

ISSUED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

Report on AJR Board Meeting

More than 70 Board members from London and the Provinces were present at the annual AJR Board Meeting held in London on January 28th. They were welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. H. Reichmann, who presided. In his introductory address, Mr. Reichmann paid tribute to two Hon. Officers who had passed away, Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld, an Executive member since the AJR's inception and one of the most prominent refugees from Austria, and Mr. E. Berent, Board Member of the AJR and Hon. Secretary of the Council of Jews from Germany. He also recalled the departure of two other personalities to whom our community was indebted, Mr. Leonard G. Montefiore who had always displayed particular understanding for the Jews from Germany, and Dr. Bruno Weil, New York, a courageous fighter for justice and liberty.

In his report on the general activities of the AJR during the year under review, Mr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary, stated that the wide appreciation enjoyed by "AJR Information" had become evident anew when, during the first days of January, many members contacted the Head Office because, owing to the general postal delay, they had not received the paper. The news service has been expanded, but the comparatively limited space at our disposal makes a well-balanced selection of home news and reports on events in Germany and other countries abroad particularly essential. As the AJR is not a political organisation, the paper only publishes editorial statements if questions of specific relevance to the Jews from Germany and Austria are at stake. The number of German-Jewish contributors to "AJR Information" is bound to decrease in the course of time; therefore, the co-operation of authors outside our community will have to be enlisted to a greater extent.

Success in Taxation Question

A signal achievement of the AJR during the past year, the speaker went on, was the U.K. tax exemption for German indemnification annuities. For many years the AJR had worked for the settlement of this issue by repeated negotiations with the authorities and by putting its case before Members of Parliament and other personalities of public standing. These labours have finally borne fruit by the incorporation of the exemption clause into the Finance Act 1961. Apart from the importance of this regulation for those among us who benefit from it, the successful outcome has also proved anew the essential function of the AJR as the representative body which safeguards the interests of our community.

It would be wrong to assume that the social work of the AJR is only centred around the work for the Homes. The activities of the Social Services Department for the benefit of those in our midst who are not accommodated in homes may be less conspicuous, but is of equal importance. They practically cover all problems which concern members of our community. One of them is the accommodation problem. Many landlords are reluctant to accept elderly tenants who are no longer working. It would be greatly appreciated if friends of ours came forward who have to offer rooms to such applicants. Others, who can no longer manage for themselves, have to be put up in boarding-houses: here, one of the difficulties arises from the fact that several Continental boarding-houses have closed down owing to the retirement of their owners. Lastly, there is the problem of the so-called borderline cases which manifests itself not only as an accommodation

problem. Persons suffering from mental difficulties receive expert guidance during consulting hours, especially arranged for them. The speaker paid tribute to Self-Aid, with which the AJR Social Services Department is closely co-operating.

The AJR Employment Agency (annually licensed by the L.C.C.) would appreciate it if still more employers availed themselves of its services, especially when requiring part-time or home workers. The Employment Agency has been successful in providing home help in cases of sickness.

As in previous years, the AJR Club has rendered essential services for many in our midst. The premises at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, are open for informal gatherings in the afternoons and evenings, and there are functions once a month.

The Revolving Fund, initiated and administered by the AJR, has granted loans of a total of £25,000 to compensation claimants at an average of £100 per applicant. Most of these loans have been repaid meanwhile. The work of the Revolving Fund has proved most beneficial.

Contributions under Covenant

Turning to questions of finances the speaker stated that, as far as can be seen before the balance-sheet becomes available, the income and expenditure in 1961 appears to have been about the same as in 1960. The exact figures will be announced after the accounts have been audited. An increase of the income is hoped for by payments under covenant to the AJR Charitable Trust. From these payments and the taxes recovered for them that part of the AJR's activities is to be financed which is charitable in the meaning of the tax regulations, e.g., the Social Services Department and the work for the Homes. The procedure is as follows: Of the annual contribution paid by a member under this new scheme a nominal fee of £1 1s. is retained by the AJR itself which is not charitable in the meaning of the law, because it also safeguards the interests of its members and supplies them with "AJR Information". The other part of the contribution is paid under Covenant to the AJR Charitable Trust which is entitled to recover the tax on it. In this way a member may increase the value of his contribution by about two-thirds without any additional cost to himself. Together with this year's reminders, all members will receive Covenant forms with explanatory notes, and it is hoped that all those who pay income tax at the standard rate will help to make the scheme a success.

The AJR Charitable Trust is also the appropriate instrument for receiving legacies. The AJR Executive attributes particular importance to this aspect of the Trust's functions. The funds from which the constructive schemes in operation are financed are bound to be limited, and the need for looking after our people will go on for a very long time to come. On the other hand, we know that quite a few in our midst are not only willing but even anxious to provide for the less fortunate members of our community.

A report on the homes was given by Mr. A. S. Dresel, Vice-Chairman of the AJR. The three homes at present operating—Otto Schiff House (Netherhall Gardens), Leo Baeck House (The Bishop's Avenue) and Otto Hirsch House (Priory Road, Kew)—with a total capacity of 133 residents, are fully occupied. A fourth Old Age Home, Heinrich Stahl House (also in The Bishop's Avenue) is under construction and will have a

capacity of 54 residents; it is hoped that it will be ready in the autumn. Furthermore, a home for people who need a higher degree of care and attention is being erected on the site of Leo Baeck House. This Home, Osmond House, will provide accommodation for 37 persons, partly in wards, partly in single and double rooms. The building work will be completed in the course of the summer. This home will be filled only gradually as staff becomes available.

The waiting-list comprises several hundred applicants, of whom about 80-100 are particularly urgent. As the capacity of Heinrich Stahl House amounts to 54 persons, it will be necessary to scrutinise even this short list. The waiting-list for Osmond House also exceeds the number of beds available. Nevertheless, the establishment of the two new homes will, of course, considerably ease the present position.

In view of the limited accommodation available, all things being equal, people with no or little income or capital have to be given priority. The effect is that, so far, it has not been possible to regard applicants as eligible if their current pensions or capital assets are comparatively high.

The speaker then dealt with the flatlet scheme for elderly people. Last year, a project approved by the Committee in charge did not come off because the property was sold at a considerably higher price while our negotiations were still going on. At present, several offers are under close consideration. It is, however, not yet possible to foretell the outcome. Mr. Dresel stressed that the Executive was well aware of the urgency of the scheme and that everything possible would be done to put it into effect.

In a brief report on questions of restitution and compensation Mr. F. Goldschmidt (Chief Legal Adviser of U.R.O. and representative of the Council of Jews from Germany at the Legal Committee of the Claims Conference) stated that the main legislative demands of the Jews from Germany had been summed up in the article by Dr. W. Breslauer published in the December 1961 issue of "AJR Information". He singled out two demands as particularly important: Pension rights for widows whose husbands had died before November 1, 1953, and the elimination of the anomaly affecting the heirs of certain groups of persecutees who had died prior to their emigration.

In the ensuing discussion the following Board members spoke: Dr. H. Fleischhacker, Dr. E. Gould, Mr. Z. M. Reid, Rabbi Dr. M. Eschelbacher, Dr. W. Dux, Mr. J. Singer (Glasgow), Mr. L. K. Sonneborn (Manchester), Mr. H. J. Reifenberg, and Dr. P. Chapp. Two questions played a special part in the debate: the admission to the homes of applicants with assets, and the implementation of the flatlet scheme. Several speakers pointed out that for many applicants with means accommodation in boarding-houses could not be an alternative solution, because there they could not always obtain the required

Continued on page 2, column 1

OESTERREICHISCHER ABGELTUNGSFONDS

WARTEN SIE NICHT !

Es ist zu Ihrem Vorteil, wenn Sie die Anmeldung Ihrer Ansprüche an den Fonds zur Abgeltung von Vermögensverlusten politisch Verfolgter, Wien 11, Taborstr 2-6 so rasch wie moeglich vornehmen. Einzelheiten sind auf Seite 13 veroeffentlicht.

Dr. C. Kapralik

OESTERREICHISCHE SOZIALVERSICHERUNG

Bedeutsame Aenderungen

I. Gewerbliches-Selbstaeundigen Pensionsversicherungsgesetz (GSPVG)

An dieser Stelle berichteten wir in der Ausgabe vom Januar, 1960, ueber das obige Gesetz. Die Bestimmungen und die Bedeutung dieses Gesetzes sind jedoch noch immer verhaeltnismaessig wenig bekannt, sodass es zweckmaessig erscheint, das Wesentlichste hervorzuheben.

Das Gesetz hat ein die Sozialversicherung der Angestellten ergaenzendes, umfassendes System der Sozialversicherung selbstaeundig Erwerbstaetiger geschaffen. Es stellt eine beachtliche Weiterentwicklung der oesterreichischen Sozialversicherung dar, da ja bekanntlich bis zu dessen Erlassung selbstaeundig Erwerbstaetige nicht der Vorteile der Sozialversicherung teilhaft werden konnten.

Unter die Bestimmungen des Gesetzes fallen selbstaeundige Kaufleute, Industrielle, Gewerbetreibende, Wirtschaftstreuhander, Dentisten, freiberuflich taetige Journalisten und Kuenstler.

Das Gesetz sieht u.a. vor: (a) Renten fuer den Fall der Erwerbsunfaehigkeit; (b) Altersrenten bei Erreichung des 65. Lebensjahres (bei Frauen des 60. Lebensjahres) sofern die Versicherte die im Gesetz vorgeschriebene Wartezeit erfuehlt hat und nicht mehr selbstaeundig erwerbstaetig ist.

Fuer die Emigration ist vor allem von Bedeutung, dass die Wartezeit auf Altersrente erfuehlt ist, wenn am Stichtag mindestens 180 Versicherungsmonate vorliegen; diese Versicherungsmonate muessen innerhalb der letzten 240 Kalendermonate vor dem Stichtag liegen. Als Stichtag gilt der Tag der Antragstellung auf Zuerkennung der Altersrente; die Antragstellung kann erst bei Erreichung der Altersgrenze und Aufgabe der selbstaeundigen Erwerbstaetigkeit erfolgen. Als Versicherungsmonat gilt jeder Monat einer Beitrags- oder Ersatzzeit.

Fuer die Naziopfer sind ferner von besonderer Bedeutung die Bestimmungen des § 62(1) des GSPVG in der Fassung der Novelle vom Maerz 1959, wonach als Ersatzzeiten, fuer die demnach keinerlei Beitrage geleistet werden muessen, insbesondere gelten:

(a) nach Vollendung des 24. Lebensjahres im Gebiete der Republik Oesterreich zurueckgelegte Zeiten einer selbstaeundigen Erwerbstaetigkeit, die bei fruherem Wirksamkeitsbeginn dieses Bundesgesetzes die Pflichtversicherung in der Pensionsversicherung nach diesem Bundesgesetz begruendete haette;

(b) Zeiten vor dem 1. April, 1959, in denen der Versicherte aus politischen oder religioesen Gruenden oder aus Gruenden der Abstammung, auch wegen Auswanderung aus den angefuhrten Gruenden, daran gehindert war, seine selbstaeundige Erwerbstaetigkeit im Sinne des Punktes (a) fortzusetzen;

(c) Zeiten, in denen der Versicherte im Zeitraum von 1. Jaenner, 1939, bis 9. Mai, 1945, durch behoerdliche Massnahmen an der Ausuebung seiner selbstaeundigen Erwerbstaetigkeit gehindert war.

Die meisten Naziopfer, die selbstaeundig erwerbs-

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degree of attendance. Mr. Dresel, in his reply, stated that as long as people in urgent need of care and attention without means were not accommodated, others would have to wait. Whether and to what extent the position might change could not be foretold at this juncture. In answer to questions concerning the flatlet scheme Mr. Dresel stated that most of the potential residents had relatives and friends in or near the North Western area and wished to remain in contact with them. Therefore, the search for a property had so far been concentrated in these districts. However, if it should turn out that all efforts failed it would become necessary to look for sites further afield.

After the conclusion of the debate, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal (London/Frankfurt) gave a vivid report on his recent journey to South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and several Asian countries.

taetig waren, werden in der Lage sein, die Erfuehlung der Wartezeit im Wege von Ersatzzeiten nachzuweisen. In manchen Faellen kann sich die Notwendigkeit einer freiwilligen Weiterversicherung ergeben, um die fuer die Wartezeit notwendige Zahl von Versicherungsmonaten zu erreichen. Diesbezuglich sei auf § 5(5) der juengst erlassenen 5. Novelle zum GSPVG (BGBl. Nr. 14 vom 11. Jaenner, 1962) verwiesen, der lautet:

"Personen, die 120 Beitragsmonate in einer oder mehreren der im Abs. 1 genannten Pensionsversicherungen erworben haben, koennen das Recht auf Weiterversicherung jederzeit geltend machen oder eine beendete Weiterversicherung erneuern."

In unseren fruheren Ausfuehrungen verwiesen wir darauf, dass gemass den Bestimmungen des § 37 des Gesetzes die Leistungsansprueche zu ruhen hatten so lange der Anspruchsberechtigte sich im Auslande aufhaelt. Die Sozialversicherungsexperten des Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria haben in Verhandlungen mit der oesterreichischen Bundesregierung gegen den diskriminierenden Charakter dieser Bestimmung, die sich zum Nachteil derjenigen auswirkte, die Oesterreich unter dem Nazi-Terror verlassen mussten, nachdruecklichst Einspruch erhoben. Es ist erfreulich, dass diese Schwierigkeit ueberwunden werden konnte. Im Sinne der von der oesterreichischen Bundesregierung gegebenen Zusicherungen hat nunmehr das oesterreichische Parlament in der oben zitierten 5. Novelle zum GSPVG den § 37 des Gesetzes dahin abgeaendert, dass ein Ruhen der Rentenansprueche nicht eintritt, wenn der Berechtigte in der Zeit vom 4. Maerz, 1933, bis 9. Mai, 1945, aus politischen oder religioesen Gruenden oder aus Gruenden der Abstammung ausgewandert ist. Diese Bestimmung ist gemass Artikel IV(2) (a) rueckwirkend ab 1. Juli, 1958.

Die Pensionsversicherungsanstalt der Gewerblichen Wirtschaft hatte sich auf den Standpunkt gestellt, dass sie nur die Minimalpensionen zahlen koenne, soweit nicht das tatsaechliche Einkommen der Vorkriegsjahre durch Steuervorschreibungen nachgewiesen wird. Da die Wenigsten im Besitze solcher Steuervorschreibungen waren, und ueberdies die meisten Steuerakte vernichtet worden sind, ergaben sich dadurch Schwierigkeiten in der Frage der Bemessung der Pensionen. Der Standpunkt der Pensionsversicherungsanstalt wurde von der URO erfolgreich bekaempft; in einer Reihe von Faellen sind bereits Urteile des Schiedsgerichtes ergangen, die in Anerkennung des Beweisnotzustandes, in dem sich die betreffenden Personen befinden, andere Beweisgrundlagen, z.B. Zeugenaussagen, als zulaessig anerkannt haben.

Es wird daher dringend empfohlen, dass:

(a) alle Emigranten, die noch nicht um die Zuerkennung der Pension eingekommen sind, nunmehr unverzueglich einen entsprechenden Antrag an die Pensionsversicherungsanstalt der Gewerblichen Wirtschaft, Wien IX., Berggasse 16, richten;

(b) alle diejenigen, denen bereits eine Pension zuerkannt worden ist, um sofortige Ueberweisung der Pension rueckwirkend ab 1. Juli, 1958, auf ein bei einer oesterreichischen Bank von ihnen zu eroeffnendes Konto ansuchen. Ueberweisungen von solchen Konti ins Ausland werden ohne weiteres von der Oesterreichischen Nationalbank bewilligt.

II. Allgemeines Sozialversicherungsgesetz (ASVG)

Am 11. Jaenner, 1962, ist die 9. Novelle zum ASVG in Kraft getreten (BGBl. 13 vom 11. Jaenner, 1962). Es sei im Folgenden auf die fuer die Emigration wichtigsten Bestimmungen dieser Novelle hingewiesen:

Die bisherige Regelung der Frage der freiwilligen Weiterversicherung hat zu Zweifeln und einer vor ca. einem Jahr erflossenen unguenstigen Entscheidung des Verwaltungs-

gerichtshofes Anlass gegeben. Diese Schwierigkeiten wurden nunmehr durch eine Aenderung des § 17 aus dem Wege geraeumt, dessen Absatz (5) nunmehr lautet:

"Personen, die 120 Beitragsmonate in einer oder mehreren der in Abs. 1 genannten Pensions (Renten) versicherungen erworben haben, koennen das Recht auf Weiterversicherung jederzeit geltend machen oder eine beendete Weiterversicherung erneuern".

Wie aus Obigem ersichtlich, koennen Personen, die 120 Beitragsmonate erworben haben, das Recht auf Weiterversicherung jederzeit erneuern. Die Ruhensbestimmungen des § 94, Abs. (1), wurden geaendert und teilweises Ruhen der Pension wird ab 1. Jaenner 1962 nicht nur bei einer gleichzeitig ausgeuebten unselbstaeundigen Erwerbstaetigkeit eintreten, sondern auch wenn der Berechtigte selbstaeundig erwerbstaetig ist. Diese von der Sozialistischen Partei verfochtene Aenderung soll die Ungleichheit in der Behandlung der unselbstaeundig und selbstaeundig Erwerbstaetigen beseitigen.

Der neugefasste § 502, Abs. (1), letzter Satz, verfuegt, dass amtlich bestaetigte Zeiten des Militaerdienstes in der bewaffneten Macht einer der alliierten Armeen in der Zeit vom 26. August, 1939, bis zum 9. Mai, 1945, als volle Ersatzzeiten zu gelten haben. Es wird empfohlen, dass entsprechende Antraege, die zu einer gewissen Aufbesserung der Pension fuehren werden, von den Betroffenen bei der Pensionsanstalt gestellt werden.

Der bisherige Wortlaut des § 503 enthaelt eine Sonderbestimmung fuer Personen, die zwar in Oesterreich sesshaft und als Angestellte taetig waren, jedoch nicht oesterreichische Staatsbuenger waren. Diese Personen konnten die Pension in das Ausland nur dann ueberwiesen erhalten, wenn sie zumindest 180 Beitragsmonate vor ihrer Auswanderung aufweisen konnten. Der neugefasste § 503 hat diese Einschraenkung eliminiert und der betreffende Personenkreis wird nunmehr in jeder Hinsicht so behandelt werden, als ob sie oesterreichische Staatsbuenger gewesen waeren.

In diesem Zusammenhang sei bemerkt, dass die Frist fuer Antraege auf beguengigte Anrechnung der Emigrationszeit neu eroeffnet wurde; Antraege auf Beguenstigung nach den §§ 501 und 502 koennen nunmehr bis zum 31. Dezember, 1962, gestellt werden.

Es sei schliesslich noch auf den novellierten § 542 verwiesen, dessen Absatz 1 nunmehr lauten wird:

"Weibliche Versicherte, denen in der Rentenversicherung aus Anlass der Verheiratung Beitrage erstattet worden sind und die aus einem der in § 500, Abs. 1, angefuhrten Gruende binnen 18 Monaten nach Stellung des Antrages auf Erstattung der Beitrage ausgewandert sind, koennen bis zum 31. Dezember, 1962, durch zinsenlose Rueckzahlung des sechsfachen Erstattungsbetrages die durch die erstatteten Beitrage seinerzeit erworbenen Anwartschaften zurueckerwerben. Teilzahlungen sind nach Massgabe des § 502, Abs. 2, zweiter und dritter Satz, zu bewilligen".

Wir bitten alle unsere Leser ihre oesterreichischen Freunde auf den Inhalt dieses Artikels aufmerksam zu machen. Es ist wichtig, dass insbesondere die neu eroeffnete Frist fuer Antraege auf Beguenstigung der Emigrationszeit nicht versaeumt wird und dass Emigranten aus Oesterreich von den ihnen durch die Novellierung des GSPVG und des ASVG gegebenen Moeglichkeiten Gebrauch machen.

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TRIBUTE TO KURT ALEXANDER

It is learned with deepest regret that Dr. Kurt Alexander suddenly passed away in New York on February 18 at the age of 69. He fell dead in the middle of an address he gave at a Memorial Meeting for the late Dr. Frederick Aron.

Among the numerous causes with which Kurt Alexander was associated in prominent positions during a full and active life, the AJR has a special place, and the history of our organisation is inseparably linked with his name.

His part in the development of the AJR may be divided into three phases: He was a founder member in 1941, he worked as the General Secretary from 1943 until he re-emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1949, and he helped to establish two offshoots of the AJR, the Council of Jews from Germany and the United Restitution Office.

It was early in 1941, after most of our people had been released from the internment camps, that nine men who had held leading positions of one kind or another in Jewish life in Germany started the preparatory work for the creation of a representative body of the Jewish refugees from Germany. One of them was Kurt Alexander, who had been a member of the Presidium of the Reichsvertretung and a Vice-Chairman of the Central-Verein. Like the other initiators, he became a member of the Executive after the preparations had resulted in the foundation of the AJR.

Yet his chief impact on the AJR began when, in 1943, he agreed to become the Association's General Secretary. During the preceding first two years of our existence, the internal organisation had been gradually consolidated: thanks to the solidarity of the Jews from Germany wide sections of the community had become its members. Now a stage had been reached where we had to intensify our external activities. Officials, parliamentarians, other personalities of public standing, and the Press had to be made aware of our special problems as "enemy aliens" and of our post-war hopes. It was in the first place Kurt Alexander who built up or strengthened these contacts and who thus helped to pave the way for the permanent settlement in this country of the refugees, many of whom had originally been admitted as transmigrants. By his spadework he

also enhanced the reputation of the AJR as a trustworthy and reliable body—an achievement from which we are still reaping the benefits.

Towards the end of the war, the connections with our corresponding organisations in Israel (then Palestine) and the United States resulted in the establishment of the Council of Jews from Germany, with Dr. Leo Baeck as its first President, and Kurt Alexander as its Secretary. Shortly afterwards, the first legislative deliberations in the field of restitution began to take shape. They were closely linked up with the question of providing legal aid in this complicated matter for those who could not afford the professional



services of private lawyers. Alexander conducted many of the difficult negotiations which ultimately led to the foundation of the United Restitution Office, then financially sponsored by the Central British Fund, the American Joint and the Jewish Agency. He was appointed Secretary of U.R.O. which, in the course of the years, has become one of the biggest legal aid societies in human history. Some time after his re-emigration he resumed his activities for U.R.O. and took up an executive position with the New York Office; in this capacity he worked for his fellow-Jews up to the end of his life.

Kurt Alexander's outlook had been shaped by his association with the K.C. students' fraternity and with the C.V. Thus his Jewishness was coupled with an unflinching love for his country of birth. The wounds inflicted on German Jewry were therefore felt by him particularly deeply.

For his work in the interest of the AJR he was equipped with all the qualities one could wish for. He had a sound political instinct and was an adaptable and effective negotiator. He saw the difficulties—and there was certainly no shortage of them—in their proper perspective, and he gathered strength and confidence from the knowledge that ultimately there would be a solution in one way or another. As a most impressive and convincing speaker he always found the right word for the occasion and won many for our cause.

His former colleagues on the AJR Executive and his fellow-workers at Fairfax Mansions have also sustained a great personal loss. He was a lovable personality. His innate optimism created an atmosphere of cheerfulness and comradeship which endeared him to those who worked with or under him. There was even a streak of boyishness in him that enjoyed a joke or an ironical remark on the weak spot of a fellow-man. He had the gift of treating as equals those who were junior or subordinate to him. He remained young in spirit up to the end, as we realised anew when he paid his last visit to London a few months ago.

One of the foremost architects of our organisation has left us. We have lost a comrade in work and a trusted friend. In our sorrow we feel united with his brave wife and helpmate.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK.

(As the news of Mr. Alexander's death reached us when this issue was going to print, further tributes will be published in the next edition.—Ed.)

COMPENSATION NEWS

AUSTRIAN PROPERTY RESTORATION FUND

For some reason it is widely thought that payments by the Property Restoration Fund are limited to S.20,000. This is a mistake, as the amount distributable per case will depend on the number of claims submitted. The payments may, subject to the extent of the admissibility of individual claims, quite considerably exceed the sum of S.20,000.

It is, however, in the interest of all concerned to lodge claims without delay. So far, surprisingly few claims have been received from persons residing in the United Kingdom.

HOECHSTRENTEN FUER BERUFSSCHADEN

Urteil des Bundesverfassungsgerichts

Das Bundesverfassungsgericht hat in einem Urteil vom 13.12.1961 den § 22a der 3. Durchfuhrungsverordnung zum BEG in der Fassung vom 25.2.1960, soweit der Rentenbeginn der Hoehchstrenten fuer Berufsschaden (630.-DM.) auf den 1.4.1959 festgesetzt worden war, fuer verfassungswidrig und damit nichtig erkluert. Nach dem Urteil sind die monatlichen Hoehchstbetruege der Renten in Hoehe von 630.-DM. bereits vom 1.4.1957 an statt erst vom 1.4.1959 an zu zahlen.

Das Urteil des Bundesverfassungsgerichts hat in der Praxis die Wirkung, dass monatlich je DM. 30, fuer die Dauer von 2 Jahren, naemlich vom 1.4.1957 bis 31. Maerz 1959, also insgesamt DM. 720.—, nachgezahlt werden muessen, vorausgesetzt, dass Renten fuer die Zeit ab 1.4.1957 in Bescheiden oder Urteilen bewilligt worden sind.

Fuer Witwenrenten ermaessigt sich der nachzuzahlende Betrag fuer 24 Monate auf DM. 432.—.

Die Urteilsformel ist im Bundesgesetzblatt noch nicht abgedruckt und damit noch nicht Gesetz geworden. Sobald dies geschieht, haben sich Behoerden und Gerichte in den schwebenden Verfahren nach dem Urteil des Bundesverfassungsgerichts zu richten.

In den abgeschlossenen Verfahren wird die Zahlung der Differenzbetruege von amtswegen geschehen.

"ZUM WIEDERGUTMACHUNGS-SCHLUSSGESETZ"

Infolge eines bedauerlichen drucktechnischen Versehens sind in der vorigen Ausgabe bei der Wiedergabe des Artikels von Dr. Robert Herrmann im letzten Absatz einige Worte ausgefallen. Wir bitten, dies zu entschuldigen und veroeffentlichen im folgenden den vollen Wortlaut des Schlussabsatzes in seiner richtigen Fassung:

"Selbst wenn alle vorstehend angefuhrten Maengel des Gesetzes beseitigt werden, was ich hoffen will, so wird noch immer nicht gesagt werden koennen, dass das BEG die Schaeden, welche den deutschsprachigen Juden aus Mitteleuropa im Zuge der Naziverfolgung zugefuegt wurden, mit vollen Haenden gutgemacht hat. Doch waeren dadurch viele Haerten beseitigt, die nach dem gegenwaertigen Stand der Dinge in jedem einzelnen Betroffenen ein berechtigtes Gefuehl der Bitterkeit ausloesen und die den schon aus der Praeambel des Gesetzes hervorleuchtenden loeblichen Grundgedanken des Wiedergutmachungswerkes ueberfluessigerweise beschatten."

CLAIMS OF NATIONAL PERSECUTEES

Deadline March 31, 1962

As reported in November, 1960, and June, 1961, an agreement has been concluded between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Federal German Government, according to which refugees who were persecuted by reason of their nationality ("Nationalverfolgte", BEG Par. 167/8) may, under certain circumstances, claim further compensation or apply for grants. The time limit for these applications, originally fixed at December 31, 1961, has been extended to March 31, 1962.

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THE GERMAN SCENE

NEW RIGHT-WING PARTY

A Right-wing radical party has been formed in Hagen by more than 300 former members of the German Reich Party, who left the party in protest against the election of Adolf von Thadden as new Federal Chairman in succession to Professor Kunstmann. The new party is known as the German Freedom Party, with Professor Kunstmann as Chairman.

Professor Kunstmann has claimed that the new party is not a rallying point for former S.S. generals and Nazi elements. Its chief aim, he stated, was "a free Germany in a free world". However, it is expected that the German Freedom Party will steer a more radical course than the German Reich Party. Many of its members felt that von Thadden was "too moderate" and tended to co-operate with less radical forces in Germany.—(J.C.)

GERMAN CITY HONOURS VICTIMS' MEMORY

The German city of Oberhausen has decided to mark its centenary this year by establishing scholarships for Israeli orphans. The city's council will also publish a memorial book to honour the memory of "our former Jewish citizens, victims of Nazi persecution, whose tragic fate fills us with deep shame and mourning".

Invitations have been sent to former residents of the town living in Israel to visit their home town for the centenary celebrations.

The Oberhausen municipality will also participate in planting a forest in Israel in honour of Dean Heinrich Grueber.—(J.C.)

ASYLUM FOR ZIND

Italian Court Refuses Extradition

The Court of Cassation, the highest judicial in Italy, has made public the text of the verdict refusing the request of the Bonn Ministry of Justice for the extradition to Germany of Ludwig Zind, the neo-Nazi schoolmaster.

It will be remembered that Zind was sentenced to a year's imprisonment by a German court, after he and some German students openly praised Nazi antisemitism. Zind escaped abroad and, in August, 1960, four Israeli sailors in Naples recognised him. He was arrested and asked for political asylum in Italy, which was granted.

The Attorney-General appealed against the Court decision, arguing that Nazi antisemitism violated fundamental human rights and that this could not be considered a political offence.

Italian lawyers and the Union of Italian Jewish Communities are studying the case in the hope of finding sound legal arguments for extradition. [Jewish circles in Italy are bitter about the decision, which accords political protection to a Nazi already condemned by a German court.]—(J.C.)

DESECRATION OF CEMETERY

At the Jewish cemetery of Barsinghausen near Hanover, 23 tombstones were turned over and some of them destroyed. Police investigations were started immediately, but the offenders have not yet been found.

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PROTESTANTS DISCUSS JEWISH

QUESTION

On the 20th anniversary of the so-called Wannsee Conference at which the "Final Solution" of the Jewish question was decided by the Nazi leaders, the Evangelische Akademie Berlin held its annual conference on Christian-Jewish relationship in its Haus am Kleinen Wannsee. The terrible happenings of the past were thus symbolically linked up with the efforts to overcome their aftermath. Eight speakers dealt with the subject from the historical, theological and political angle. One of them, Oberstaatsanwalt Schuele, Head of the Zentralstelle zur Aufklaerung on NS-Verbrechen in Ludwigsburg, mentioned that about 950 proceedings against former Nazi criminals had still to be conducted.

"ZENTRALRAT" WARNS OF NEO-NAZI PRESS

At its Conference in Munich, the "Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland" expressed anxiety at the steadily growing number of neo-Nazi periodicals. These publications tended to minimise the crimes of the Nazi régime, to belittle the Jewish losses and to discredit the Jewish community in a shameless manner. They also had a calamitous effect on the German youth which had no experience in the Nazi brutalities. Their habit of referring to reliable and trustworthy dailies as "Lizenzpresse" was reminiscent of the Nazi method of describing the Weimar period as "Systemzeit". By their actions, the efforts of genuine German democrats to restore Germany's reputation were jeopardised. In the same way, the activities of Jewish organisations in Germany in the interest of peace and understanding were affected.

ERICH LUETH 60

Erich Lueth, the initiator of the "Peace with Israel" movement in Germany, recently celebrated his 60th birthday in Hamburg. He was one of the first Germans who tried to impress on his fellow-Germans the moral duty of trying to atone for the happenings under the Nazi régime. His share in the efforts to "overcome the past" is reflected in many speeches and articles and several brochures. He also fought against the comeback of Veit Harlan, the "Jud Sues" producer. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Erich Lueth.

AWARD FOR DR. H. G. VAN DAM

The Grand Federal Cross of Merit was awarded to the General Secretary of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland, Dr. H. G. van Dam, in recognition of his work for the reconstruction of Jewish life in Germany and for inter-denominational understanding.

ANTISEMITIC BOOK CONFISCATED

The Munich court has ordered the confiscation of copies of "Israel—Dream and Reality", written by an Austrian, Dr. F. J. Scheidl, of Vienna. The book has been on sale throughout Germany and claims to give an assessment of the Middle East situation. The court held that numerous anti-Jewish and anti-Israel passages in the book violated the German law against incitement and the spread of racial and national hatred.—(J.C.)

NEW PASSION PLAY

Herr Raimund Lang, Mayor of Oberammergau, has announced that the text of the Oberammergau Passion Play, which has been attacked for its strong anti-Jewish tendencies, is to be rewritten and "brought up to modern standards".

The Passion Play is performed once every ten years, and is witnessed by thousands of visitors to Germany. It was last performed in 1960. The play has been revised and rewritten six times in its 330-year-old history, and was last revised 100 years ago. The local organisers, answering criticism of the play's anti-Jewish sentiments, claim that it is based purely on religious motifs and has nothing to do with antisemitism.—(J.C.)

PROSECUTION OF NAZI CRIMINALS

Official Statistics

The Federal Ministry of Justice has published a booklet on the prosecution of Nazi criminals. The report reveals that Allied courts in Germany convicted 5,025 Nazis, 806 of whom were sentenced to death. The West German authorities up to March, 1961, conducted proceedings against 12,715 persons. Of this number, about 10,000 were tried, 5,372 sentenced, and 4,011 acquitted. The proceedings against the remainder were stopped for various reasons, including amnesty regulations and the statute of limitations. It is estimated that the number of Nazi criminals who escaped abroad "probably did not exceed 150".

Explaining why only a small number of Nazi criminals were tried between 1953 and 1958 (when the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes was established at Ludwigsburg), the Ministry said that by 1953 a very large number of cases had been decided, with more than 9,000 Germans sentenced by German and Allied courts. Many Nazi criminals had died in the meantime. Many were living under assumed names. When, in 1956, the Soviet Union released several thousand German prisoners of war, proceedings were started against many of them, including the supervisors of Sachsenhausen and other concentration camps.

In 1958 the investigation of Nazi crimes was finally co-ordinated by the Central Agency at Ludwigsburg and resulted in proceedings against a large number of suspects.

HIMMLER'S ADJUTANT ARRESTED

The Munich prosecutor has opened investigations against the former S.S.-Obergruppenfuhrer Karl Wolff, who is suspected of having been an accessory to the murder of Jews in occupied Eastern territories. Wolff was arrested by order of the Weilheim Law Court. He became known during the last months of the war, when, behind the back of Himmler, he negotiated with the Allies about the capitulation of German forces in Italy. The negotiations, carried out by him in Switzerland as "authorised general" of the German army, had no result. From 1936 to 1943, Wolff was Chief of Staff and for some time adjutant to S.S. leader Himmler. In 1949 the Bergedorf Criminal Court sentenced him to four years' imprisonment because of his membership with the S.S. However, as his previous internment of almost four years was taken into account, he was released. Wolff worked as an advertising agent and lived near the Starnberg Lake.

EICHMANN AIDE RELEASED

The Vienna provincial court has released Alfred Josef Slavik, a former collaborator with Eichmann, and has dropped charges against him as a murder suspect.

Slavik, arrested last June, was alleged to have helped Eichmann murder a Jewish boy in Budapest during the war. Eichmann was acquitted on the charge of murdering the boy.—(J.C.)

"EINSATZKOMMANDO" TRIAL

Appeals Lodged

The prosecutor as well as defence counsel of Erich Ehrlinger, head of Einsatzkommando 1b, have lodged appeals against the judgment of the Karlsruhe Court. As reported in our previous issue, Ehrlinger and two of his henchmen had been found guilty and four other defendants were acquitted.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST JUDGE

An appeal by Senatspraesident Michaelis of the Landessozialgericht in Schleswig was rejected by the Supreme Disciplinary Court for Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. The Lower Disciplinary Court in Schleswig had sentenced Michaelis to a reduction of his salary by ten per cent for two years, because, in spite of trials by a fellow-judge, he had failed to clarify the identity of the former euthanasia Professor Dr. Heyde who worked in Schleswig-Holstein under the assumed name of Dr. Sawade.

HOME NEWS

NO PROGRESS ON RACE BILL

Discussion in the Commons on Mr. Fenner Brockway's Racial Discrimination and Incitement Bill has so far been blocked by a number of back-benchers. Its passage could be assured only if the Government grants special facilities for it.

An appeal to the Government to step in and help Mr. Brockway has been made by several M.P.s. Mr. Macleod, Leader of the House, thought it was a dangerous practice to give special precedence to Private Members' Bills. He also thought that these matters were appallingly difficult to deal with by legislation, as many countries had found.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS CONFERENCE

Resolutions on Germany and Soviet Russia

The bi-annual conference of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress passed a resolution declaring "fundamental opposition to the supply of nuclear weapons to Germany under any conditions".

Another resolution, carried almost unanimously, expressed strong protests against the training of German troops (including former Nazi officers) on British soil. Objections to the resolution were raised by Dr. F. E. Falk (Theodor Herzl Society). As a victim of Nazi persecution, Dr. Falk said, he had every right to be emotional on the question involved. However, he felt that the effectiveness of any resolution passed did not depend on its emotional content but upon whether the resolution expressed a view which impressed itself upon public opinion in Britain and in the world.

A resolution on Soviet Russia which was unanimously adopted appealed to the leaders of the Soviet Union to remove all disabilities from Jewish religious and communal life and urged that Jews be given the opportunity, if they so desire, to rejoin their families and fellow-Jews in Israel.

By a majority resolution, the conference deplored the Commonwealth Immigration Bill, "which would be widely regarded as discrimination based on race and colour prejudice".

C.B.F. GRANTS

The Allocations Committee of the Central British Fund granted over £80,000 to organisations and institutions in 1961. The committee is in charge of distributing part of the funds recovered by the Jewish Trust Corporation out of the heirless, unclaimed and communal Jewish property in the former British Zone of Germany. The Chairman is Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, and there are, in addition, four representatives of the C.B.F., three of the AJR and one each of five other organisations.

As readers are aware, part of these funds are used for the erection and running costs of the Old Age Homes (jointly administered with the AJR).

Grants include an amount of £22,000 to Self-Aid of Refugees; £10,000 for the Jewish Blind Society towards its work for blind refugees; about £10,000 for sending parcels to needy Jews in various parts of the world; £5,100 to the Wiener Library and grants for various religious, relief and cultural purposes. An amount of £2,500 was also given to the AJR towards the costs for the promotion of its social programme.

HENDON LINK WITH TEMPELHOF

The Hendon Council's General Purposes Committee has recommended that an official party from Tempelhof, led by its Burgomaster, should come to Hendon in June or July, in return for a visit paid by Hendon Council members and officials last September, and that a party of German young people should be welcomed here in the summer.

Several Councillors expressed dissatisfaction with the position, saying that even though the link has been officially forged, it should now be abandoned in deference to the Jewish ratepayers. The recommendation to invite a party from Tempelhof was, however, carried.

APPEAL TO JOIN C.N.D.

The Rev. Saul Amias, co-Chairman of the Jewish Group in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, spoke on "The Jew and Disarmament" at the Southgate and District Liberal Synagogue recently. It was important, he said, that religious groups should have a positive opinion on this matter. The Jews, who were always first at the receiving end of man's inhumanity to man, must be among the first who are determined to preserve the dignity of man, he said.

BRIGADIER D'AVIGDOR-GOLDSMID PROMOTED

A War Office announcement states that Brigadier James A. d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, at present Deputy Commander, Aldershot District, is to be appointed Director, Royal Armoured Corps, next October, with the rank of Major-General. See *The Jewish Chronicle*, February 16, page 39.

MARRIAGE AND SEX IN RELIGION

At a meeting of the London Society of Christians and Jews, the Jewish and Christian attitudes towards marriage and divorce were discussed.

Mrs. Rose Hacker, of the L.C.C., said that rabbinical and Talmudic literature showed that the loving atmosphere created in the home, rather than the physical conditions, was of the greatest importance for the well-being of a family. The Rev. Dr. A. R. Winnett, Vicar of Grayshott and Canon of Guildford, stated that a great change had taken place in Christian thought in modern times concerning marriage. He referred to the more positive and realistic approach towards sex and marriage and the educational work being done by all sections of the Christian Church in the field of personal relations and preparation for marriage.

ISRAELI STUDENTS

In accordance with a new policy adopted by the Executive of the Association of Israeli Students in Britain and Eire to improve the relationship between the students and the Anglo-Jewish community, a number of Israeli students have visited the Hampstead Synagogue. A series of "At Homes" is also planned, at which Israeli students will spend evenings at the homes of Anglo-Jewish families.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Controversy About Jews' College

The Hon. Ewen E. S. Montagu, Q.C., making a statement to the Council of the United Synagogue at its meeting recently, described the controversy which has arisen from the Chief Rabbi's refusal to sanction the appointment of Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs as Principal of Jews' College, as "the most serious crisis in Anglo-Jewry for over a quarter of a century".

The President told the Council that he was worried lest, if the Chief Rabbi should issue a final veto, the prestige of the Chief Rabbinate will suffer. "My hope is that he will not exercise his veto", the President stated.

The Dayanim of the London Beth Din, in a statement issued to *The Jewish Chronicle*, took Mr. Montagu to task for the views he expressed. Those views, the Dayanim stated, were "calculated to undermine the authority and foundations of the Court of the Chief Rabbi" and to "damage the unity of Anglo-Jewry". They gave what is purported to be the Chief Rabbi's "particular reason" why Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs was not considered suitable for the post of Principal of Jews' College. He is accused of rejecting the doctrine that the whole Torah was Divinely inspired, and of a compromising attitude to Biblical criticism.

Mr. Montagu called the Dayanim's pronouncement "deplorable" and accused them of making the "appalling burden" of the Chief Rabbi's office so much heavier.—(J.C.)

Board's Horror at Vilna Death Sentences

Members of the Board of Deputies expressed their horror at the death sentences on four Vilna Jews (including one woman) for alleged currency offences. The President, Sir Barnett Janner, M.P., appealed to the Russian authorities for the "remission of capital sentences and for a reversal generally of their present harsh and discriminatory measures against Jews".

Jewish Music Month

Jewish Music Month began on January 20th. Liturgical and classical concerts for youth were among the items included. The Month opened with a concert of Jewish folk-music at the Wigmore Hall. Lectures were given on "The Jewish Influence in Music" and on "The Origin of Jewish Music".

Epstein Head

A bronze head of Sir Jacob Epstein, believed to be the only one of the sculptor with the exception of his self-portrait, realised 200 guineas at the 16th Blue and White Ball of the Jewish National Fund.

Pianist for Moscow

Allan Schiller, the young Leeds pianist who, in 1954, made headlines with his performances at the age of eleven, has accepted an invitation to become a student at the Moscow Conservatoire. The 18-year-old pianist has already begun his two-year stay in Moscow.

Photographer David Kossoff

David Kossoff, a keen photographer, was the guest speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Anglo-Israel Photographic Society. Mr. Kossoff has also become a member of the Society.

Council of Christians and Jews

Representatives of many Jewish and Christian congregations in Finchley, and an audience of over 200, were present at the inaugural meeting of the Finchley Council of Christians and Jews. The Mayor of Finchley, who presided, emphasised the necessity for starting a local council to eliminate anti-Jewish or anti-Christian feeling. He preferred to see the council set up in a friendly and non-partisan atmosphere and not under the pressure of regrettable events, he said.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

APPEAL AGAINST O.A.S.

Jewish organisations in Paris responded to an appeal by the League of Human Rights to oppose the O.A.S. The President of the League asked all Frenchmen to consider themselves "mobilised for the defence of justice, human rights, and democracy", and called for determined opposition to the "criminal actions of the O.A.S., its agents and accomplices".

M. Christian Pineau, a former Foreign Minister, in an article headed "O.A.S. Means Fascism", warns that the leaders of O.A.S. intend to establish in France a National-Socialist government, similar to that which ruled Germany, and that they are in contact with former Nazis.—(J.C.)

MOROCCAN EXODUS

Two hundred and fifty Jews left Casablanca for Marseilles aboard the French lined "Azrou" in the middle of January, according to reliable sources.

This departure indicated a resumption of emigration, which started last October and which was subsequently stopped by the authorities following a violent Nationalist Press campaign.—(J.C.)

CASABLANCA COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Governor of Casablanca has sanctioned the appointment of a temporary Jewish Community Committee in the city, which has a Jewish population of about 70,000, the largest in Morocco. The new committee, which has 17 members, replaces the previous one, which disintegrated following disputes inside the community.—(J.C.)

DISCRIMINATION IN REVERSE

According to a report from a reliable tourist just returned from Warsaw, a 19-year-old Jewish student in Poland, Berl Lenczner, is shortly to stand trial in Wroclaw. Lenczner addressed a high-ranking East German officer with the words: "Du deutsches Schwein! Raus!"

He was promptly arrested by a Polish officer accompanying the East German officer but released by the local prosecutor. The Security Police had him re-arrested and, upon interrogation, Lenczner said that, seeing a German officer in uniform, all that the Germans had done to his parents and family came to mind. He did not regret his action and stated that he was incapable of making a fine distinction between East and West Germans.

Lenczner was released, but was later ordered to stand trial in Wroclaw.—(J.C.)

SWISS DIPLOMAT WHO SAVED THOUSANDS

In Geneva, a dinner was given by the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency in honour of Mr. Charles Lutz, the Swiss diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps.

While serving as Consul-General in Budapest from 1943 to 1945, Mr. Lutz issued protective letters to thousands of Jews who had collective passports, thus delaying their deportation by Eichmann to concentration camps until they were liberated by Allied forces. When all diplomatic and consular missions (except the Swedish) had left the city, he remained there at the risk of his life, waiving diplomatic regulations, to save the lives of Jews.

Presentations were made to Mr. Lutz at the dinner, and a sum of money was also contributed in his name to be used in further rescue activities for Jewish refugees all over the world.—(J.C.)

ANTISEMITISM IN ITALY

The President and Vice-President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities had an audience with the Minister of Justice in Rome, and requested adequate legislation for the protection of minorities. This follows a number of anti-semitic incidents in Italy.

The Minister expressed his sympathy and and promised to consider the matter at the earliest opportunity.

Recently two young men distributed anti-semitic leaflets in Brescia, a town in Northern Italy, describing Eichmann as a "martyr". A number of non-Jewish lawyers in the town, together with the local branch of the Italian Partisans' Association, appealed to the authorities to take action against the men.—(J.C.)

JEWS AT CATHOLIC ASSEMBLY

For the first time in history, representatives of sixteen religious faiths, including the Jewish, took part in the Agape Feast in Rome. The representatives met to discuss racial prejudice and the causes of religious, cultural and political misunderstanding.

Rabbi E. Toaff, the Chief Rabbi of Rome, told the gathering that no people knew more than Jews that racial prejudice produced tragic consequences. He called for a common front to help young people to take the road which led to justice, appreciation of moral values, and the repudiation of violence.—(J.C.)

DUTCH PRO-NAZI LITERATURE

Former Dutch S.S. officer Paul van Tienen, now manager of a bookshop in The Hague—in effect a centre of German Nazi propaganda literature—sent a number of pamphlets to subscribers to his "Netherlands Archives of the Conservative Revolution". Among them was one alleging that Eichmann never wanted the destruction of the Jews but only to concentrate them in a State of their own.

Simultaneously, Hinag, the organisation of former Dutch Nazis which is distributing the West German S.S. monthly *Der Freiwillige* to its members, announced that this monthly will soon include a supplement in Dutch.—(J.C.)

KU-KLUX-KLAN IN BRAZIL

According to a report published by "Diario da Noite", the Brazilian newspaper, branches of the Ku-Klux-Klan are operating in Brazil's larger cities. The paper alleges that names such as "Vigilantes of the Night" are used, but that the ritual of the branches is the same as that of the K.K.K. Like the Klan, the night raiders wear masks in their attacks on democratic institutions.—(J.C.)

LODZ GHETTO DIARY FOUND

Workmen on the site of the former Auschwitz extermination camp found a 315 page diary, in which the fate of the Jews in Lodz Ghetto is described. The diary, which is written in Hebrew, was preserved in a metal box and its major part is still legible.

SCANDINAVIAN COMMUNITIES

Dr. Marcus Melchior, Chief Rabbi of Denmark, has refuted charges made against the Scandinavian Jewish communities by Rabbi Dr. Mordecai Kirshblum, the American Mizrahi leader. On his return to America from a visit to Scandinavia, Rabbi Kirshblum proposed that a corps of rabbis should be established and sent to Scandinavia to assist Jewish communities, as Jewish life in these countries was "experiencing a grave and critical situation".

Rabbi Melchior declared that Judaism in Scandinavia was in no more a serious or critical situation than in the United States. The Jews of Scandinavia were not more religiously apathetic, ignorant or threatened by assimilation than were the Jews of America.—(J.C.)

FROM THE AMERICAN SCENE

Complaint against Aramco

The New York State Commission Against Discrimination (Scad) has conducted public hearings on a complaint by the American Jewish Congress that the Arabian-American Oil Co. (Aramco) violates the New York State Law against discrimination.

The A.J.C. complained that Aramco questions prospective employees to determine whether they are Jews, and refuses to hire Jews either for employment in Saudi Arabia or in New York City.

Discrimination by Clubs

The Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, investigating 1,152 country and "downtown" clubs in America, has made public the fact that 781 of these (67 per cent) practise religious discrimination. Of these, 691 are "Christian" clubs excluding or limiting Jewish membership, and 90 are "Jewish" clubs excluding or limiting non-Jewish membership. There was, however, "some comfort" in the fact that the remaining 371 clubs (33 per cent), "including some of the most celebrated clubs in the country," had no religious barriers to membership.

Restaurant Picketed

Members of the Baltimore branch of the Habonim movement picketed a Jewish-owned restaurant which had refused service to dark-skinned Yemeni sailors who were on shore leave from an Israeli ship. Although the management had relented and apologized to the sailors, inviting them to a free meal, which invitation was accepted, strong feelings were aroused in the Jewish community. It is anticipated that Reform congregations, which are officially opposed to segregation or any other form of racial discriminations against Negroes, may refuse to hold conventions at the restaurant. It is in any event not patronised by Orthodox and Conservative congregations since it is not kosher.

Right-Wing Groups

The National Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Mr. Benjamin R. Epstein, told the 49th annual meeting of the organisation that, although few of the new extreme Right-wing groups in America openly express antisemitism, "often enough antisemitic innuendoes abound in their private meetings". Mr. Epstein believed that, to some extent, overt expressions of antisemitism had become a "political kiss of death" in the U.S.A. today. As a result the extremists "are practising a degree of sophistication in their public statements".—(J.C.)

ARGENTINE CABINET APPOINTMENT

Sr. Jose Mazar Barnett has been appointed Minister of Public Works in the Argentine. Sr. Barnett is the son of a rabbi and a leader of the Government party. He is a personal friend of President Frondizi. The new Minister has rendered outstanding service to the Jewish community, especially in combating antisemitism.—(J.C.)

RABBINICAL SEMINARY IN LATIN AMERICA

A Rabbinical Seminary for Latin American countries was recently opened in Buenos Aires. The foundation is due to efforts in which the Federation of Central European Congregations in South America ("Centra") took a leading part. The seminary will be run on moderately conservative lines, similar to those of the former Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau.

FORMER LOOT FOR ALASKAN COMMUNITY

A collection of nineteenth century Jewish ritual appurtenances, plundered by the Nazis from European synagogues and salvaged by the U.S.A. occupation forces in Germany, is being sent to Alaska for use by the growing Jewish community, who have a lack of ritual appurtenances.—(J.C.)

TWO RECENT PRESENTATIONS *Old Acquaintances*

ROBERT WELTSCH FESTSCHRIFT

Rarely can a Festschrift have been so appropriate, both in execution and in dedication, as this example of the genre.* Even to those, such as the present reviewer, who have, to their regret, only a passing acquaintance with Robert Weltsch, it must appear not only an abundantly deserved tribute but also a contribution to thought and reflection in its own right. Happy is the man whose 70th birthday can be graced in this way and who can inspire such a work from a distinguished circle of friends.

The work falls into three sections—the first contains a number of articles drawn from such themes as Zionist history, the ideas of Rabbi Kook, Democratic theory and the historical value of the sermon. The contributors include David Baumgardt, Alex Bein, Hugo Bergman, Kurt Wilhelm and Felix Weltsch. The second section is more personal in character with particular contributions by those who have known Weltsch from his earliest years—Hans Kohn, Hans Tramer, Kurt Blumenfeld and others. The third section, finally, has shorter messages of an intimate nature from old friends, and also opponents, of Weltsch: Alfred Wiener, Martin Buber, Ernst Simon, Erich Kahler, Siegfried Moses.

Multifarious Facets

Within the compass of a short review it is not possible to dwell at length on the multifarious facets of Weltsch's life and activities revealed by this Festschrift. But if one must, unfortunately, make an invidious choice amongst these contributions then there are three that seem of outstanding interest and merit. The first is Bein's "Von der Zionssehnsucht zum politischen Zionismus" in which a scholarly analysis is made of the history of the term "Zionism". It does not appear to have been used before 1890, although "Zionist" already existed. But by 1898, as Herzl found out during his discussions with the Kaiser, the term had become a part of current usage. Bein also points out in a footnote the latest evolution in the meaning of Zionism. In Israel it is apparently used to signify empty, platitudinous verbosity or "waffle"—a characteristic symptom of the decline of Zionism as an ideology.

A second contribution of great interest is Baumgardt's "Unverschuldete Verschollenheit und unverdienter Ruhm". This constitutes a provocative re-assessment of Schelling as compared with the relatively neglected Franz von Baader and includes also a critical account of Hermann Cohen's "Religion der Vernunft aus den Quellen des Judentums". Baumgardt is particularly concerned with Cohen's "vague and many-sided" use of the term "reason" so that under its protection "everything possible and impossible can be asserted". Baumgardt also has most interesting remarks to make concerning the Cohen-Rosenzweig relationship.

Lastly, there is the question of Prague, the city in which Weltsch was born and studied. In a substantial contribution Hans Tramer gives a wonderful picture of the city's cultural life and the threefold contribution of Germans, Czechs and Jews. This complements the more personal reminiscences of Hans Kohn who looks back to his common youth with Weltsch as school fellow and fellow-

student. Together these two essays reconstruct a picture of the young Weltsch amidst the formative influences of a city that produced an astounding number of Jewish intellectuals and writers. All in all, this Festschrift most happily mingles the particular and the general.

—LIONEL KOCHAN.

THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

Festgabe fuer Adolf Leschnitzer

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of Adolf Leschnitzer on February 3, 1959, Kurt R. Grossmann collected and edited 27 original contributions of scholarly friends from the U.S.A., Germany, Israel, and various other countries. Erich Fromm and Hans Herzfeld also lent their names as editors. The impressive volume of 435 printed pages has been worth while waiting for until its belated publication towards the end of 1961.*

Many readers of this paper have known Leschnitzer personally, or have been aware of his accomplishments in shaping a modern Jewish school system in Germany between 1933 and 1939. During the Second World War Leschnitzer served the United States of America in various capacities. Since 1946 he has been connected with the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages of the City College, New York, having been elected departmental chairman in 1958. Every summer since 1952 he has also been lecturing at the Free University of Berlin on the history of former German Jewry. At present he is spending an entire year in Berlin under a Fulbright grant.

A Broad Spectrum

The essays presented to him reflect the full scale of his contacts and interests. They have been arranged under four main headings, viz., the religious and philosophical concepts of peace; the implementation of peace; the image of peace in the nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries' literature; and intergroup relations. Given the breadth of such spectrum, each reader will select an individual number of topics he likes best. This reviewer received a maximum of stimulation from articles which touch on the immediate problems of our day, to wit: Hans Herzfeld, "Die Pariser Friedensschlusse von 1919/20 und das Problem der dauernden Friedensordnung"; Kurt R. Grossmann, "Carl von Ossietzky receives the Nobel Peace Prize"; E. J. Gumbel, "Geheime Ruestung und politische Morde in der Weimarer Republik"; Rudolf Callmann, "Zwei Denkmethode im Recht: Deutschland und die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika"; Arthur M. Prinz, "Myths, Facts, and Riddles about the Literary Estate of Karl Marx."

The above purely personal evaluation is not to deprecate the philosophic and aesthetic wealth of other essays, such as Nahum N. Glatzer, "The Concept of Peace in Classical Judaism"; A. Arthur Schiller, "The Role of Roman Citizenship and Roman Law in the Pax Romana"; Hans Kohn, "Goethe and his Time".

We apologise to the other friends and contributors for mentioning some just by their names—Erich Fromm, Max Gruenewald, Guido Kisch, Ernst Simon—and for omitting individual references to others. Be they all assured—if such assurance is needed—that their essays live up to their deserved scholarly reputations.

A collection like this represents a digest of experiences and reflections derived from the full span of personal lives. It can and must not be absorbed and evaluated in one sitting like a self-contained novel of a similar size. It is one of those books one wishes to open at random time and again, to ponder over this or that aspect of the fascinating, puzzling period into which we have been born.

H. G. REISSNER.

Home News: Wanda Rotha has left for Munich to star in "The Eagle Has Two Heads" directed by Jean Cocteau.—Hans Habe visited London to launch the English edition of his novel "Ilona", published by Harrap; this "Hungarian Buddenbrooks" was listed as a best-seller by the "Evening Standard".—On March 12, Gabriele Tergit will speak about her impressions of Berlin at Club 43.—Erwin Leiser, who produced the "Mein Kampf" and "Eichmann" films, passed through London on his way to Japan, where he will begin production of his "Hiroshima ist ueberall"; born in Berlin, he lives in Sweden.—Gideon Freud translated Maurice Edelman's "The Minister" and has been commissioned to write "Das englische Theater der Gegenwart" for Mueller-Langen in Munich.—H. F. (Koenigs-) Garten wrote an open letter to the editor of London's "Times Literary Supplement", correcting the statement of one of that paper's contributors that Schnitzler and Hofmannsthal were "relatively minor litterateurs".

This and That: Dr. Ludwig Lewin, former director of Berlin's Lessing-Hochschule, who today runs a guest house in Ascona, has donated his archives and collection to Berlin's Academy of Arts.—Leon Askin scored a success in "Waiting for Godot" at Vienna's Josefstadt, his first appearance in his native city since 1937.—Gustav Machaty, of "Ekstase" fame, is directing on the Bavarian radio.—Peter Capell, who worked for the "Voice of America" during the war, and recently returned to Germany, successfully produced "Period of Adjustment" in Hamburg.—Ellen Schwannecke appeared in "Reizende Leute" at Zurich's Bernhardt-Theater.—Hedy Karp, Hollywood correspondent for German papers, Dr. Hugo Strelitzer, opera director at Los Angeles City College, and Dr. Franz Roehn, photographer and assistant to William Dieterle, have returned to Munich.

Milestones: Kurt Hirschfeld, director of Zurich's Schauspielhaus, will be 60 on March 10. Born in Lehrte near Hanover, he was a journalist in Berlin before he joined Gustav Hartung in Darmstadt as a producer. Many German actors who had to leave their country and many playwrights who were no longer acceptable in Germany under the Nazi régime, owe it to him that they found a new home in Switzerland.—Walther von Hollander, author of many novels and film scripts, celebrated his seventieth birthday in Hamburg.

Germany: Hamburg's weekly "Der Spiegel" has disclosed that, since 1951, the German Cross of Merit (Verdienstkreuz) has been awarded to 53,000 people.—Grete Mosheim has joined Cologne's ensemble for the coming season.—Sybille Binder has appeared in "Amerikanischer Traum" in Dusseldorf.—Dorothea Wieck has started a studio for actors in Berlin.—Heinz Hilpert cancelled his production of "Schluck und Jau" in Baden-Baden because the Mayor forbade the presentation of Brecht's "Mutter Courage" there.—Maria Schell has given birth to a son.—Tilla Durieux appeared in "Nur eine Karaffe" on TV.—Twenty-seven cinemas near the Berlin wall have closed down.

Obituary: Johanna Terwin, Alexander Moissi's widow and an actress in her own right, has died in Zurich at the age of 78. Her real name was Winter and she was a member of Max Reinhardt's ensemble.—Robert Herlth, the 69-year-old set designer of "Faust", "Letzte Mann" and "Kongress tanzt", has died in Munich.—Hans Raphaeli-Staufen, the Berlin-born actor who became a professional graphologist after his emigration, and lived in South Africa for some time, died in Basle.—Willy O. Somin (whose given name was Simon) died in Costa Rica, aged 63. He started as a journalist in Berlin and was also the author of "Close Quarters" in which Oscar Homolka scored his first success in London before the war.—Kaethe Erholtz's son and Rudolf Nelson's step-son, J. F. Reynolds, who was correspondent of German papers in this country, has died in London.—Luise Korngold, the 61-year-old widow of composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold, died in Hollywood.

PEM

* Festschrift fuer Robert Weltsch. Herausgegeben von Hans Tramer und Kurt Loewenstein. Verlag Bitan Ltd. (Tel Aviv). \$4 (30s.). The book may be ordered through the AJR.

* Verlag Lambert Schneider, Heidelberg, 1961.

CULTURAL NEWS

ARTHUR SEGAL COLLECTION

First Exhibition: Woodcuts 1910-1917

The art of the woodcut began with the invention of printing. In the sixteenth century and later both these techniques were used for propaganda purposes, for addressing the mass of the people. During the First World War Arthur Segal put his woodcuts to the same use. Being of Rumanian nationality, he left Germany at the outbreak of war and went to Switzerland. There he befriended ardent pacifists like Leonhard Frank and Ludwig Rubiner. Woodcuts Nos. 1-13 in the present exhibition* are a protest, an elemental outcry against man's inhumanity to man. In our own turbulent and frightening times they have taken on a new and moving meaning.

Segal turned with horror from a world of death and destruction because he loved life and beauty—and sun, wind and sea. Proof of this appears in his pre-war woodcuts. They brim over with radiant light, with *joie de vivre*. A poignant contrast. But in observing the attractive subjects, we should not forget the technical mastery involved. Arthur Segal tried to solve the problem of the mutual balancing of black and white, thus heightening the effect. He succeeds in giving depth by a few black-white touches. He draws you into his sea landscapes of water, pier, harbour and distant coast line and gives you happiness. In his simple medium he makes a nightly street scene shine with light.

A.R.

* 1 England Lane, London, N.W.3. Open until April 5th. To be followed by exhibition of other works of the artist.

BEN URI GALLERY AWARD

The Ben Uri Art Society recently arranged a competition of pictures on Biblical themes. Prizes were awarded to Adele Reifenberg-Rosenbaum, Carol Burns, and Alfred Harris.

COMPASSIONATE ART

Eva Frankfurter Exhibition

It is perhaps possible to divide painters into two broad categories: those whose main concern is man and his pictorial and psychological representation, and those for whom the purely "painterly" problems are overriding. Eva Frankfurter definitely belonged to the former category. She had great models to turn to: Rembrandt and, in our own generation, Kaethe Kollwitz. There is a strong spiritual affinity with these masters. She sought man where he is most human, she preferred the poor and down-trodden to the mighty and the rich. Her work proclaims this choice, her art is the confession of a soul.

Her drawings have just been published in a little book.* Oil paintings and drawings are on show, up to March 9, at the Ben Uri Gallery. What strikes you foremost? Her almost puritan austerity, almost brutal simplicity. There they are: men and women from the East End of London, workers, children, old Jews—poor and sad. While the artist was looking into her sitters' hearts she was looking into her own all the time.

She had an intimate knowledge of the people she depicted, for she lived among them. As a social worker she cared for them, she shared their burdened lives and, in the literal sense, their poverty. There can't be anything but respect and admiration for a life and an art which were a sacrifice. Her single-mindedness is shown by each line she drew, by each stroke of her brush. She left a considerable work when she died in 1959 at the age of 28.

Eva Frankfurter had one particularly moving gift: she endowed the humble people she portrayed with an enormous dignity. Especially in her oils she conveys a remarkable impression of monumentality. A true spiritual sister of the great French painters of the seventeenth century, the Lenains.

But however convincing and impressive her work is she only represents one side of a complex human being. In spite of the horrible times we live in average people are never sad for long. Dare I say that Eva Frankfurter did not absorb the message of religion or of something akin to it? There is in her pictures no trust into something greater than our sad little lives, no hope. Yet man is able to rise above his fate. Paradoxically enough in our way through life we are the vanquished and the victors at the same time.

A.R.

* Eva Frankfurter: *People*. Gilchrist Studios, London 5s.

AWARD FOR PROFESSOR JAMES FRANCK

The physicist and Nobel Prize Winner, Professor James Franck, received the Dannie Heineman Prize of the Goettingen Academy of Science, which was awarded for the first time this year. The funds of this newly established Prize derive from the Minna-James-Heineman Stiftung in Hanover, founded by the industrialist, Dannie Heineman. Born in America in 1872, Heineman went to Europe as a young man and built up a firm in Brussels which became a leading enterprise in the electrical industry. The institutions which benefited from Heineman's benefactions included the Jewish Old Age Home in Hanover. Heineman was also an ardent collector of musical and literary manuscripts. He passed away in New York only recently at the age of 89.

Professor Franck was Professor of Physics in Goettingen from 1920 until 1933. Though, as a front soldier of the First War, he could have stayed in office in 1933, he resigned because he did not want to receive any privileges from the Nazis. He emigrated to the United States and became Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Chicago. In 1953, he was made an Honorary Citizen of Goettingen.

The Dannie Heineman Prize is to be awarded to internationally recognised scientists without regard to their race or nationality.

FRITZI MASSARY

A Birthday Tribute

Fritzi Massary, who lives in Beverley Hills, Hollywood, will visit Europe to celebrate her 80th birthday on March 21 with her daughter, Liesl Frank-Mittler.

"Die Massary", the first lady of operetta, began her career in Berlin shortly after the turn of the century, and became a star over-night. Together with Giampietro, she represented everything the Metropol-Theater stood for. She first starred in revues and appeared in "Herren von Maxim" with Joseph Josephi. I remember her in Jean Gilbert's "Kinokoeningin".

In 1911 Fritzi Massary met Max Pallenberg in Munich, and they married seven years later.

Fritzi Massary's name is connected with all the composers of light music before, during and after the first war—with Leo Fall, Oscar Strauss and Emmeric Kalman. She was in "Czardasfuerstin" and "Madame Pompadour", to name only two of her successes. Her last appearance on the German and Austrian stages was in "Eine Frau, die weiss, was sie will".

Just before her retirement, she appeared at London's Haymarket in "Operette", written especially for her by Noel Coward.

The name of Fritzi Massary conjures up memories of a time when a trip to Berlin was incomplete without a visit to the Metropol-Theater. Though born in Austria, "Die Massary" belonged to Berlin. She had and has no equal.

PEM

FRANCE HONOURS ARTIST

Mané-Katz, the French Jewish artist, has been made an Officer of the Legion of Honour by the French Government on the recommendation of the Minister of Culture. The award was "for services to art".

In Haifa, where the artist spends some of his time, the Municipality has erected a house on Mount Carmel in his honour, which will be used as a Mané-Katz Museum.—(J.C.)

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JEW'S IN IRAN

The Jewish population of Iran is estimated at 80,000, of whom somewhat more than half live in Teheran and the remainder in the provincial towns, notably Chiraz (15,000). The Jews form a small minority amongst the numerous minorities of the country (Kurds, Armenians, etc.) and probably account for scarcely a half per cent of Iran's population.

Iran's Jewish community is one of the oldest in the world and co-existence with the majority of the population, lasting for thousands of years, has put a special stamp on it. In appearance, in their manner of thought and action they are—at least to a European Jew—indistinguishable from the Mohammedan Iranians, who after all are neither Arabs nor fanatical Mohammedans. They have the same oriental morality, their habit of contemplation, their conventionality, their moderate professional activity; they share with the Iranians the opinion that life actually takes place within the bounds of the family in the widest sense of the word, and their respect for the "rich". They do not play any political rôle and do not appear to worry about this, as long as they may go about their business undisturbed (this statement does not altogether apply to the younger generation). They have one seat in the Iranian Parliament, the Madjles—if it happens not to be dissolved—whereas the Armenians, 180,000 in number, always provide two Deputies.

Educational Disabilities

In contrast to the other minorities, the Jews no longer have their own newspaper or periodical; here there may be a certain pressure from the other Mohammedan countries at work, as in the case of Iran's official relationships with Israel. Members of minorities cannot as a rule attain any high positions in the Iranian civil service and this also applies to the army. In theory the academic professions are open to them, but since the universities can only take a small percentage of school-leavers, candidates coming from the minority groups are to all intents and purposes not given proportional treatment. For this reason the children of rich Jewish families often study abroad, as do also the Armenians and Iranians. There is a large number of Jewish schools, notably those of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, which did pioneer work in the emancipation of Iranian Jews, and a big Ort technical school which is gradually training up a Jewish industrial working class.

Iranian Jewry has not been distinguished during the last centuries by outstanding personalities in the intellectual and economic spheres, in contrast to the Jews who have emigrated from Irak, about 5,000 of whom have been living in Iran since Israel gained her independence; they are noted for their culture—English is spoken by almost all of them and Ivrit by the majority—their active participation in economics and their "know-how". There are practically no Jewish

artisans, and the great majority of the Iranian Jews are dealers, mostly middlemen, many of them working in the "Bazaar", the place where goods are generally exchanged and which also serves as a money exchange. There are no Jewish banks or bankers, but a few factories are in Jewish hands. The wealthy Jewish merchants are for the most part general agents for well-known foreign patented goods, their capital is often invested in landed property, the value of which has multiplied several times over the last years. There are quite a few Jewish doctors, who have usually studied abroad, some chemists, but almost no advocates. Discrimination in economic matters is shown in the first place against the Armenians, who are reputed in Iran to be particularly industrious and shrewd merchants.

The Former Ghetto

The poor Jews, who form the overwhelming majority of the community, also in Teheran, still live to a small extent (about 8,000) in the "Mahale", the former ghetto, the gates of which were only opened at the beginning of this century. Housing and living conditions are no worse than in the poor Mohammedan quarters; they may be considered as even better, since the ghetto is connected with the water and electricity supply, which is not the case in many poor quarters of the town. In Isfahan, too, Iran's former capital, the ghetto is in a poor quarter of the town, where the Jews live in the midst of the Iranians and just as they do, whereas the Armenians, who were settled only 350 years ago in a special suburb of Isfahan, have retained their national character.

As a result of the splendid work of the "Joint" hygienic conditions have improved immeasurably in the post-war period, and oriental diseases, such as trachoma, have been practically eradicated. The Joint has erected a model children's hospital and a lying-in clinic opposite the ghetto, provides for the nourishment of children in the Jewish schools and pays grants to the numerous people in the ghettos who are unable to make a living. On the other hand, the Iranian-Jewish associations have only reached the stage of the charitable-patriarchal bodies with which we were familiar in the last century.

There is a large number of synagogues with Sephardic, and a single one with Ashkenasi, ritual, where a few scattered refugees from Eastern Europe gather. The Jews from Irak have their own large, modern synagogue. Except for the younger generation the Jews of Iran know very little about the values and teachings of Judaism. There are very few mixed marriages, never with Mohammedans, and exclusively with Armenians.

The Jewish Agency carries out consular functions, since no exchange of ambassadors has yet been arranged between Iran and Israel. Commercial relations between both countries are brisk and Israeli products have found a ready sale in the Iranian market and will be more and more sought after in future. Those who are responsible for the Iranian economic and social structure have fixed their eyes on Israel as a model for their own, as yet much slower development. This attitude to the Israeli pacemaker is also shared by the numerous foreign experts in Iran.

The number of Iranian Jews who have emigrated to Israel should by now have amounted to 40,000, made up for the most part of families who lived in small provincial towns, almost all poor and unprepared for the work of reconstruction going on in Israel. The small numbers in the present Aliyah are of a much better stamp and it is encouraging that they are mostly young persons, who are not emigrating because of want, but from conviction and the determination to lead an independent life. Moreover, young people from other minorities and even the Iranians themselves emigrate from Iran pretty frequently, since it seems to the young that the improvement in the country's situation is taking place too slowly.

From the small number of German-Jewish emigrants of the 30's, only one family in Teheran has stayed; on the other hand, amongst the Israelis working in Teheran there is a number of former German Jews, who are spending some time on a mission in Iran.

TWO JEWISH POETS

In 1959 the Koesel Verlag in Munich brought out two volumes of poems written by Else Lasker-Schüler between 1902 and 1943. The publication, which was both scholarly and attractive, was reviewed in this magazine at the time. The same publishers have now brought out a third volume of her works, edited by Werner Kraft.* It contains poems of the years 1899-1926 and prose, both previously unpublished, texts from various sources, early versions and variants, essays, letters, and extracts from the play: "Ich und Ich" (a drama in six acts, with an epilogue). Another volume of plays and prose writings is still to come.

The new collection will be welcomed by all admirers of Else Lasker-Schüler as an interesting addition to her work. We are familiar with the atmosphere of the writings in her earlier book, her sombre melancholy, her deep resignation and her reminiscences of her lost loved ones, especially of her mother and her son. The same motifs appear in this new volume, but here they are felt much more as part of a universal fate than a merely personal one. The words are simpler, humbler, more devout and altruistic.

O Gott, wie soll dich meine Klage rühren,
Da alle Menschen auf der Erde fast
In ihrem Herzen tragen ihre tiefe Last,
Und Kinder hungern hinter allen Türen.
Die Not ist gross. Ich weiss.

In an additional note Werner Kraft records his personal recollections of Lasker-Schüler's last years in Jerusalem (1937-1945), during which he was a close friend of hers.

The Koesel Verlag has also attempted to rescue from oblivion another Jewish writer, Peter Altenberg (1859-1919).† A gulf separates him from Else Lasker-Schüler. Richard Englaender, as he was really called, chose his pen-name from a little place on the Danube of which he was fond. He was the son of a well-to-do Viennese merchant. After studying law and medicine for a short time in Vienna and serving a short apprenticeship in a Stuttgart bookshop, he settled down for good in his birthplace, an eccentric bohemian, whose wealthy brother supported him. He counted many well-known writers among his friends, such as Egon Friedell, Alfred Loos, Arthur Schnitzler, Karl Kraus, Richard Beer-Hofmann. He was discovered as a poet by Schnitzler when he was 34 years old and Karl Kraus recommended him to S. Fischer in Berlin, who from 1896 up to his death published all his works in 14 volumes.

The new book contains extracts from these volumes, chosen with tact and understanding by the editor, Wolfgang Kraus. What we are offered now, after so great a lapse of time, are unpretentious sketches of everyday life, serene, placid, modest and contented. Not only do we breathe the air of that period in Vienna; if that were all, the new edition might perhaps be unjustified. What makes it so valuable is that all the people, animals, objects, situations and moods of the book are depicted by the author with ease, charm, artlessness and with a smile untainted by pessimism and unconscious of the problems inherent in ugliness. Never was Altenberg an angry young—or old—man. The women he approached with apparently so little success form an ever-recurring theme in the book, treated without sarcasm or bitterness. Even the premonition of death, revealed in its final pages, cannot take the gentle smile from his lips.

I would not read the whole book at a sitting, but an occasional glass of this mild wine is a great pleasure.

PAUL WOHLFARTH.

* Else Lasker-Schüler. *Verse und Prosa aus dem Nachlass*. 1961. 178 pp. DM. 11.80.

† Peter Altenberg. *Das Glück der verlorenen Stunden*. Auswahl aus dem Werk. 1961. 342 pp. DM. 18.50.

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Elizabeth Rosenthal

PURIM NEAR SUSA

On a recent visit to the Middle East we spent two days in a town in the south of Iran, not far from Susa. Here we met a charming social worker, a warm and human personality, who, together with a doctor, also from England, is working among the Jews for the American "Joint."

Our *luach* had long disappeared, victim to a pickpocket on a packed bus, from an equally packed wallet, and we had lost count of the Jewish calendar. Our friend reminded us that this was the eve of Purim, and we spent a pleasant evening, not quite in keeping with the well-known saying: "Das ganze Jahr . . .", and arranged to meet on the following day to see the ghetto and watch the *Purimspiel* in their big kindergarten in town.

Walking through the narrow, winding lanes we already saw quite a few little girls who were not veiled like the Iranians, but otherwise looked exactly the same, mostly sturdy, with large dark eyes. They were on their way home from school, and the friendly greetings of "Shalom" from all the children in this street would alone have shown us the way. Our friend told me that three years ago, when she first came, they just ran away; now they followed us closely, smiling. There is really no difference between the condition of the people living outside and those living inside the ghetto, but when you first enter the shock is great; the lanes are so narrow that one can hardly stretch out one's arm from one side of the street to the other; old pieces of canvas stretched across from roof to roof, which may make for coolness in summer, but also makes it very dark; uneven, beaten earth surfaces act as roads, some so bumpy and difficult to walk on that a little crippled old woman walking with the help of sticks had to put them down and crawl across to the other end of the street; a kosher butcher,

a shoemaker, a few open shops, which are just dark holes, like everywhere else.

Most of the Jews living here are pedlars. They have quite a few synagogues in a bad state of repair. We went into a small synagogue, decorated with flowered tiles, there were even a few rugs on the floor and one *Sefer Torah* in the Ark. We were given some small bitter oranges, a Purim gift, which, to them, represented riches, and moved us deeply. These oranges travelled with us as far as Israel. Unfortunately, we knew no Persian and could not make conversation, but one of the men read out to us some Hebrew from the *Siddur* instead.

We left the synagogue after many *shaloms* and went to the kindergarten, where the under-sixes spend a great part of the day. The helpers are mostly young Jewish women with small children of their own, who have been trained in Teheran for a few months. There was quite a crowd assembled already, veiled women and their husbands and older children. Tea and home-made cake were passed round, while a lot of chatter and noise came from the closed curtain. This was a Jewish social gathering typical of any poorish community, yet the veils, the closeness of Susa made it different. These children acted the Purim story with a fire and feeling we had never seen before. It was amazing to see Esther dance before her king; a slight little girl with blonde hair, who could never have seen any real dancing, yet moved with an extraordinarily Oriental and seductive grace, and one could have forgotten for a moment that these were children, had it not been for the way "King" Ahasuerus put the golden crown on Esther's head, knocking it sideways as he quickly and shyly planted a kiss on her cheek. But "Queen" Esther straightened it quickly as she gracefully ascended the throne with him. All the children shouted their lines, but this time it did not matter that we knew no Persian.

A UNIQUE COLLECTION IN NEW YORK

New House for Leo Baeck Institute

The new house of the American Branch of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York was officially opened recently. The dedication ceremony was conducted by Rabbi Dr. Baerwald. The Chairman of the Institute's American Branch, Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald, recalled in his address that German Jewry had been the cradle of a system of Jewish philosophy, of religious organisation, of scholarship and Rabbinical teaching; Jewries of other countries looked up to its achievements. The aim of the Leo Baeck Institute, the preservation of the German-Jewish heritage, was an obligation and, at the same time, a stimulant, for the Jews from Germany wherever they may now live. Dr. Siegfried Moses (Jerusalem), President of the Central Board of the Leo Baeck Institute, said the research work of the Institute centred around two basic subjects: the rôle played by German Jewry in Jewish history, and the mutual relationship between German Jews and their German environment.

Greetings were conveyed at the function by Mr. Saul Kagan on behalf of the Claims Conference, Dr. Hans Frank of the Gustav Wurzeiler Foundation, Dr. Rudolf Callmann on behalf of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, and Dr. H. G. van Dam, General Secretary of the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland.

The new house is the former residence of Charles S. Guggenheimer, partner of the well-known law firm of Guggenheimer and Untermeyer. The Institute's invaluable collection comprises a library of 30,000 books, dealing with the history, philosophy, cultural and economic history of the German-speaking Jews from Central Europe, as well as archives filled with rare and pertinent documents.

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IN MEMORY OF THREE MUSICIANS

BRUNO WALTER

Only a few months after his 85th birthday, Bruno Walter died at his home in Beverly Hills, California, on February 17th. With him passes one of the greatest conductors of the century.

Walter, whose family name was Schlesinger, was born in Berlin, where he attended the Friedrichs Gymnasium and the Stern Conservatory. One of his early appointments, at the Hamburg Opera, brought him in contact with Mahler, whom he later followed to Vienna. The close artistic and human relationship which developed between them became immensely fruitful for both. For Walter it was the decisive stimulus which inspired him throughout his life; Mahler, on the other hand, gained in him the interpreter who not only conducted, after the composer's death, the first performances of "Das Lied von der Erde" and the Ninth Symphony, but also continued to promote the cause of his music everywhere; thus, the growing appreciation of Mahler in this country owes much to the concerts which Walter, with Kathleen Ferrier, gave at the Edinburgh Festival.

Equally excelling at the opera and in the concert hall, Walter enriched the musical life of Munich, Berlin, Leipzig, Vienna and New York, besides giving status to the Festivals at Salzburg, Lucerne and Edinburgh. His enforced departure from the German musical scene in 1933 is well-known; after an interlude in Austria and France he finally found refuge in America. The end of the war brought him back to Europe, although not permanently. His appearances in this country extended from 1909 till the years after the Second World War. Between the wars he also conducted at Covent Garden.

Numerous recordings, which include one of a Mozart rehearsal, will keep his art alive. As a Mozart conductor he was perhaps equalled only by Beecham, and his interpretations of the great German and Austrian masters from Bach to Richard Strauss, but also of Verdi, will remain unforgettable experiences. Forever striving, he added, in his later years, to the loving care for every detail and for beauty of sound, a classical sense of over-all structure. His sympathies towards modern music were selective, and it is significant that he stood up for the late romanticism of Pfitzner.

Walter's speeches and writings (some of his books have been reviewed in this paper) reveal an aesthetic thinker of no mean stature. His truly noble personality added to the esteem in which he was held everywhere. What he gave will long be remembered.

FRITZ KREISLER

Fritz Kreisler, perhaps the most celebrated violinist of our century, died in New York, just before his 87th birthday. He had long retired from the concert platform and had not appeared in Europe since the 1939-45 war.

Of Jewish descent, Kreisler was born and bred in Vienna, the son of a music-loving physician who was the family doctor of Schnabel's parents. At the age of seven, Fritz entered the Vienna Conservatory, where Bruckner taught him theory; later, in Paris, he studied composition with Delibes and the violin with Massart, a pupil of Beethoven's friend Kreutzer. After his return to Vienna, he became acquainted with Brahms and Wolf; he also met Dvorak, whose "Humoresque" he made world-famous. In later years, Kreisler made his home in Berlin although much of his time was spent on concert tours all over the world.

After 1933, Kreisler refused to play in Germany. In reply to an invitation from Furt-

waengler, he wrote: "I believe that nothing but the recall of artists like Bruno Walter, Klemperer, Busch, etc., could demonstrably further and clarify at home and abroad the cause which is as dear to me as it is to you, whereas in my case"—he was an Austrian citizen—"the idea of a compromise solution could easily arise. I am therefore firmly determined to postpone my appearance in Germany until such time when the right of all artists, irrespective of origin, religion or nationality, to practise their art in Germany shall have become an irrevocable fact."

When Austria lost her independence Kreisler was granted French citizenship. Shortly after the outbreak of war he settled in America, his wife's native country.

It is hardly necessary to recall the supreme beauty of Kreisler's playing. Many regarded his interpretation of the Beethoven concerto as the peak of his art. His name is also linked with one of the outstanding violin concertos of our century, namely Elgar's, which was dedicated to him, and of which he gave the first performance, with the composer conducting.

Kreisler's own compositions, which include even some of his so-called arrangements, have long become favourites all over the world. Elegant and tuneful pieces like "Liebesfreud", "Liebesleid", "Caprice Viennois" and others, conjure up all the seductive charm of Kreisler's native city.

On Kreisler's 75th birthday, Bruno Walter paid him this tribute: "To make music is for Fritz Kreisler what flying is for the bird or swimming for the fish, and I am sure it is this elementary quality which explains the spell that he casts over his audiences, that changes the passing events of his concerts into a profound, lasting experience. It was a lucky star that shone upon our musical world when Fritz Kreisler appeared in it, took his bow and fiddle, and played into the ears of generations his songs of beauty, of serenity, of affection, of gaiety, of transfiguration, of happiness."

LEO KESTENBERG

The name of Leo Kestenberg, who died in Tel Aviv, aged 79, will always be associated with the progress of musical education in Germany and Israel. Born in Hungary, the young pianist went to Berlin where he became Busoni's pupil. He soon gained a reputation, especially as a brilliant Liszt interpreter, and obtained a teaching post at the Klindworth-Scharwenka Conservatory.

His work for the "Volksbuehne" brought him in touch with the men who, after 1918, took charge of Prussia's cultural policy; he was appointed Music Adviser in the "Kultusministerium." In this capacity, Kestenberg—who was made a Professor in 1921—initiated a fundamental reform of musical education, both in the schools and in private teaching. He modernised the music syllabus in the schools and the training and examinations of school and private music teachers. To raise the level of individual tuition he introduced a compulsory examination for all private music teachers. It seems that even the Nazis, who, of course, dismissed him, found little to change in his system as such.

Kestenberg aimed at filling the profession with all-round musicians who were to rise above narrow specialisation and whose interests were to embrace a wider cultural field. He himself joined the examining board, and I remember well how on one such occasion he asked me to play from memory some themes from standard classical works. This was significant for him, and it was certainly relevant. Altogether, he did sterling service for the cause of musical education to which he devoted so much energy and which he also promoted in his publications. His position also gave him a say in the appointment of conductors and other artists at the State theatres; thus he made a by no means negligible contribution to the flourishing musical life of the pre-Nazi era.

In 1933 he went to Prague and founded the International Society for Musical Education. In 1939 he emigrated to Palestine where he became

Artistic Director of the Philharmonic Orchestra which Hubermann had brought into existence. After 1945 he resumed his educational activities, both as a teacher and as Director of the Training College for Music Teachers. The new State appointed him Chairman of the Music Council in the Ministry of Education. He published an autobiography and selections from Busoni's writings.

Artur Schnabel thought so highly of him that he tried to secure him a similar post in the U.S.A., in the interest of musical education in that country. This plan did not materialise, and thus it has remained the privilege of generations of young Germans and Israelis to derive incalculable benefit from the work of this idealistic man.

PAUL HARDTMUTH

Ein Wort des Gedenkens

Das tragische Ende des ehemaligen Reinhardt-Schauspielers Paul Hardtmuth, der in der Nacht zum 5. Februar in einem Anfall von Angstpsychose seinem Leben ein Ende setzte, hat nicht nur die Menschen unserer Herkunft, sondern darüber hinaus auch weite englische Kreise berührt, die ihn aus Dutzenden von Filmen und Fernsehprogrammen kannten.

In den zwanziger Jahren hatte er zuerst dem Reinhardt-Ensemble in Berlin und später in Wien angehört, und 1932 war er vom Intendanten Schweikart an das Stuttgarter Staatstheater berufen worden. Seiner Tätigkeit dort wurde durch die Machtübernahme Hitlers ein Ende bereitet. Er wirkte dann an den deutschsprachigen Theatern in Reichenberg und Prag und kam nach dem Einmarsch der deutschen Truppen in die Tschechoslowakei im Jahre 1939 nach England.

Paul Hardtmuth stammte väterlicher- und mütterlicherseits aus alten, geistig höchst interessierten Familien der Donaumonarchie, die seit Generationen im jüdischen Leben Oesterreich-Ungarns eine bedeutende Rolle gespielt haben. Einer seiner Vorfahren war ein bekannter Rabbiner zur Zeit Napoleons, der in direkter Verbindung mit dem französischen Kaiser gestanden hat.

Das geistige, wenn auch nicht das religiöse Erbe steckte tief in Paul Hardtmuth. Neben dem Drama galten seine Interessen der Philosophie und der Musik. Als ich zu Anfang der fünfziger Jahre Thomas Mann ein von Paul Hardtmuth zerlesenes und mit Hunderten von Randbemerkungen versehenes Werk des Dichters mit der Bitte um eine Widmung vorlegte, blätterte er einige Minuten interessiert darin und schrieb dann die Worte hinein: "Es ist eine Freude, solch einen aufmerksamen und kritischen Leser zu haben".

Paul Hardtmuth war Zeit seines Lebens menschenscheu. Nur wenige können sich rühmen, in wirklich engem Kontakt mit ihm gestanden zu haben. Zu ihnen gehörten Alexander Moissi und Fritz Kortner; Elisabeth Bergner war es, die als erste ihr Beileid zu seinem Tode bekundete.

Fritz Kortner hat seinem alten Freund Paul Hardtmuth vor weniger als drei Monaten eine bedeutende Rolle für eine seiner neuen Inszenierungen angeboten; mit Rücksicht auf den Gesundheitszustand seiner Frau lehnte Hardtmuth das ehrende Angebot ab und erkannte zu spät, dass dieses ihm höchstwahrscheinlich ein come back auf deutschen Bühnen bereitet hätte. In dieser Erkenntnis ist die Ursache einer dann eingetretenen Depression zu suchen.

Er war ein ungemein liebenswerter, wenn auch sehr komplizierter Charakter. Er empfand Scheu vor den Menschen, aber umso engeren Kontakt hatte er zu Kindern und Tieren. In den ersten Jahren der Emigration hielt er sich ein paar Kaninchen, mit denen er täglich Zwiesprache hielt. Nie vergass er, die Vögel vor seinem Fenster zu füttern. Hunde und Katzen waren besonders zutraulich zu ihm, und zu Kindern fand er sofort die richtige Beziehung.

Diejenigen, die Paul Hardtmuth wirklich kennenlernen durften, werden diesen wahrhaft grossen Charakterdarsteller und sympathischen Menschen nicht so leicht vergessen.

W. STERNFELD.

OBITUARY

DR. FREDERICK S. ARON

Dr. Frederick S. Aron passed away on January 21st in New York at the age of 73. From his early years onwards he was interested in Jewish affairs and as a student and member of the K.C., took up the fight against antisemitism. After having passed his examinations, he settled down in medical practice in Berlin. While still young he became President of one of the B'nai B'rith lodges in that city.

When on Hitler's seizure of power National Socialist doctors proved to be particularly extreme in their views, and when, under the leadership of the notorious Dr. Conti, Jewish doctors were at once ousted from insurance practice, Dr. Aron, fully aware of the danger connected with his action, headed a committee of doctors which placed itself at the disposal of the Reichsvertretung der Deutschen Juden. He was arrested after a short period of activity and only released after much effort and trouble.

In the defensive struggle against the persecution of doctors by the National Socialists he was then forced to remain in the background, but that did not prevent him from giving his advice to the "Reichsvertretung" and setting up an "Emigration Assistance Office for Jewish Doctors". Finally he had to flee to New York via Paris, and there he set up in practice again in 1938.

Over there he not only came to the aid of colleagues who had suffered persecution like himself, but also became a co-founder of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, the American branch of the Council of Jews from Germany.

He devoted himself with special energy to the task of bringing the members of the K.C., scattered all over the globe, into touch with each other. For over 20 years, up to the time of his death, he was President of the American Jewish K.C. Fraternity and of the K.C. Welfare Organisation, the Max Mainzer Memorial Foundation.

With his widow, Dr. Ruth Aron, who stood by him in all his struggles, his numerous friends mourn the passing of a warm-hearted, tireless helper and fearless fighter, whom they will never forget.

F. GOLDSCHMIDT.

RABBI DR. ERICH BIENHEIM

It is learned with regret that Rabbi Dr. Erich Bienheim (Bradford) passed away at the age of 63. Prior to his emigration he was Rabbi in Darmstadt from 1928-1939. In this country he was for ten years attached to the West London Synagogue, until he received a "call" to the Bradford Synagogue (Reform). For health reasons he had to retire last August. Mr. H. Librowicz, Chairman of the Bradford Synagogues, writes: "Dr. Bienheim had a gentle, humble, and unassuming disposition, and was equally admired by Jews and non-Jews. All through his life ran on unbroken melody of infinite love for his fellow-men. He was a man of deep sincerity and loyalty to Judaism, who rendered distinguished service to our congregation."

DR. ALFRED MARCUS

The economist and author, Dr. Alfred Marcus, recently passed away in Israel. He became particularly well known by his work "Die wirtschaftliche Krise des deutschen Juden", published in Berlin (Stilke Verlag) in 1931. In this work he dealt with the dangers arising from the specific economic and vocational structure of German Jewry. Several of his other publications written in Germany before 1933 also testify to his expert knowledge of this subject. Alfred Marcus continued his work as an economic adviser, research worker and author in Israel. At the request of the Leo Baeck Institute (Jerusalem) he undertook to write a monograph about the economic activities of the Jews in Germany from 1760 to 1933. He completed the first draft shortly before his death. law firm in Essen.

DR. ARTHUR RAU

Landgerichtsrat a.D. Dr. Arthur Rau died in Tel Aviv; he was 67 years old. Throughout his life Dr. Rau was closely associated with the Mizrahi movement. Until 1933 he was a judge in Berlin. Though, as a veteran of the First World War, he could have stayed in office he immediately resigned when the Nazis came to power, and, in a voluntary capacity, became Joint Secretary of the Palestine Office in Berlin. He thus took a decisive part in organising the emigration of the Jews from Germany. Especially after the pogroms of November, 1938, his effective and courageous services helped to save the lives of many of those then thrown into the concentration camps. Dr. Rau himself went to Palestine shortly before the outbreak of war, and, after having passed his law examinations, became legal adviser to the Anglo-Palestine Bank (now Bank Leumi Le-Israel).

PROFESSOR DR. ALFRED STORCH

The psychiatrist, Professor Dr. Alfred Storch, died in Muensingen, near Berne, where he lived in retirement; he was 74 years old. He was formerly Professor of Psychiatry and head of the psychiatric clinic of the University of Giessen. When, as a victim of the Nazi racial laws, he lost his position, he became Reader at the University of Berne and Medical Officer of the Cantonal Mental Hospital in Muensingen near Berne. The news of the death of this eminent physician and scientist was given wide publicity in the Swiss Press and radio.—(wg.)

RUDOLPH HELLENDALL

Mr. Rudolph Hellendall (formerly München-Gladbach) died in London recently at the age of 76.

Although he himself was not a refugee—he had already settled in England in 1925—he actively associated himself with the cause of our community after the Nazis had come to power. By individual efforts and voluntary full-time work with the Jewish Refugees Committee, he helped well over 100 people to escape from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia before war broke out.

When, after the fall of France, refugees from Nazi persecution were interned, he vigorously protested against this action, and was one of those who supplied British politicians with factual evidence enabling them to refute certain incorrect Governmental statements.

His selfless services to the Jewish refugees will be remembered with deep gratitude.

PROFESSOR HUGO SCHAUMBERGER

Professor Hugo Schaumberger, formerly teacher at the Philanthropin (Frankfurt), died in his 87th year. He served the Philanthropin as science master from 1903 until he retired in 1938. A few months after his retirement he agreed to become Headmaster and held this position under difficult circumstances until the Philanthropin was closed by the Nazis. Before the outbreak of war, he emigrated to Belgium, where he was forced to go underground when the Nazis occupied the country. He returned to Frankfurt in 1949 and spent the last years of his life in the Jewish Old Age Home in Neustadt. When, in 1954, the 150th anniversary of the Philanthropin's foundation was celebrated in Frankfurt, Professor Schaumberger was the main speaker at the function.

DR. JULIUS HERZFELD

The death at the age of 55 of Dr. Julius Herzfeld (Buenos Aires, formerly Essen) will be deeply regretted by members of his generation who were associated with him in the Jewish youth movement in Germany. Julius Herzfeld played a leading part in the Verband der juedischen Jugendvereine ("Neutraler Verband"), whose chairman he was for several years, and in the youth organisations attached to the "Central Verein". He was the son of Dr. Ernst Herzfeld, Chairman of the C.-V. from 1935 to 1938, and a junior partner of his father's well-known

FRITZ WENDHAUSEN

After a protracted illness Fritz Wendhausen, who later changed his name to Frederic Wendhausen, died in West Germany. He was cremated in London where he had lived since before the war.

Frederic Wendhausen was a key member of the team working for the German section of the B.B.C. in Bush House, and Hugh Carlton-Greene, head of the entire B.B.C. organisation, wrote a warm-hearted obituary in "The Times".

Wendhausen started as an actor and also directed many productions for Max Reinhardt in Berlin. A non-Jew, he left Germany when the Nazis came to power because, an ardent trades unionist, he was an anti-Nazi and also refused to divorce his Hungarian-born wife.

The pictures he produced included "Der steinerne Reiter", "Kleiner Mann, was nun?" and "Peer Gynt" with Hans Albers in the leading rôle. He came to London from Vienna where he appeared on the screen in the part of Nazis on many occasions. His broadcasts with Peter Illing to Germany in the war-time feature, "Kurt und Willy", were famous.

He was one of the first to be sent to Germany by the British Government, and successfully produced "Glasmengerie" in Berlin. But though he had many friends in Germany he decided not to stay on there. After his retirement he continued working for the German B.B.C. in London.

PEM

ALFRED WOLFSOHN

On February 5, Mr. Alfred Wolfsohn (formerly Berlin), the well-known voice producer, whose revolutionary approach to the development of the human voice has raised widespread interest, died in London in his 66th year.

MR. JOSEPH WEIL

Mr. Joseph Weil, who was for more than 20 years President of the Adath Yisroel Synagogue, London, and Hon. Life President since his retirement four years ago, has died at the age of 81.

Mr. Weil was the eldest son of the late David Weil, of Frankfurt. He established his home in London in 1909 and became one of the most stable communal workers, participating in practically all spheres.

During his long term of office as President of the Adath Yisroel from 1934 to 1957, the Adath Yisroel coped with the influx of refugees and the problems arising during the war and in the post-war rehabilitation period. Mr. Weil showed his sterling qualities especially during that time.

DR. WALTER ZEHLIN

The former Chief Press Officer of the Weimar Reichsregierung, Dr. Walter Zechlin, recently died in Lueneburg at the age of 82. He had joined the German Foreign Service in 1903. After having held positions with several German embassies and consulates, he became Chief Press Officer of the Reichsregierung in 1925. In 1932 he was appointed German Ambassador to Mexico. However, because of his anti-fascist attitude, he was suspended when the Nazis came to power. Dr. Zechlin spent the war years as an émigré in Spain. After the war, he returned to Germany and, from 1946 to 1954 was Chief Press Officer for Lower Saxony.

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von

Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger

Hillel der Pharisäer

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MEMORIAL MEETING FOR SENATOR LIPSCHITZ

A large audience attended the impressive Memorial Meeting for Senator Joachim Lipschitz, held in London on January 21st, under the auspices of the Council of Jews from Germany, the Association of Democratic Lawyers and the AJR. Dr. J. Auerbach, who presided, welcomed the German Ambassador, Herr H. von Etdorf, Gesandter Dr. R. Thierfelder and members of the Embassy staff as well as the President of the Council of Jews from Germany, Dr. Siegfried Moses (Jerusalem), who was on a brief visit to London.

The first speaker, Rechtsanwalt Gerhard Jahn, Member of the German Federal Parliament and, until recently, Chairman of its Indemnification Committee, gave a vivid and moving description of Senator Lipschitz's life and personality. The name of Joachim Lipschitz, he stated, is inseparably linked up with three great issues of post-war Germany: the position of Berlin, the fight for political democracy and the efforts at trying to undo the wrongs of the Nazi régime, as far as this was humanly possible. From his early youth Lipschitz was politically minded, and, under the Weimar Republic, he worked within the Socialist youth movement. When the Nazis came to power he was, as a half-Jew, not admitted to university, where he would have liked to study languages. On the other hand, he became liable for National Service and lost an arm during the Russian campaign. Towards the end of the war he had to go into hiding. Thus, his life was

full of inner conflicts and complications, but the burden he had to carry only enriched and strengthened his personality.

After the end of hostilities he first held office with the Borough Council of Berlin-Lichtenberg. However, his independent mind soon brought him into conflict with the Russian occupation authorities. He was dismissed and *in absentia* sentenced to 25 years' forced labour. After serving for several years as Councillor and, later on, as Deputy Mayor of Berlin-Neukoelln, he became Senator of the Interior of the City of Berlin in January, 1955. As an "Ur-Berliner", endowed with his home town's specific sense of humour, he grew increasingly popular and won the confidence, support and recognition of that city's wonderful population.

If he became one of the most effective fighters for indemnification, it was due to his deep compassion for his fellow-men. He never spoke of himself, he always thought of the others on whom injustice and unspeakable sufferings had been afflicted. As a capable organiser he did everything possible to build up an adequate machinery for the implementation of the Indemnification Law. However, even more important was his courage to put aside legalistic obstacles if he was convinced that help was necessary.

He regarded indemnification in the first place as a moral obligation. With this attitude in mind, he also conceived the idea that every year honour should be given to decent and unknown men and women who, as "Unbesungene Helden", had helped their Jewish fellow citizens under the Nazi

régime at great danger to themselves. The ceremony at which the awards for 1961 were bestowed by him took place two days before his death. In his address, he reiterated his belief in the indelibility of the ideals of brotherhood and humanity.

The other speaker, Dr. Hans Reichmann, Chairman of the AJR, recalled the large gathering in London five years ago at which Senator Lipschitz spoke to victims of Nazi persecution. It was the first public occasion when representatives of the Federal German Republic got into direct contact with former German Jews in this country. Lipschitz spoke about the indemnification work in an optimistic vein. At the same time he admitted: "How is it possible at all to indemnify anybody for the death of a mother in Auschwitz?" The tension under which the meeting had commenced receded, the listeners sensed that their emotions were understood. On the occasion of that visit he was accompanied by officials of the Berlin Indemnification Office who saw individual claimants and discussed their grievances with them. Similar visits to other countries of emigration followed. Lipschitz became the symbol of a new atmosphere of trust. He was an outstanding orator and an artist at expressing his views. However, brilliant formulations never served him as a means of disguising non-committal contents. He considered indemnification as an ethical task.

His instinct for political demonstration also found its expression in his scheme "Unbesungene Helden". In the same spirit he initiated a research plan dedicated to the subject "Persecution and Resistance". Under the guidance of leading historians, young scholars investigate the persecution and resistance of the churches, the workers, the men of the 20th July and the Jews in Berlin.

A fighter had fallen, Dr. Reichmann said, who devoted his life to the ideals of liberty, justice and human dignity.

Fonds zur Abgeltung von Vermögensverlusten politisch Verfolgter. Wien II. Taborstrasse Nr. 2-6

Der Fonds zahlt im Rahmen seiner Statuten, welche am 2. Juli 1961 im Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung veroeffentlicht wurden, Entschaedigungen fuer konfiszirte Guthaben auf Bankkonten, fuer Wertpapiere, Bargeld und Hypothekarforderungen und fuer die Entrichtung der Judenvermoegensabgabe und Reichsfluchtsteuer.

**Andere Vermoegensverluste koennen nicht
beruecksichtigt werden.**

Formulare fuer Antragsberechtigte in Gross-Britannien sind bei der Oesterreichischen Botschaft, 18 Belgrave Mews, London, S.W.1, oder beim Austrian Desk der United Restitution Organisation 183/189 Finchley Road, London, N.W.3, zu erhalten.

Alle Interessenten werden gebeten ihre Antraege moeglichst bald zu ueberreichen, da der Fonds, abgesehen von Zahlungen an Personen, die das 70. Lebensjahr vor dem 31. August 1962 erreicht haben werden, erst leisten kann, wenn alle Antraege bearbeitet wurden. Wer seinen Antrag verspaetet ueberreicht, verzoeigert die Auszahlung an sich und an alle anderen Antragsteller.

Die Anmeldefrist endet am

31. August 1962.

Sie wird auf keinen Fall verlaengert werden.
Antraege, die nach dem 31. August 1962 einlangen werden, koennen nicht mehr beruecksichtigt werden.

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Letters to the Editor

A GERMAN-JEWISH EYE SURGEON

Sir,

I recently read in "The Jewish Chronicle" that a woman who had lost her sight, Mrs. Helene Cohen, can now see again as the result of a corneal graft from the eye of a dead person. The report also mentioned that for some time Mrs. Cohen stayed in a Davos Eye Clinic, where she taught English to Jewish refugee children from Germany.

Your readers may be interested to know that a corneal graft on the eyes of a blind person with the cornea taken from a dead person was first performed at the Geneva University Ophthalmic Hospital in 1933 by Dr. Paul Kiewe (Heidelberg), then an assistant surgeon of 27. (His chief was absent at a Paris Congress on the day of the operation.)

The Nazis, not knowing of my cousin's Jewish origin, heralded this operation as "ein Sieg deutscher Wissenschaft". Dr. Paul Kiewe left for Bombay in 1937, and during the war became head of a British Military Hospital in India. With the exodus of the British Services from India in 1948 he came to London, where he worked with little encouragement at the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital at Moorgate.

But, alas, he died at the age of 46, I am sure, brokenhearted that, by the circumstances of our

refugee generation, his courage and genius were never acknowledged, apart from references in various text books (not necessarily translated into English at that time).

I am happy that his invention or discovery helped Helene Cohen, who in turn helped so many Jewish refugee children from Germany. Somehow there is the Lord's blessing where man failed to see—posthumously.

Yours, etc.,

H. E. KIEWE.

7 St. Michael's Mansions,
Ship Street, Oxford.

DENTAL CONGRESS IN COLOGNE

Sabbath Service in Programme

Sir,

It may be of interest to your readers that the programme of the XIII International Dental Congress to be held in Cologne from July 7th to 14th, 1962, includes the following items:

Friday, July 6th: 7.00 p.m. Sabbath Service.

Sunday, July 8th: 10.00 a.m. Visit to the Synagogue.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that such arrangements have been made at an international conference of this kind.

Yours, etc.,

(Dr.) F. G. SALOMON.

Bath,
January 22, 1962.

RUSSIAN PAPER ACCUSES ISRAELIS

The official trade union paper in Russia, "Trud", has attacked Zionism and Israeli Embassy officials in Moscow. The paper accused them of "subversive activities" against the Soviet Union, of using synagogues for gathering espionage information and slanderous material, for meeting people they needed, and for giving instructions.

The article, entitled "Zionism—the Mask of Spies", was written by a Jewish journalist, N. Ehrlich. Soviet sources claim that hundreds of letters have been sent by Russian Jews supporting the article.

In a telephone conversation with "The Jewish Chronicle" Mr. Aaron Vergelis, editor of "Soviet Heimland" declared that he shared the views expressed in "that objective journal". It was not, he said, an attack against the synagogue but only "a denunciation of those who misuse the synagogue for other purposes". While he himself personally knew of no Israeli diplomats using their visits to the synagogue for such activities as are ascribed to them, he believed that what the paper said was true.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry has described the "Trud" statement as "fantastic" and "without any factual basis". It is, of course, true that members of the Israeli Embassy in Moscow meet Russian Jews in synagogues, it is stated, as this is the only place where they can meet, but allegations that they exchange anything more sinister than brotherly greetings are absurd.—(J.C.)

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

Jossek—Mrs. Flora Jossek (née Unger), formerly Breslau, now at Montefiore Home, Hunters Hill, N.S.W., Australia, who is enjoying good health, celebrated her 80th birthday on February 6th, 1962.

Deaths

Falk—Mr. Richard Falk, formerly Beckum, passed away on February 13th. Deeply mourned by his wife, brother, relatives, and friends. 140 Old Kent Road, S.E.1, and 34 The Charter Road, Woodford Green, Essex.

Kayser—Mrs. Irma Kayser (née Oettinger), beloved mother of Mrs. Elga Cranley, passed away on January 21st, 1962, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by her daughter and son-in-law, and granddaughter Marion Cranley, 21 Mardale Drive, Kingsbury, London, N.W.9.

Nussbaum—Mr. David Nussbaum died in his 86th year on February 3rd. Deeply mourned by his wife Mrs. Ilse Nussbaum, 48 Canfield Gardens, London, N.W.6.

In Memoriam

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

CLASSIFIED

Situations Vacant

Women

HOUSEKEEPER wanted for home for elderly Jewish refugees. Must be able to supervise staff and to relieve Matron. Excellent accommodation and remuneration. Written replies to be sent to the General Secretary, Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain, 8 Fairfax Mansions, Fairfax Road, London, N.W.3.

Situations Wanted

Men

MAN, 36, released from the Merchant Navy, wants position to settle down. Experienced handyman, also prepared to be trained for other work. Reliable and versatile. Box 934.

EGYPTIAN REFUGEE, 31, book-keeper/wages clerk and correspondent (recently trained in this country), seeks position. Box 935.

BOOKKEEPER, experienced, reliable, elderly, seeks part-time or homework. Box 937.

EXPERIENCED STOREKEEPER (Textiles), elderly, seeks full-time position. Box 936.

YOUNG MAN, single, Economics Degree, German, French, some Italian, Swedish, versatile and well-travelled, seeks a progressive position offering scope for energy and imagination. Box 943.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, arrived 1957 from Budapest where he had an Electrical Contracting business, spec. projection and supervision of electrical installations, technical translations, 68, healthy, seeks position, also as caretaker, porter, or for general clerical work. Box 944.

BOOKKEEPER / CORRESPONDENT, elderly, linguist and typist, seeks full- or part-time position. Box 945.

Women

AUSTRIAN LADY wants part-time job as Lady's Companion from Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Good cook, intelligent and pleasant company. Post required preferably in Finchley Road or Golders Green area. Box 931.

GENERAL CLERK. Typing, filing, postal work, seeks full-time job. Box 932.

SECRETARY. German/English shorthand, translations, requires part-time work. Box 933.

POSITION as TYPIST or BOOKKEEPER required, experienced, 5-day week. Box 938.

EXPERIENCED PASSER (Coats and costumes) seeks full-time position. Box 939.

LIGHT HOUSEWORK wanted, full- or part-time, by middle-aged woman Box 940.

ENGLISH/GERMAN shorthand or part-time, by middle-aged woman homework. Will also consider copy-typing. Box 941.

Accommodation Wanted

S/C SMALL FLAT/FLATLET, unfurn or furn, Hampstead/Maida Vale/Bayswater area wanted for business lady. Moderate rent, Box 946.

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ISRAELI GIRL, 16, wishes to visit England two months (July, August) in exchange with London girl of about same age. For particulars please ring: Essinger, BOW. 1145.

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Personal

WIDOWER, 72, childless, German-Jewish, in London since 1939, merchant, good appearance, capital assets and pension, wishes to meet good looking intelligent lady, aged 55-65, object matrimony. Hand-written replies with curriculum and photograph will be treated as confidential. Box 942.

WIDOW, 58, own flat, own income, wishes to meet gentleman of good family with a view to marriage. Box 930.

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries

Jacob—Sara and Salo, formerly Gleiwitz (Upper Silesia, Schiller Str.), Brueckenberg and Berlin. Former owners of Gebr. Barasch, Gleiwitz.

Heumann—Hans and Herta and their daughter Anita, formerly Berlin-Halen-see, Schweidnitzer Sts. Son-in-law and daughter of Sara and Salo Jacob, of Gleiwitz.

Lax—Jacob. Did anyone know or have business connections with him during the years 1930-1939 in Berlin? Last at Zimmerstr., Berlin, S.W.68.

Information regarding these persons to be sent to Mr. Edgar Lax, 27 Clare Court, Judd Street, London, W.C.1.

Kallmann—Mrs. Henrietta Kallmann (née Jacoby), who is due to receive some restitution money at present in trust for her in Hamburg, wanted by Mrs. I. Zucker, 15 The Close, Muswell Avenue, London, N.10.

Enquiries by AJR

Herz—Dr. Herz, physician, formerly Bergen-Belsen, where his wife died in 1948. Emigrated to Australia, later returned to England. Sought in indemnification proceedings by Josef Ewen, formerly Stein, Bne Brak, Schikun, Amami 18, Israel.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

DR. WALTER BERLIN 75

To express to Dr. Walter Berlin, formerly of Nuernberg and since 1939 in London, on the occasion of his 75th birthday on March 11, the admiration and gratitude of all who have followed his life story, might evoke from the object of the congratulations a somewhat mixed reaction: "Stop it! Stop it!"; or, in his inimitable Franconian dialect, and thus much more natural and charming: "Hoeren's auf mit Ihre Spruech!" However, those who have had the privilege of knowing Walter Berlin for thirty or forty years will not allow his modesty to prevent them from speaking out their minds.

During World War I Walter Berlin used to ask his brother officers whether they had among their ancestors a "Konistorialrat", and if they could not produce one, he enjoyed seeing their surprise when he said: "But my great-great-grandfather was one". And indeed the distinguished Rabbi of Hesse-Kassel, Loeb Berlin, held that title. Though his great-great-grandson did not follow in his footsteps, he tried to emulate his ancestors by being a proud and conscientious Jew. As his career he chose that of his grandfather, Hofrat Samuel Berlin, who was the first Jew admitted to the Bar in Bavaria.

Family tradition, upbringing, talent and character all made Walter Berlin the man who has won the esteem of his colleagues and friends, and the gratitude of the Jews from Franconia.

Outstanding as a lawyer, he had a large clientele in Nuernberg, but he still found time for public service. In the years after World War I, Nuernberg gained notoriety as the publishing place of the infamous, anti-Jewish weekly *Der Stuermer* and the abode of its unsavoury editor, Julius Streicher. There were quite a few serious politicians in Germany who did not pay much attention to the kind of Jew-baiting propaganda practised by Streicher. Dr. Berlin was not one of them. He very early saw the danger and the attraction of pornographic politics and more than once took legal action against the Gauleiter. He prepared his criminal cases with a meticulousness worthy of a better object. On several occasions Streicher was sentenced and even imprisoned, and yet such was the respect commanded by Walter Berlin's dignified bearing that even Streicher did not seek revenge when he became all-powerful after 1933.

In the years when the followers of Streicher in Franconia caused turbulence and outrages,

Walter Berlin proved a tower of strength and a refuge for the harassed Jews in his own province. They turned to him for advice and encouragement, always obtaining it until the day when Streicher laid his hands on the Nuernberg synagogue and had it torn down—the first act of this kind in Germany.

After his immigration into this country, where he and his wife overcame the difficulties of adjustment with exemplary cheerfulness and energy, he continued his public service as a member of the Board of our Association and later of its Executive. The legislation on restitution, compensation and taxation owes to him many important suggestions.

His colleagues and friends on the Executive of the AJR convey to him their cordial wishes and hope he will not consider it as "Spruech!" when they say that they regard Walter Berlin as the personification of what was best in German Jewry.

H.R.

A NONAGENARIAN

Dr. Leon Sommer

Dr. Leon Sommer, who recently attained the age of 90, has been associated with Jewish activities throughout his life. In Nuernberg, where he lived prior to his emigration, he was in 1901 a founder-member of the Maimonides Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, and for four years its President. In this country he was one of the founders of the Leo Baeck Lodge. Dr. Sommer has been a member of the AJR for many years and taken a particular interest in our work for the aged. We extend our sincerest wishes to him.

PROFESSOR DR. JULIUS HIRSCH (BASEL) 70

The biochemist, Professor Dr. Julius Hirsch, celebrated his 70th birthday recently. From 1920 to 1929 he worked under Professor Carl Neuberg at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biochemistry. In 1929 he was appointed Extraordinary Professor at the Berlin University. When the Nazis came to power, Professor Hirsch followed a call to the University of Istanbul. In 1948 he became Head of the research laboratory of the firm of Geigy in Basle. Professor Hirsch, who now lives in retirement, is a great-grandson of Rabbi Samuel Raphael Hirsch.

"JEWS IN STEFAN GEORGE CIRCLE"

Lecture at Leo Baeck Institute

Readers and their friends are invited to the next lecture, under the auspices of the Society of Friends of the Leo Baeck Institute, at which Dr. Ernst Kahn will speak about "Juden im Stefan George Kreis." The lecture will be held on Wednesday, March 14th, at 8 p.m., at the Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London, W.1.

MAYOR VISITS LEO BAECK HOUSE

The Mayor of Finchley, Councillor Frank Gibson, and the Mayoress visited Leo Baeck House on February 4th, on the occasion of a concert given in the Home by the pianist Albert Ferber. Mr. F. W. Ury, Chairman of the House Committee, welcomed the guests of honour and also introduced the artist, whose recitals included works by Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann and Chopin.

"TOPPING OUT" CEREMONY AT HEINRICH STAHL HOUSE

To mark the completion of the roof at Heinrich Stahl House, The Bishop's Avenue, a "topping out" ceremony for the building workers was held in the house, which is to serve as the fourth Old Age Home under the auspices of the C.B.F. and the AJR. The workmen were welcomed by Mr. D. F. Wallis, a director of Messrs. E. H. Burgess, the contractors. Dr. C. Kapralik, Secretary of the C.B.F., thanked all those engaged in the building work, and Mr. H. J. Reifenberg spoke on behalf of the architects. Also present were Mr. O. Weiss, designated Chairman of the House Committee, and Mr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the AJR.

NEW COMMITTEE AT ZION HOUSE

After seven years' devoted service, Mr. Herbert M. Hirsch has retired as Chairman of the Hampstead Zion House Committee. He will be succeeded by Mr. H. Berkovitch and Dr. H. N. Feld as Joint Chairmen. All enquiries in regard to bookings, etc., should be addressed to the newly appointed Hon. Secretary, Mr. V. Wagner, Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3; Mr. Wagner is also obtainable during office hours under LAD-broke 2925, or privately (if necessary) under SPEedwell 8445.

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NEWS ABOUT ISRAEL

DEVALUATION OF CURRENCY

On February 9th the value of the Israeli pound was reduced from 4s. sterling to 2s. 4d. Announcing this devaluation Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Minister of Finance, said this step was aimed at facilitating Israel's association with the European Common Market.

U.S.A. RESEARCH GRANT

The U.S.A. Department of Agriculture is extending a grant amounting to \$82,500 to an Israeli scientist, Dr. Dov Koller, to conduct a five-year study of the physiology of perennial pasture grasses. Dr. Koller, who is a botanist at the Hebrew University, will conduct his research in the Negev and in other arid areas of Israel.—(J.C.)

CHAGALL WINDOWS CONSECRATED

Marc Chagall's twelve stained-glass windows in the new Hadassah hospital synagogue in Jerusalem were consecrated in the presence of the artist. The windows depict the twelve tribes of Israel. Chagall has suggested to the management of Hadassah that he should be allowed to design the Ark and seats for the congregation. He disapproves of the proposed furnishings for the synagogue.—(J.C.)

ISRAELI IMMIGRATION

Mr. Moshe Sharett, the former Israeli Prime Minister, during a flying visit to London addressed Joint Palestine Appeal workers.

He spoke of the "two streams of immigration converging on Israel. . . . Our people are once again on the go, but no longer drifting aimlessly". There was, he said, still a vast reservoir of Jewish manpower impatient to get out from bondage towards salvation.

"What we are facing today is a phenomenon in Jewish history that can only be described as the liquidation of whole Jewish communities. It is nothing less than that", Mr. Sharett stated.—(J.C.)

DIPLOMATIC RABBI

Rabbi Bernard Casper, formerly a rabbi in Manchester and at the Western Synagogue in London, has been appointed Israeli Consul-General in Bombay. He was Dean of Students at the Hebrew University.

This is the first time that a rabbi has been given a diplomatic post by the Israeli Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It is hoped that the Indian Government (which still does not formally recognise Israel) will not long delay normalising relations and exchanging diplomats.—(J.C.)

RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

There has been extensive comment in the German Press about the new Israeli regulations about cultural relations with Germany (cf. last issue of *AJR Information*). The general view was that the directives did no more than confirm existing conditions and that nothing at all had changed. The absence of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany was one of the reasons that relations between the two countries had not been normalised in fields other than those of cultural relations.

The independent *Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger* stated that Germans had no right to complain of Israel's attitude. Germany's debt could not be paid back by money, and repentant speeches were not enough. It was time for deeds, to show the people of Israel how the Germans felt about German-Jewish problems. The first such deed should be the establishment of diplomatic relations. As long as this step was not taken, one could not speak of an improvement or deterioration in the relations between Israel and Germany.—(J.C.)

GERMAN-ISRAEL LEAGUE

The formation of a German-Israel League has been postponed because the present relationship between the two countries is not thought to favour the realisation of such a project.

This news follows the Israeli regulations on cultural relations with Germany.—(J.C.)

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