the Nazis over-ran France in 1940. Altogether, the volume lists 90 members of the Centre who are no longer alive. In each case the biographical data and the main works are recorded, and the comprehensive list, including world-famous authors such as Thomas Mann, Stefan Zweig and Else Lasker-Schueler and lesser known authors, who also fell victims of the holocaust, testifies to the cultural loss inflicted on Germany by the

Nazis. The second part of the publication lists the present members (about seventy) of the Centre. As the biographical data was formulated by the authors themselves, they differ widely both in length and in style, some of them being even more flippant than warranted. Though the "Who's Who" of the Centre's members has thus become somehow unbalanced, it has, on the other hand, obtained a certain personal touch, reflecting the personality of each contributor. Some of the members have returned to Germany, others are foreign correspondents or translators, thus acting as mediators between their new homeland and Germany. There are, however, also quite a few who now earn their living in entirely different spheres, including one Catering Officer under the Ministry of Health and one owner of a café in a small town on the South Coast.

FEDERAL CROSS OF MERIT FOR MAX HUGO NOTHMANN

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, Studienrat Dr. Hugo Nothmann was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit First Class. Dr. Nothmann, who originates from Silesia, was for many years a high school teacher in Breslau. Though severely wounded in the First World War, he was deported to Theresienstadt. After the war he returned to Germany and for several years lectured at the Erlangen University on post-Biblical Judaism. At the same time he took an active part in the work of the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation.

ELSE MEIDNER EXHIBITION

An exhibition of paintings by Else Meidner is to be held until November 14th at the Beaux Arts Gallery, Bruton Place, W.1.

GEDENKABEND FUER JOHANNA MEYER

Johanna Meyer, die bekannte Rezitatorin, die bereits zu Beginn dieses Jahrhunderts in Berlin einen grossen Namen hatte, ist im vorigen Jahr in Philadelphia gestorben.

Ihre Tochter Leonore unternahm vor kurzem eine Reise nach Israel, Italien, Schweden, Deutschland und England. Der Zweck dieser Reise war, Fühlung zu nehmen mit den Menschen, die einst in Verbindung mit ihrer verstorbenen Mutter gestanden hatten. Sie hat in ihrem Koffer auf mehr Kleider und Schuhe verzichtet, nur, um einen amerikanischen Film, in der ihre Mutter gespielt hatte und einen Recorder mit ihren Deklamationen mitzunehmen.

In der Gedenkstunde im AJR Club in London sprach Leonore in ihrer schlichten Art einführende, erklärende Worte über den Film, in dem ihre Mutter, bereits 79-jährig, mitwirkte. Anschliessend hörten wir im Tape Recorder Johanna Meyer mit ihrer wohlbekannten, modulationsfähigen Stimme Gedichte von Goethe und Heine meisterhaft wiedergegeben.

Neben Verwandten, Freunden und ehemaligen Schülern waren auch viele anwesend, die Johanna Meyer nie gesehen hatten. Alle schienen gebannt und stark beeindruckt von den herrlichen Vorträgen. In einer Schlussansprache erwähnte Leonore, wie sehr sie ihre Mutter verehrt hätte und wie sie bis zum letzten Tage immer noch neue Eigenschaften an ihr entdeckt hätte.

Wieviele Kinder gibt es heute noch, die eine solche Wertschätzung für ihre Mutter zeigen? Wie selbstlos von der Tochter, die als Lehrerin in Philadelphia arbeitet, eine Reise im Andenken an ihre Mutter durchzuführen. Viele Schülerinnen leben überall in der Welt verstreut, die sich mit mir, auch einer ehemaligen Schülerin, über diese seltene Ehrung unserer unvergesslichen Johanna Meyer freuen werden.

ELLY ALTMAN-REIMANN.

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OBITUARY

GERARD HOFFNUNG

The artist and musician Gerard Hoffnung who died suddenly at the early age of 34, was the son of Ludwig Hoffnung, a merchant banker, and was born in Berlin. He came to this country in 1930 and was educated at Highgate School and the Harrow School of Art. He taught at schools in Stamford and Harrow before becoming a freelance artist and cartoonist. Five books of his musical cartoons have been published, and a sixth, "Hoffnung's Acoustics", is appearing.

Although he was famed for his large-scale crazy music concerts, Gerard Hoffnung had his serious side. He spent his spare time doing prison welfare work, paying weekly visits to prisoners, and a year ago he broadcast an appeal for the Norman House Home for ex-prisoners. He was a bitter opponent of South African apartheid and was a sponsor of the South Hendon Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. One of his last public appearances was at the midnight show at the Festival Hall to wind up the Campaign's National Week.

He leaves a widow and two young children.

DR. ALFRED SCHUTZ

Dr. Alfred Schutz, Professor of Philosophy and Sociology, died in New York at the age of 60. He was born in Vienna and emigrated to America in 1939. There he became a lecturer at the New School for Social Research, and was named a full Professor in 1952. He was considered an authority on the work of the late Dr. Edmund Husserl, former Professor of Philosophy at the University of Freiburg, and was noted for his work on the methodology of the social sciences and had written extensively on the philosophy of William James and others.

WALTER VOSS

The Chairman of the Aachen Jewish Community, Walter Voss, has died at the age of 60.

PAUL SILVERBERG

The industrialist, Paul Silverberg, has passed away in Lugano at the age of 83. In its obituary, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* pays tribute to Mr. Silverberg's pioneer work in developing the brown coal industry as a decisive key industry of the Rhineland. Silverberg did not belong to the Jewish community but was of Jewish origin. The editorial rightly recalls that, in 1933, "anti-Semitism turned this patriot into an emigrant". Unfortunately, however, the *Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie*, of whose Board Silverberg was a member, shirks the issue. In its obituary notice, published in the same paper, it discreetly states that Silverberg passed away in Lugano "where he had established his domicile in 1933". Should readers be led to believe that it was just the sunshine and the scenery which made him settle in that part of the world?

HANS GRABOWSKI

Mr. Hans Grabowski, Chairman of the Herford Jewish Community, has died at the age of 69. He was associated with the linen manufacturers, Elsbach, in Herford until the firm was "aryanised" in 1938. During the war he had to do forced labour and, in February 1945, was deported to Theresienstadt. After the war he resumed his work for Elsbach and, at the same time, took a leading part in building up the Herford community.

LANDGERICHTSDIREKTOR a. D. MAX ROSENBAUM

Landgerichtsdirektor a. D. Dax Rosenbaum, Dortmund, has died in his 73rd year. He took a leading part in building up Jewish life in his home district after the war, and was the Vice-Chairman of the Jewish Community and of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Westphalia.

Letters to the Editor

PROFESSOR ERNST JAECKH

Sir,—Professor Ernst Jäckh, whose death was mentioned in your October issue, worked unceasingly on behalf of Jewish refugees. On the occasion of his 80th birthday in 1955, the National Jewish Fund presented him with a document stating that the Fund had planted 80 trees bearing his name in the Rose Battsek Grove of the Weizmann Forest near Jerusalem, in gratitude for his unshakeable friendship for and salvation of hundreds of Jewish victims.

Yours, etc.

(Mrs.) HERTHA ORGLER.

London

(Our attention has also been drawn to the fact that, prior to his re-emigration to the United States, Professor Jäckh lived in England for several years, where, under the sponsorship of Sir Winston Churchill, he founded the New Commonwealth Institute and became its first director.—Ed.)

THE LATE BARBARA KEMP

Sir,—Your June issue contained a very short obituary on the passing of Barbara Kemp. She was not only a "soprano who sang with Caruso" but—apart from being a very gifted leading opera singer—was also a very gallant and straightforward character, who had a great number of Jewish friends.

When, in 1934, some Nazi upstart wrote a biography of her husband Max von Schillings, against Barbara Kemp's wishes, and mentioned something to the effect that Schillings all his life detested Jews, she went to Court to prevent the sale of the book just because of that single sentence. I also understand that, at the beginning of the war when she was forced to accommodate some Nazi officers in her villa in Zehlendorf-Mitte, she gave shelter at the same time to the Jewish mother of a pupil of hers.

Yours, etc.,

EDITH MANDEL.

Birmingham, 13.

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NEWS OF ORGANISATIONS

AJR AT WORK

Social Services Department

German Library

We are prepared to send invalids or persons living out of town books by post from our library of German books. Please write to us and let us know the type of books you want.

Register of Voluntary Workers

With the help of voluntary workers, we were able last winter to assist those of our fellow-refugees who required visits or practical help, especially in cases of illness.

We should like to thank all those who participated in the scheme for their valuable assistance. We would be very glad if they could again help us in the coming winter. Please write to 8 Fairfax Mansions, N.W.3, or telephone us at MAI. 4449.

AJR Handicrafts Group

Anybody wishing to exhibit their handicrafts for sale at the forthcoming Chanukah Bazaar should please let us have them, or a list of what they intend giving us, in the first week of November.

MAYOR VISITS OTTO HIRSCH HOUSE

The Mayor and Mayoress of Richmond, Ald. and Mrs. H. A. Leon, paid a visit to Otto Hirsch House, Kew, on Rosh Hashana. They were welcomed by the Chairman of the House Committee, Dr. W. Dux, Mrs. Dux and their son and daughter-in-law, Cllr. and Mrs. Eric Dux, and were shown round the Home by the Matron, Mrs. E. Rosenthal. In a brief address, the Mayor wished the residents a happy New Year and stated that he was greatly impressed by the Home.

HERZL SOCIETY LECTURES

In conjunction with the University of London (Extra Mural Department), the Theodor Herzl Society has arranged a series of six lectures for the winter term on Jewish political profiles. The lectures will be held at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3. A syllabus is included in this issue for interested readers in the London district. Enquiries should be made at the Theodor Herzl Society at Zion House.

NEW ADDRESS OF LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

The Leo Baeck Institute has moved to new offices at 4 Devonshire Street, London, W.1, telephone LANGham 3493.

HERZL BUND

Addresses of Former Members Wanted

The Herzl Bund, founded in 1912, was, thanks to the efforts of some of its members, re-established in Israel some years ago. The Board comprises Irvin Epstein, Alfred Frank, Willy Preis, Erich Roth, Jacob Rund, Joseph Wahl and Max Wolf.

The first and foremost purpose of the Board is to reunite all the members of the Bund all over the world, and to intensify the connection of the members in Israel and the Gola. For this purpose information will be distributed to members periodically and the already existing list of members and their whereabouts will be sent out to all members. A meeting is planned in Israel at the end of the year.

All members of the Herzl Bund, wherever they are, are asked to get in touch with the Board of the Herzl Bund, P.O.B. 2963, Tel Aviv, Israel.

SELF-AID CONCERT

The traditional charity concert organised by Self Aid of Refugees every year, will be held on Wednesday, November 18th, at 7.30 p.m. at the Wigmore Hall.

Fou Ts'ong, the concert pianist, will appear, together with the Allegri String Quartet.

The 24-year-old Chinese concert pianist arrived in this country from Warsaw in December last, and made his first appearance in Western Europe with the Philharmonia Orchestra under Herbert Menges in Brighton on January 18th. The rarity of a Chinese studying Western music can be explained in this case by Fou Ts'ong's unusual background. His father is a famous writer, art critic and translator of French and English classical literature. Fou, therefore, was brought up on a diet of Western music which he heard on gramophone records, and at the age of ten began to study the piano with the Italian pianist and conductor, Mario Paci. Since 1955 he has appeared in all the East European countries and has about 500 concerts to his credit, including the closing concert in Moscow of the 1957 International Youth Festival, where he appeared with the famous Russian violinist, David Oistrakh.

The Allegri String Quartet made its debut in London in February, 1954. The Quartet has toured extensively in the British Isles and may be heard frequently on the air, taking part in many of the B.B.C.'s most important Chamber concerts. They have also appeared on the Continent with marked success, and have recorded for His Master's Voice in the "History of Music" series. Its members are Eli Goren, James Barton (violins), Patrick Ireland (viola) and William Pleeth (cello), all outstanding musicians.

The programme will consist of the Mozart Quartet for Pianoforte and Strings in G minor, the Schubert Pianoforte Sonata in G major and Schubert's Quartet for Strings in D minor ("Death and the Maiden").

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ABOUT BOOKS

"KUNSTFIGUR"

The first German book dealing with the 1914-18 war appeared ten years after the armistice—Remarque's "All Quiet on the Western Front"—followed by Ludwig Renn's "War", and many others. This time the period of incubation has been longer. Now at long last we have an important book on the pre-war and war period, Heinz von Cramer's 300,000-word "Kunstfigur."* It is the story of two German prototypes, set against a vast social and historical background. The novel applies the same technique as Thomas Mann's "Doktor Faustus"—a German of humane outlook narrates the life of his friend. But here the similarity ends—Cramer is not as detached from his subject as Mann. He is a crusader, a man with a message.

Cramer's hero is a writer and an opportunist. But while opportunism may be a common trait in many personalities in public life in our modern society, opportunism in Germany has meant a continuous changing of sides since 1914. The book succeeds in catching the finer shades in the changes of political and intellectual opinion with extraordinary truthfulness. It reflects faithfully and accurately the moods of Germany in the four decades (1917-57) which it covers.

Perhaps more important than the hero, though less amusing, is the "young man" in Cramer's story. He has no name because he is a type, not an individual. He is twelve years old when Hitler

* Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Cologne, 1959. DM 19.80.

takes over. For the "young man" people are material, weak or strong: "Material has to be tested until it tears, bursts, or breaks." Weaklings who do not pass his tests must be eliminated. Only the strong have a right to survive: "One must grow hard." Hardness, harshness, severity—unyielding, inflexible, unfeeling, pitiless, remorseless: these are terms of praise in the vocabulary of the "young man". He admires a man who shoots a weakling "from the hip". "We are tired", he says, "tired of people, we want to disengage ourselves from all these cripples, from the old and sick of whom Europe stinks." He puts his mistress, after long trials, to the supreme test. He commands her to kill her lovely little daughter. She obeys. He is jubilant: he has succeeded, the "material" did not break under the strain. Now she belongs to him, to the strong, the élite.

Cramer has courage. He does not hesitate to name those authors who have helped to create the type of "young man". He quotes, for instance, Ernst Jünger, who revels in the shooting of a man, in the "great aesthetic charm of the curving back as the bullet hits the spine". Cramer's hero, the writer, has also contributed his share to the development of such monsters; during one of his opportunistic phases he has published a book entitled "Freedom: The Courage to be Immoral".

Cramer's astonishing psychological insight reminds one of a sentence which Sigmund Freud once wrote to Arthur Schnitzler, the Viennese author: "I have asked myself again and again

how you acquired this or that secret knowledge which I obtained only by the most painstaking research . . . I not only admire the author, I envy him" (1906).

Heinz von Cramer has no very great gift for making his characters come to life, but his frightening "young man" steps out of the pages of the novel and stays with the reader uncomfortably long. In creating him Cramer has gone to the heart of the German problem and mirrored a type which has disturbed the world more than any other.

GABRIELE TERGIT.

A NOVEL ON REFUGEES

Refugees who have succeeded in finding a haven and a new home would do well not to forget the fate of their comrades whose appeals for help and rescue met with bland or shamefaced refusals. The adventures of the passengers of the "Fersola", 650 Jewish men, women and children who set out from Prague in 1939 and managed, after much disappointment and suffering, to arrive at their destination in Palestine, have now been placed on record by an able narrator, Otto Klepetar ("Die Fersola", Geschichte eines Auswandererschiffes; Eurasia Verlag Vienna; 285 pages, price 76 Austrian Schilling). It is a vivid and truthful study of human behaviour in distress, showing how nobility and baseness, self-respect and humiliation, integrity and corruption, mingled and produced a peculiar moral climate for an involuntary community of human flotsam.

F.L.B.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Engagements

Mohrer : Summerfield.—The engagement is announced of Giselle Mohrer, A.L.C.M., daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. D. Mohrer and granddaughter of Mrs. R. Bernstein, of 201 Melrose Avenue, London, N.W.2, to George Summerfield, B.A.(Oxon), twin son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Summerfield, of 81 Holmefield Court, London, N.W.3.

Marriages

Ney : Potash.—The marriage took place on October 28th in Kfar Hanasi, Galil Elyon, of Miss Johanna Ney, B.A., younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. Ney, of 63 Cole Valley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28, to Mr. Isak Potash.

Sahlmann : Rosenbaum.—The marriage took place on October 14th of Miss Monica Eva Sahlmann, 15 Woodberry Grove, London, N.12, and Mr. H. P. Rosenbaum, B.Sc., 221 Hampstead Way, London, N.W.11.

Birthdays

Lewin.—Mr. Arnold Lewin (formerly Berlin, Freiburg), 67 The Avenue, London, N.W.6, celebrated his 75th birthday on October 23rd.

Deaths

Karminski.—Frank Karminski, formerly of Sprottau (Silesia), passed away on October 2nd at the age of 49 in Chicago, Ill. Deeply mourned by his sister, Lottie Kahn, and his brother-in-law, Dr. Ernst Kahn, Orpington, Kent.

Katz.—Herman Katz, formerly of Schötmar/Lippe and of 20 Parkside Drive, Edgware, passed away on September 23rd at the age of 75. Deeply mourned by his wife, Emmy, his son, Vernon. He was loved and respected by all who knew him.

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FINISHER for blouses, dresses, seeks part-time work. Box 597.

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WE REQUIRE all copies of the following newspapers: *Berliner Tageblatt, Vorwärts, Vossische Zeitung, Frankfurter Zeitung, Kölnische Zeitung*. H. Pordes, 138 New Cavendish St., London, W.1. MUSEum 5250.

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GOOD-LOOKING LADY, early 60s, living comfortably in large provincial town, would like to contact an educated gentleman for companionship, view marriage. Box 591.

MARRIAGE Broker or Marriage Bureau wanted for introduction for young female relative, well off, from respectable professional family. Box 602.

MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries by AJR

Moishe Horn, formerly of Kassel, aged about 40.

Clara Sturm, (née Diller), formerly of Windeckstr. 33 Frankfurt/Main.

Personal Enquiries

Ruth Schlesinger. Last-known address in February 1948: c/o Jewish Orphanage, London, S.E.27.

Hermann Brienitzer (or Brintzer). Last-known address in 1945: Heythrop College, Chipping Norton, Oxon.

Walter Brienitzer (or Brintzer). In Army in 1945 under name of Walter Bernard, Trooper 14452249, School Holding Squadron, R.A.G. T.D., M.E.F. Left forces beginning 1947 or end 1948.

Information sought by Mrs. E. Beck, 25 Bridgnorth Drive, Clifton Estate, Nottingham.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

THE NOVEMBER POGROMS

It seems appropriate, in these November days, to mention a brochure entitled "Die Reichskristallnacht", recently issued by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Bonn, Koblenzer Str. 54). The brochure contains addresses given at a meeting held under the auspices of that "Stiftung" in Bergneustadt on November 9th, 1958, to mark the 20th anniversary of the pogroms. This meeting, as Willy Eichler points out in the introduction, was motivated not by the desire to discuss the past for its own sake but by the apprehension that the events might recur unless the proper lessons are drawn from them.

The first contributor to the symposium, Erich Lueth (Hamburg), in a moving address, recalls his personal observations during those fateful days. "We have become infinitely poorer by the loss of our Jewish brethren", he states. The position of the Jews under the Weimar Republic is analysed by Eva Reichmann. Though the Jews were only 0.9 per cent of the total German population, and hardly distinguishable from their environment, she says, their concentration in certain towns and certain occupations made them more conspicuous than warranted by the numerical smallness of their community. With dignity and sincerity, and without glossing over the deeper implications, she deals with the phenomenon of anti-Semitism in Germany in its wider context. The Christian religious and ethical aspect of the problem is dealt with by Professor D. Hans-Joachim Inwand.

BULLETIN OF THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

As mentioned in our previous issue, members of the Society of Friends of the Leo Baeck Institute receive not only the Year Books free of charge, but also quarterly bulletins published in German. Apart from information on the work of the Institute, these bulletins carry interesting articles which shed light on the Jewish past in Central Europe.

The latest issue of the Bulletin (No. 8) is centred around the lives of German Jews of various backgrounds. In his introductory article Hans Tramer, editor of the Bulletin, quotes references from letters and autobiographical notes written by Jewish politicians such as Walther Rathenau and Friedrich Stampfer, and by poets such as Hermann Broch.

The most stimulating contribution to the Bulletin is an autobiographical fragment by Kurt Blumenfeld, the veteran of German Zionism who, as the son of a Judge, was a member of a highly assimilated family. He recalls some experiences of his youth, which laid the foundations of his Zionist convictions.

The Bulletin also carries personal recollections by Esther Calvary (a daughter of Rabbi Dr. Esriel Hildesheimer), Doris Davidsohn, Dr. Ignaz Ziegler (for many years a rabbi in Karlsbad) and by Arthur Freud, who hailed from a small community in Moravia.

AN ALMANAC ON JEWS IN GERMANY

An Almanac, "Die Juden in Deutschland 1958/9" (Gala Verlag, Hamburg, Fuhlsbuettel, DM.16) has been published recently. It is the second and augmented edition of a book which appeared under the same heading in 1951. The editor is Heinz Ganther. The 587-page book consists partly of original contributions and partly of reprints of essays on various aspects of the Jewish position in Germany, both with regard to the historical and cultural background and to present-day political and social problems. A special chapter lists the organisations established by and for the Jews in Germany, and carries a brief statistical survey of their regional distribution. The publication is of informative value and may be useful to former German Jews, but even more so to non-Jewish readers in Germany who wish to become familiar with the past and present of their Jewish fellow-citizens.

A HISTORY OF COLOGNE JEWRY

On the occasion of the consecration of the Cologne Synagogue, the *Allgemeine*, the weekly of the Jews in Germany, published a special supplement in which the history of the community from the days of the first settlement in the fourth century was described in detail in an article by Dr. E. G. Lowenthal. The publication also carries contributions from Rabbi Dr. Zwi Asaria (Helfgott), Realschullehrer E. Simon, Architect Helmut Goldschmidt, W. Joseph, Wilhelm Unger and Gerhard Felden.

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THE HIGH HOLY-DAYS

GERMAN PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

In his New Year message published in the *Allgemeine*, Federal President Heinrich Lübke expresses the hope that the auspicious beginnings of harmonious relationships between Jews and Gentiles in Germany, will develop further in the course of the New Year. The paper also carries messages from Federal Chancellor Dr. Adenauer and a number of Ministers and leading politicians.

ZENTRALRAT'S MESSAGE

In its Rosh Hashana message to the Jewish communities in Germany, the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany states that, in the past year, there were indications that the forces of evil in Germany had by no means vanished. It was the responsibility of the surviving Jews in Germany, who had witnessed the atrocities, to be on guard. On the other hand, the message states, the re-erection of synagogues and other communal institutions indicated favourable developments.

FASANENSTRASSE SYNAGOGUE CONSECRATED

On the eve of the New Year the large hall of the newly erected Fasanenstrasse centre was consecrated as a synagogue. The sermon at the service was delivered by Rabbi Dr. Salzberger, and addresses were also given by the Chairman of the community, Heinz Galinski; the General Secretary of the Zentralrat, Dr. H. G. van Dam; and by a representative of the Senate, Mayor Franz Amrehn.

Messages received by the Board of the community on the occasion included one from the Council of Jews from Germany (London) in which the consecration of the communal centre is regarded as a symbol of the reconstruction of the Jewish community, which, due to the energy of its Board and the active participation of the authorities, again holds an important place in German Jewry.

GREETINGS TO AUSTRIAN JEWS

For the first time in the history of the Austrian Jewish community members of the Austrian Government sent official New Year greetings to the Jewish community. In his message Federal Chancellor Raab recalled the contribution of Austrian Jews to the culture and economy of the country. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Pittermann expressed his regret that the indemnification claims of the Jewish community have still not yet been settled, and promised his continued support for their claims.

Messages were also received from the two Presidents of the Austrian Parliament, the Mayor of Vienna and the Ministers for the Interior, Social Welfare and Education.

SERVICES IN GERMANY

Religious services were held in more than forty German towns on the occasion of the High Festivals.

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