

AJR

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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JOINT EFFORTS BEAR FRUIT

Response to "Thank-you Britain" Fund

In this issue readers will find a preliminary list of contributors to the "Thank-you Britain" Fund. It includes former refugees from all walks of life, among them many well-known personalities. In addition, there have been quite a few contributors who wished to remain anonymous.

At the time of going to press about £87,000 has been raised, of which £46,000 are gross payments under deeds of covenant. This result is certainly encouraging, especially as it has been achieved mainly by written propaganda and, therefore, at very low administrative cost.

When the appeal was initiated its sponsors were entirely uncertain of the result. Therefore they had to conceive a scheme which did not depend on a fixed target, but would lend itself to a certain elasticity. This was one of the reasons—though by no means the decisive one—for which the establishment of annual research fellowships, the amounts of which could be adjusted to the funds available, appeared particularly suitable.

Approvals and Comments

Taking stock at this stage, it would be wrong to deny that the scheme has met not only with general enthusiastic approval but also with some criticism. Some people said that our debt of gratitude had already been amply repaid, because quite a few in our midst had rendered outstanding services to this country as scholars, scientists and artists. It appears anyhow doubtful whether the ordinary refugee is entitled to take credit for such individual achievements; but it is certainly no accident that the scheme has been endorsed to a particularly high extent by these prominent personalities, some of whom act as Patrons, and many of whom have contributed to the Fund.

It was also put forward that practically all refugees had done their duty during the war, especially as members of the Forces, and that in peace-time they had also contributed to the development of industry and commerce. Therefore, it was claimed, they would overdo the case if they now took additional steps for expressing their gratitude. As an answer to this argument we cannot do better than quote a successful industrialist: "We certainly have contributed to this country, but if we had not been admitted this opportunity would not have arisen and our lives would have ended in Auschwitz".

Others again felt that our sense of gratitude had been stated in an unduly strong way in the appeal letter. A letter which is addressed to more than 10,000 persons can never be expected to meet with the unqualified approval of every recipient, but dis-

agreement with the wording of an appeal letter should be no excuse if one is in favour of the cause for which it is meant. As it happened, quite a few expressly stated that it was just the impact of the letter which prompted them to associate themselves with the Fund.

The suggestion was also put forward that contributors should have been given a choice between several different objects of the Fund. This would have been impossible because, whatever the ultimate result will be, nothing useful could be done if the sum were split up into three or more parts. Others said that a more "tangible" object should have been chosen. With the best intentions each of them proposed a cause particularly near to his heart, and the wide range of suggestions included, among others, care for handicapped children, for disabled soldiers or for refugees from South Africa, as well as support of organisations which fight for freedom and justice in this country and abroad. The variety of suggested objects in itself shows that it would have been impossible to conceive a scheme which would have appealed to thousands of people without exception. Yet valuable as all these causes are, the beneficiaries would have been organisations already in existence. What the preparatory committee had to aim at was a scheme which stands out in its own right as an identifiable lasting mark of gratitude expressed by a community which, in a certain phase of history, was faced with a common fate, but which in the course of time is bound to disintegrate.

Proceeds for Practical Purpose

The research to be sponsored by the Fund will not be devoted to abstract or theoretical subjects, but to questions of dire practical importance. None of the manifold problems with which society is confronted in our days can be brought nearer to a solution by mere empirical action. Any large-scale and comprehensive measures have to be based on fact-finding and analytical research work. The problem of higher education, at present under discussion, could not have been approached in a methodical way but for the Robbins Report, produced under the guidance of one of the patrons of the "Thank-you Britain" Fund. The same applies to questions such as housing, care for elderly people, integration of immigrants from overseas, to mention only a few of them. The need for thorough research in the field of welfare work has been repeatedly stressed by all quarters concerned. By the co-operation of the British Academy in the administration of the Fund, the qualifications of the research workers to be selected

and the choice of appropriate subjects have been secured.

The appeal received a good deal of notice in the national press and on radio and television, but though good progress has been made in terms of money collected, the number of contributors is as important as the total amount. Therefore, for the benefit of those AJR members and their friends who so far have not contributed, a donation form is enclosed in this issue. Those who want to contribute outright donations should return the form, together with their remittance. Those who want to make their payment under a Deed of Covenant, thus increasing the benefit from their contribution at no cost to themselves, should ask for the necessary forms. Contributors should also state on the donation form whether their name may be included in the final list of donors, which will not mention the amounts.

The Fund will only have achieved its actual object if it has commanded the active support of the vast majority of the former refugees in this country. For this reason it is vital that everybody should give something—be it large or small, according to his means—but, at any rate, a token of participation.

GEORGE MIKES LAUNCHES APPEAL AMONG HUNGARIANS

To launch the "Thank-You Britain" Fund appeal among refugees from Hungary, the author, Mr. George Mikes, held an "At Home" which was attended by a number of prominent scientists, scholars, artists and industrialists. It was decided to form an Appeal Committee which, among others, will include the conductor, Mr. Georg Solti, the pianist, Mr. Louis Kentner, and Dr. Julius Jakobovits, Chairman of the Federation of Hungarian Jews in Great Britain.

AJR SPONSORS MEMORIAL MEETING

This year's meeting in memory of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and of the six million Jewish martyrs will be held on Sunday, April 25, at the Shaftesbury Theatre. It will, at the same time, mark the 20th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps. Sir Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P., the Attorney-General, has agreed to address the meeting, and the names of the other speakers, which will probably include Dr. Nahum Goldmann, will be announced shortly. The meeting will start at 3 p.m.

As in previous years the AJR is among the sponsoring organisations of the function, and it is earnestly hoped that many members will attend, thus paying tribute to the memory of those whom they have lost in the holocaust. Tickets for reserved seats (free of charge) may be obtained from the AJR Office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3 (MAIda Vale 9096/7), which, after publication of this issue, will also be able to give further information about the programme.

GERMANY TODAY

STATUTE OF LIMITATION

Bonn Parliament Considers Extension

The first step towards extension or even abolition of the statute of limitation on Nazi war crimes was taken by the Federal German Parliament on March 10, when it was decided to pass on the matter to the Legal Committee for further consideration. Among the speakers who passionately pleaded for a prolongation were Deputies Ernst Benda, of the Christian Democratic Party, and Dr. Adolf Arndt, of the Social Democratic Party. The Independent Democrats, headed by the Minister of Justice, Ewald Bucher—who also presented to the House the Cabinet's report on steps taken since the matter was debated last—are against a prolongation, but, at the time of going to press, it appears that some form of extension is favoured by the majority of Deputies.

REPORT ON EXTREME RIGHT-WING ACTIVITIES

According to the 1964 report by the Federal Ministry of the Interior there has been a decrease of extreme right-wing and antisemitic activities in the Federal Republic. The number of their parties and organisations amounts to 119, of which only eight have more than 500 members, and their total membership is 22,500 (against 24,600 in 1963 and 56,200 in 1959). There are 45 extreme right-wing papers with a total average circulation of about 183,000 copies. The report mentions by way of comparison that the circulation of the dailies—none of which has extreme right-wing tendencies—amounts to 20 million copies. On the other hand, 66 Fascist periodicals are infiltrated from other countries.

There were 171 neo-Nazi and antisemitic incidents. In 30 cases Jews and prosecutors of Nazi crimes received anonymous threatening letters.

EX-NAZI JUDGES

The recent appointment of Dr. Carl Creifelds as a judge of the West German Supreme Court caused controversy because Dr. Heinrich Luebke refused to give his approval on the ground of Creifelds' pro-Nazi activities during the Third Reich. It has now been stated that Dr. Creifelds has resigned, as from June. The West Berlin Senator for Justice said that President Luebke's attitude seemed justified since documents had been found in Berlin showing that Creifelds had been head of a department at the Nazi Ministry of Justice.

The Karlsruhe Federal Court has stated that Dr. Heinrich Jagusch, a senior West German Federal judge who was suspended in January after being accused of lying about his membership of the Nazi Party, had been retired on health grounds. A disciplinary suit has already been opened against him.—(J.C.)

TREBLINKA MURDERS

Franz Suchomel is one of ten former guards at the Treblinka camp on trial in Duesseldorf, accused of complicity in the murder of about 700,000 Jews.—(J.C.)

INVESTIGATOR'S PAST

Herr Erwin Schuele, head of the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Ludwigsburg, has admitted that he had been a member of the Nazi Party, but denied East German charges that he has been shielding war criminals. He told reporters that he had applied for Nazi Party membership in 1937 to escape persecution for his anti-Nazi beliefs. He never received a party card or took part in Nazi activities, he said.

Ministry of Justice officials said they were aware Herr Schuele had been a nominal party member, but they knew he had done no wrong.

"EXECUTED NAZI"

According to a statement posted from Duesseldorf and sent to news agencies in Bonn by a group who called themselves "Those who can never forget", a body found in a bullet-riddled trunk in Montevideo was that of an "executed" Nazi who supervised the killing of more than 30,000 people. The man, it was stated, was Herbert Cukurs, 65, a Latvian, who had been "tried and sentenced".

The body was discovered after a "tip-off" to the agencies telling of Cukurs's "execution" and giving the Montevideo police directions on where to find the remains.

The statement said that after the conquest of Latvia by the Germans in 1940, Cukurs "devoted his entire energies to serving the Germans, personally supervising the implementation of their orders to massacre Jews and undesirables". With the Russian entry into Latvia, Cukurs fled to Berlin, later to France, and from there to South America, where he is believed to have settled in Brazil. From Sao Paulo it appears he flew to Montevideo on February 23—the day on which, according to the statement, he was "executed".

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

According to a statistical survey recently published, the total membership of West Germany's Jewish communities was 25,132 at the end of 1964. Their average age is 46. The largest community, with 5,890 members, is in West Berlin. Frankfurt has 4,055; Munich, 3,148; Hamburg, 1,464; Duesseldorf, 1,302; Cologne, 1,211. Ninety-six Jews left during the last quarter of 1964, and 250 Jews from other countries settled in West Germany.

NOVELLE ZUM OESTERREICHISCHEN OPFERFUERSORGESETZ

In der in der Maerz-Nummer der "AJR-Information" erschienenen Darstellung wurde unter anderem darauf hingewiesen, dass Hinterbliebene nunmehr eine EntschaeDIGung beanspruchen koennen, wenn das Opfer beim Versuch, sich der Verhaftung zu entziehen, getoetet worden war oder wegen einer unmittelbar drohenden Verhaftung Selbstmord begangen hatte.

Der Hinweis erfordert eine Klarstellung: die Neuerung kommt lediglich hinterbliebenen Witwen zugute. F.L.B.

TRIALS

Warsaw Ghetto

A Bielefeld court has imposed nine sentences of hard labour for life on Heinrich Klaustermeyer, one for each of the nine Jews he was convicted of killing in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1941-43. The judge said Klaustermeyer had not received orders for these killings but had acted from "sheer lust for murder". He had hated Jews all his life and his attitude had not changed. According to Nazi reports, between April and December alone more than 7,000 Ghetto inmates had died from "bullet wounds", which meant that they had been shot in the street for no other reason than that they were there when a Nazi or S.S. official walked by. Klaustermeyer had been one of these officials, said the judge.

Executions in Zakopane Area

Robert Weissmann, a former S.S. officer, is on trial in Freiburg. He admitted that he was in charge of a mass execution of mostly old and sick Jews in the Novy Targ cemetery in the Zakopane area of Poland in August, 1942, but said he was obeying orders and had killed a few Jews "to set an example" for his men. An Israeli witness told the court that the entire Jewish population of Novy Targ had been deported to an extermination camp on a single day after the execution. Arno Sehmisch, who succeeded Weissmann in the area in 1943, is also charged with responsibility for the mass murder of Jews.

Krumey Appeal

The public prosecutor in Frankfurt is appealing against the court decision freeing ex-S.S. Lieut-Col. Hermann Krumey, a former Eichmann aide. Krumey was sentenced to five years' hard labour for complicity in the murder of at least 300,000 Hungarian Jews. He was freed because he had spent nearly five years in custody, pending trial, on condition that he reports to the police twice a month.

Rajakovitch Sentenced

Erich Rajakovitch, a former S.S. officer and alleged assistant of Eichmann, was sentenced in Vienna to two and a half years' imprisonment for "actions and omissions" which caused the death of 82 Dutch Jews in Auschwitz concentration camp. The period of almost two years which Rajakovitch spent under arrest will count towards the sentence. He was acquitted of the charge of complicity in the murder of the Dutch Jews.

Dr. Ernst Kovacs, the public prosecutor, has appealed against the "mildness" of the sentence.

Prague War Crimes Evidence

According to C.T.K., the Prague news agency, the Minister of Justice has announced that the Czech Government is handing over important evidence on Nazi war criminals to France, Belgium, Yugoslavia and Holland. West Germany would be given copies of the evidence, which came from the war archives that the Nazi Waffen S.S. left behind on Czech territory.—(J.C.)

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HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

THE LATE LORD MORRISON

Lord Morrison of Lambeth, who died on March 6, was a lifelong friend of the Zionist cause. He fought Chamberlain's White Paper in 1939, repeatedly visited Palestine and later, Israel, and on numerous occasions spoke publicly in support of the Zionist cause and of the State of Israel. However, he did not oppose Bevin's policy in the post-war Labour Government because, as he later remarked, this would have meant blowing up the Government. When the Labour Party went back into opposition and later, when he himself went to the House of Lords as a Life Peer, he re-emerged as a friend of Israel.

His concern for London Jewry was shown by the important part he played in the discussion of Government action against Mosley's fascist activities, especially during the pre-war period. Lord Morrison also repeatedly addressed Jewish gatherings, including a Board of Deputies dinner.

AGAINST RACE LITERATURE

In a Parliamentary reply Sir Frank Soskice, the Home Secretary, stated he would be bringing to the notice of the police material alleging "racist pornography", examples of which had been supplied to him by Mr. Hugh Jenkins, Labour M.P. for Putney. Mr. Jenkins suggested that the dissemination of such publications should be prohibited in the forthcoming legislation against racial discrimination. Sir Frank replied that he was not yet in a position to add what had previously been announced as regards the content of possible legislation.

Mr. W. E. Garrett, M.P. for Wallsend, met leaders of the local Jewish community to discuss "race hate" leaflets being distributed in the area. Mr. Garrett is being supported in this matter by Mr. Harry Randall, M.P. for Gateshead West, and Mr. Geoffrey Rhodes, M.P. for Newcastle East.

ADVISERS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Among experts appointed to advise the Foreign Secretary on matters dealing with conciliation and international affairs and law are Mr. Eli Lauterpacht, Mr. Colin Legum, Dr. F. A. Mann and Mr. Andrew Shonfield. The appointments, made by the former Foreign Secretary, are in connection with the Government's desire to make positive suggestions to the new United Nations peace-keeping committee.

SIR EDGAR COHEN

Sir Edgar Cohen has been appointed permanent British representative in the Organisation for European Co-operation and Development, and will have the personal rank of Ambassador. He has been the permanent British delegate to the Council of the European Free Trade Association and to G.A.T.T.

PARLIAMENTARIANS

Sir Barnett Janner, M.P., was elected chairman of the Anglo-Israeli Parliamentary Group. He has held office in this organisation since 1931. It is the largest inter-parliamentary group with a membership of almost 70.

Because of illness, Sir Barnett Stross has resigned as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health.

"ANTISEMITISM IN COMMONS"

Speaking as guest of honour at a dinner and dance held by the Cockfosters and North Southgate J.P.A. Committee, Mr. Maurice Orbach, M.P., alleged that even in the House of Commons insidious undercurrents of anti-semitism and bias against Israel could be detected. That undercurrent was all the more disturbing when one thought of what had been achieved in Israel. The process of education might take half a century more before the world would accept that there was "only one human race", Mr. Orbach added.—(J.C.)

LEYTON CLASH

Mr. Frederick Mulley, Army Minister, in a reply in the House of Commons stated that a soldier who was present at the disturbance at Leyton Town Hall on January 7 when Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker, the then Foreign Secretary, was involved in clashes with Colin Jordan and other members of the British Nazi Party, has been discharged from the Army.

Mr. Reginald Freeson, M.P., who brought the matter up, said afterwards that he would be keeping a watch in future on the activities of those people who were stirring up trouble. He was determined to do all in his power to bring to the notice of the appropriate authority any instances he came across of racial or religious intolerance.

CIVIC APPOINTMENTS

The next Lord Mayor of Newcastle is to be Alderman Mrs. Theresa Science Russell, the Sheriff's Lady, who has been a member of the Newcastle City Council for 20 years. Alderman Dr. Henry Russell and Mrs. Russell were the first Jews to be Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Newcastle in 1962. Mrs. Russell's position is believed to be unique in civic history in this country, she having been Lady Mayoress and Sheriff's Lady and soon to be the Lord Mayor.

Alderman Samuel Fisher is first mayor of the new Greater London Borough of Camden. He was formally installed on April 1, the day Camden superseded the boroughs of Hampstead, Holborn and St. Pancras under the Greater London Council scheme.

Mr. Daniel Schonfield, Mr. Sigmund Sternberg and Mr. Marcus Sticher have been sworn in as Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex. Dr. R. Sheridan has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the County of Middlesex and the Middlesex area of the new Greater London Council.

FIGHT AGAINST RISE IN CRIME

In an address on "The Rise of Crime in Modern Society" to the annual evening reception of the League of Jewish Women, Judge Bernard Gillis, Q.C., stated that, although the Jewish community could pride itself on its low rate of juvenile delinquency, there were signs that in recent years that record was being lowered. He said he would like to see a national crusade against the rise in crime and for the restoration of moral standards in their widest sense.

PRAISE FOR COMMUNITY

Lord Chuter-Ede was guest of honour at the 18th anniversary dinner of the Jewish Secondary Schools and the Hasmonean Schools. He said that the Anglo-Jewish community is an essential part of the life of Britain and its members are among the most useful and helpful in the nation. Earlier he referred to the days when he was Home Secretary and to his contacts with the Jewish community concerning refugees.

SYNAGOGUES ROBBED

Thieves broke into the Boreham Wood and Elstree Synagogue and took the silver from the sifrei Torah. No official estimate has yet been made of the value of the stolen silver, but it is understood it will run into hundreds. Silver valued at almost £1,000 was taken from the sifrei Torah at the Dollis Hill Synagogue. No damage was done to the synagogues.

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Queen Mother Visits Home

The Queen Mother paid an informal visit to the Lewis W. Hammerson Memorial Home for Elderly Jewish People, at The Bishop's Avenue, Hampstead Garden Suburb. Three of the 30 residents, veterans of past wars, wore their decorations. The design of the Home, with its 26 single bedrooms and extensive, well-laid-out gardens, particularly impressed the Queen Mother. Hammerson House, administered as a voluntary Society, was officially opened in 1962 after seven years' planning and fund-raising at a site donated by the widow of the late Mr. L. W. Hammerson. The Society plans to build an additional wing when the money is available, which will cost over £50,000. There is a waiting list of nearly 200.

Minister for Hampstead Synagogue

The Rev. Raymond Apple, minister of the Bayswater Synagogue, has been appointed minister of the Hampstead Synagogue in succession to the Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy, who became director of the Jewish National Fund. Mr. Apple will take up his appointment in May.

Rehabilitation Hostel Opened

Ealon House, the Jewish Welfare Board's new long-term hostel at Mapesbury Road, Willesden, for patients discharged from mental hospitals, was officially opened by the former Minister of Health, Mr. Enoch Powell, M.P. The hostel accommodates 24 residents whom it is helping to return to normal life, and was established at a cost of £60,000. A second opening ceremony took place under the auspices of the Ealon Aid Society, which provided the furniture and equipment. It was stressed that no other society was known, either Jewish or non-Jewish, which had got together so quickly to provide facilities of that nature.

Book Week

Jewish Book Week took place from March 22 to 25 and was held at the Adolph Tuck Hall, Woburn House, London. A number of important lectures were held, including "Literature and Assimilation", by Mr. John Gross, the writer. Dr. Elizabeth Eppler gave a lecture on "Jewish Women, Past and Present".

The Jewish Book Exhibition comprised a selection of books, journals, etc., covering all aspects of Jewish literature.

House-Parents' Shortage

The Norwood House Committee, which administers the Norwood Home for Jewish children, is gravely concerned over an acute shortage of Jewish house-parents. Individual residences designed to provide the children with a normal family life make it necessary for house-parents who will provide the necessary Jewish atmosphere. The Jewish Welfare Board also has to face the same problem in its children's homes. If the situation worsens, the Norwood Joint Committee will have to tell the local authorities that Jewish children will have to go into non-Jewish homes.

Training for TV

Students of Jews' College will be able to take training courses in the techniques of presenting religion on British television, as well as an intensified course of Hebrew study in Israel. The facilities of the Churches' Television Training Centre in London have been placed at the disposal of the College. An offer has also been accepted from the Jewish Agency's Torah Department to enable students of Jews' College to attend the Hebrew courses at the Machon Gold Institute for the training of teachers in Israel during vacation periods.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

THE AMERICAN SCENE

Federal School Aid

In President Johnson's anti-poverty scheme there is a section on federal aid to religious schools. Jewish day schools stand to gain very little from the educational section of the anti-poverty law since Jews are far from being under-privileged in America. An attempt by the Kennedy Administration to help religious schools directly from federal funds was previously defeated. It is felt that the present proposals may be dangerous to the principles of Church and State separation.

"Godless" Rabbi

Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, who admitted a short time ago that he did not believe in God, has been ordered to move his 140-member congregation from its meeting place in the Birmingham (Michigan) Masonic Temple, for "theological reasons".

It was stated that the letter giving notice to quit insisted that a positive commitment to the existence of a Supreme Being was requisite for continued use of the Masonic Temple.

The Birmingham Council of Ministers, of which Rabbi Wine is a member, protested at the action.

"Soviet Sabbath"

The Washington rabbinate proclaimed Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13, as a "Sabbath for Soviet Jewry" in protest at Russia's discrimination against the Jewish population. The services were announced by the presidents of the Rabbinical Council of Washington and the Washington Board of Rabbis.

Yiddish Dictionary

The municipally owned City of New York College will publish the "Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language", a \$1,275,000 (about £455,300) project which has been under way since 1953. The Institute of Yiddish Lexicography has been established for the purpose, and a Yiddish Dictionary Committee has been incorporated to raise money. Ten volumes are planned, of which the first was issued in 1961. The project is expected to be completed in 17 years. The dictionary is to be published first in Yiddish and then bilingual editions in Yiddish, English, Hebrew and Spanish will be issued.—(J.C.)

"PROTOCOLS" AGAIN

Walter Klinck, chairman of the Alberta University Social Credit group, has been expelled from the party for putting on sale the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" at the Social Credit booth in the university's bookshop. Some weeks before, the Social Party's national leader wrote to the Canadian Jewish Congress rejecting antisemitism and undertaking to expel any Social Credit member advocating it.

CO-ORDINATION OF JEWISH RELIEF

Jewish leaders met in Paris to discuss community and social welfare problems of common interest in America, Israel and Europe. The organisations represented were the Jewish Agency, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, the Standing Conference of European Jewish Community Services and the American Joint Distribution Committee.

An official statement said that this "exploratory meeting", which was the first of its kind, "may well lead to a programme of mutual co-operation for Jews throughout the world on those non-political goals on which all Jews can unite". Subjects discussed included Jewish education, community centres and youth activities, fund-raising, employment and training of staff and ways to overcome trends to assimilation.

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam Honours Resistance

Amsterdam held its annual ceremony in Jonas Daniel Meyer Square, commemorating the strike by a section of Amsterdam workers in February, 1941, in protest against the first German deportation of Jews from the city. The deputy mayor announced that a square in Amsterdam is to be named after the late Dr. L. E. Visser, the Jewish president of the Netherlands Supreme Court from 1939 to November, 1940, when he was replaced by the Germans. Dr. Visser, who was a judge of the Supreme Court for many years, was prominent in the moral resistance to the anti-Jewish measures of the Germans. He died in The Hague in January, 1942, aged 71.

The mayor of Amsterdam has presented a replica of the "Stevadore" statue in Jonas Daniel Meyer Square to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The statue pays tribute to the Amsterdam workers who protested.

BELGIAN VICTIMS' DEMAND

An association of Jews of Belgian origin who were victims of Nazism has been formed to support the compensation claims of members who wore the yellow star and lived in hiding during the war to avoid deportation. This category has been excluded from West Germany's allocation of 80 million DM to the Belgian Government to pay compensation to Belgian victims of Nazism.

The Minister of Health told the Belgian Parliament that the West German Government refused to take into account the claims of these Jews in the negotiations for compensation. West German compensation authorities did not accept their individual claims because they were Belgian citizens.

FRENCH PROTEST AGAINST NAZI ARTIST

A campaign preparing for a revival of the artistic activities of Arno Brecker, the former official sculptor of Nazism, has met with protest in Paris. Issued by M. R. Feigelson, the secretary-general of the Amicale des Juifs Anciens Résistants, the protest refers to Brecker's sculptures of Aryan "warlords", incarnating "racial superiority" and justifying the extermination of innocent people, displayed in anti-Jewish exhibitions of Hitler's Germany. "We cannot forget the numerous Jewish artists murdered in Auschwitz in the name of Nazi culture, which Arno Brecker served as propagandist, his sculptures symbolising the reign of violence", states the protest.

MONTEFIORE STREET IN LEGHORN

A memorial plaque was unveiled in Leghorn, Italy, in memory of Sir Moses Montefiore. The plaque is on the wall of the Jewish community centre facing the site of the building where Sir Moses was born in 1784, and a street was named after him. Italian-Jewish leaders and representatives of the civil and military authorities in the town attended. Tribute was paid to Sir Moses as a pioneer of Jewish diplomacy and forerunner of Zionism. Mr. and Mrs. John Sebag-Montefiore and Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Sebag-Montefiore, from England, were present.

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JEWRY IN THE EAST

People's Judge

Mr. Reuben Borisovitch Goldberg is one of the two People's Judges for Birobidjan, the Jewish autonomous region in the east of the Soviet Union. The district attorney of the town since 1962 and qualified as an engineer, he is the holder of a high military decoration.

Arthur Miller in Moscow

The playwright Arthur Miller, during a recent visit to Moscow, visited the offices of the Yiddish periodical, *Sovietish Heimland*.

Writers' Union

Ilya Ehrenburg and six other Jewish writers have been elected to the new secretariat of the board of the Moscow section of the Soviet Writers' Union. They include A. Stein, A. Kronn, I. Gordon and A. Dymshits.

The list of the newly elected board of the Leningrad section of the Union is headed by Anna Akhmatova, the Russian-Jewish poetess. Other Jews on the board include Y. Etkint, V. Shefner, E. Grin, I. Aizenshtok and G. Gor. Once expelled from the Union, Anna Akhmatova is now clearly regarded as rehabilitated.

Leningrad Cemetery

It is reported by visitors from Leningrad that the old Jewish cemetery there is full. The city authorities, who earlier allowed for new Jewish burial grounds, have withdrawn their permission. Experts on the Jewish religion, claimed the authorities, agreed that there was no Jewish law requiring separate burial ground so that, according to Soviet policy, only mixed cemeteries can be provided.

Music for Peretz

Moise Weinberg, a pupil of Shostakovich and son-in-law of Solomon Mikhoels, the Soviet-Jewish actor executed during the Stalin régime, has written new music to I. L. Peretz's "Children's Poem". It will be performed in a concert of the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra.

Rumanian Liberalisation

Dr. David Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, during a private visit to Scotland, told a *Jewish Chronicle* correspondent that Rumanian Jewry was better off now than two years ago. There was a more liberal atmosphere in the country generally. Jews had complete freedom and the anti-religious Jews who had formerly controlled the religious organisations no longer did so. Rabbi Rosen said Rumania's Jewish population was estimated at about 130,000, organised into 100 communities. There were not nearly enough rabbis for the community's needs and there was also a shortage of ritual slaughterers, teachers and communal officials.—(J.C.)

CHILE

Appointments

Señor Enrique Berstein, of Jewish descent, has been appointed Chilean Ambassador to France. He heads the special commission set up by Chile to prepare evidence for submission to Britain, which has agreed to arbitrate in a border dispute between Chile and Argentina.

A newly appointed member of the commission is a Sephardi Jew, Señor Santiago Bernadava, who is First Secretary at the Chilean Embassy in Holland.

Racialism Banned

The Santiago municipality has promulgated a by-law banning all forms of racist propaganda and forbidding the display of any "emblems of régimes which no longer exist".

Chilean radio stations and the broadcasting stations of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay were represented at a meeting which passed a resolution calling on members not to allow the stations of their countries to be used for discriminatory programmes.—(J.C.)

Dr. Sigrid Herzog (Berlin)

ALFRED-WOLFENSTEIN-AUSSTELLUNG IN BERLIN

Am 7. Februar wurde in der Berliner Akademie der Künste mit einer Ausstellung und einer Feierstunde das Alfred-Wolfenstein-Archiv eröffnet. Anwesend waren dabei die langjährige Lebensgefährtin und der Sohn des Dichters, die heute in London leben. Aus dem Nachlass Wolfensteins, soweit er von den Erben gerettet werden konnte, hat die Akademie nun ihre 34. Sammlung dieser Art zusammengestellt.

Im Foyer und in der Glasgalerie werden einige Dokumente aus dem Leben und Werk des "ersten Linksinтеллекuellen des Jahrhunderts", des "Rilke aus Thüringen und existenzialistischen Expressionisten" gezeigt. So nannte ihn der Leiter des Archivs der Akademie, Dr. Walther Huder. Briefe, Manuskripte, Erstdrucke und Fotos sind in übersichtlicher Folge aufgestellt. Ueber dem Eingang zur Glasgalerie hängt eine Kopie des Strassenschildes aus Halle, der Heimatstadt des Dichters, wo man eine Strasse nach ihm benannt hat.

Diese kleine aber lebendige Ausstellung vermittelt nicht nur die Bekanntschaft mit einer ausserordentlichen Persönlichkeit, sie öffnet zugleich ein Fenster zu einer der intensivsten Epochen künstlerischen Lebens in Deutschland. Mit vielen Grossen dieser Zeit war Wolfenstein persönlich verbunden. Da gibt es Briefe und Fotos von Georg Kaiser, Carl v. Ossietzky und vielen anderen. Rilke hatte die Lyrik Wolfensteins "Gedichte von ergreifender Neuheit und Schönheit" genannt, "die durch den Geist aufgenommen, das Herz bewegen".

Alfred Wolfenstein war einer der bedeutendsten Vertreter des Expressionismus. Wer sich jedoch in den neueren Literaturgeschichten über ihn informieren will, findet nur spärliche und ungenaue Angaben. Ausser wenigen Gedichten und kurzen Prosastücken in wiederaufgelegten Anthologien und einem schmalen Bändchen in der Reihe "Verschollene und Vergessene" wurde nach 1945 nichts von ihm neu gedruckt. Jetzt ebnet das Wolfenstein-Archiv der Forschung und den Verlegern den Zugang zum Werk des Dichters. Es bleibt zu hoffen, dass sie diese Chance nutzen. Im Verlag Kiepenheuer und Witsch werden demnächst in der Reihe "Kollektion Theater" zwei seiner Dramen wiederer-

scheinen, und zwar "Der Narr der Insel" und "Die Nacht vor dem Beil". Ausserdem bereitet dieser Verlag eine historisch-kritische Werkausgabe vor. Der Dünndruckband mit etwa 1.000 Seiten wird vermutlich in zwei Jahren erscheinen. Man darf gespannt sein, ob auch eine deutsche Bühne sich entschliessen wird, ein Stück von Wolfenstein wieder aufzuführen.

Bei der Eröffnung der Ausstellung hatte man Gelegenheit, sich davon zu überzeugen, dass zumindest eines dieser Dramen noch aktuell ist: "Die Nacht vor dem Beil", eine szenische Versuchsreihe mit Argumenten für und gegen die Todesstrafe. Die Lesung aus diesem Stück, in der vorzüglichen Interpretation von zwei bekannten Berliner Schauspielern, Ernst Schröder und Stefan Wigger, war—auch ohne das Pathos der zwanziger Jahre gesprochen—höchst eindrucksvoll.

Dr. Ludwig Berger, Direktor der Abteilung Darstellende Kunst an der Akademie, sprach in seinem Eröffnungs-Referat davon, dass man diesen Dichter behutsam ehren müsse. Berger, der lange Jahre hindurch mit Wolfenstein befreundet war, verglich ihn mit dem anderen grossen Einsamen, Novalis. Und es wurde in der Tat keine der üblichen lauten Festreden, sondern eine sehr verhaltene, bedeutsame Würdigung dieses ungewöhnlichen Dichters.

Autor und Uebersetzer

Nur wenige wissen heute, dass der am 28. Dezember, 1888, in Halle geborene Dichter promovierter Jurist war. Er lebte—mit vierjähriger Unterbrechung in München—in Berlin als freier Schriftsteller. Bekannt wurde er durch seine Dramen und die Lyrikbände "Die gottlosen Jahre" (1914 erschienen), "Die Freundschaft" und "Der menschliche Kämpfer". 1920 gab er das Jahrbuch "Die Erhebung" heraus. Darin kamen die Vertreter des späten Expressionismus zu Worte. Wolfensteins Uebersetzungen der Werke Molières, Flauberts, Hugos und Shelleys gelten bis heute als unübertroffen. Für seine Uebersetzung Rimbauds verlieh ihm die Academie Française den Uebersetzerpreis.

1933 emigrierte Wolfenstein nach Prag und von dort nach Paris, wo er von der Gestapo in das Gefängnis "Santè" verschleppt wurde. Dort entstand sein Gedichtzyklus "Der Gefangene" der im Berliner Archiv jetzt zum ersten Mal zugänglich ist. Auf der Flucht durch Südfrankreich schrieb Wolfenstein einen bisher noch unveröffentlichten Roman, dem er den Namen seines Sohnes gab: "Frank, die Geschichte eines jungen Menschen unserer Zeit".

Nach seiner Befreiung schied der Dichter freiwillig aus dem Leben. Seine Gedanken werden in vielerlei Gestalt lebendig bleiben. Er schrieb einmal von sich selbst: "Geboren wurde ich an vielen Tagen. . . Denn es gibt nur die Lichter der Welt, die wir selbst entzünden. Biographie gibt es nicht. . . Nur was ein Mensch formt, hat Sprache, um den Menschen zu formen! Das Werk. Niemand wird geboren, ehe nicht von ihm geboren wird. . . Das ist unsere Sternenfreiheit und des Scheinlebens gleich-ewige Gefahr. Aber der Gefahr spottet jede Dichtung und verkündet: Wir selbst bringen uns hervor! Zu unserem Grabe werden nur kommen, die unsere Gestalten nicht sehen".

Old Acquaintances

Obituary: Franz Hoebing, for 50 years a member of Vienna's Burg and the last to become "Hofschauspieler", has died at the age of 78.—Frank Reicher, son of the once famous actor, Emanuel Reicher, and step-brother of the German film star Ernst Reicher, of "Stuart Webbs" fame, died near Los Angeles where he lived since 1915.—The well-known typographer, Fritz Helmuth Ehmke, who designed the famous Ullstein owl, has died in Bavaria.

Germany: Lucie Mannheim appears in "Die Ratten" with Inge Meysels and Karl John at Hamburg's Thalia.—Zarah Leander will star in Peter Kreuder's musical "Lady aus Paris" with libretto by Karl Farkas, at Berlin's Theater des Westens.—Annemarie Hase is to appear in "Billy Liar" adapted by F. and D. Gotfurt, at Berlin's Berliner Theater.—Eric Burger's adaptation of Gardner's "1,000 Clowns" was successfully presented in Berlin and Munich.—Ernst Busch received the East German Johannes R. Becher Medal.—Maria Fein read excerpts from her autobiography "Engagierter Lebenslauf" in Berlin.—Elsa Wagner gave a reading of Else Lasker-Schueler's works at Berlin's Academy.

Coffee House versus Espresso: Guests of Vienna's coffee houses—and there are still 300 left—will get a free cup of coffee this month if they answer a questionnaire. The owners want to know: do the Viennese prefer Espresso, Turkish or the usual choice of a "Braunen", "Schale Gold" or "Melange", and do they want an orchestra or a juke box? The "regulars" will not be asked whether they want to receive glasses of fresh water and Austrian and foreign newspapers and periodicals, because all that will, of course, remain as it always was. Whatever happens, Vienna's coffee houses will fight for their existence until the last "Schwarzen".

Milestones: The grand old lady of literature, Annette Kolb, born in Badenweiler as the daughter of a French pianist, is 95 years old.—Heinz Hilpert, who is director of the theatre in Goettingen, is 75 years old; he began as a producer with Max Reinhardt and ran Berlin's Deutsches Theater during the Third Reich.—Hans Tasiemka, who lives in London and is a correspondent for German papers and TV adviser, is 60; he started in Berlin as co-founder of the "Jung-Republikanische Partei Deutschlands" and was on the staff of "12 Uhrblatt".—Professor Dr. Max Horkheimer, of the Frankfurt University, who lectured at the Columbia University until he returned to Germany, is 70 years old.

Between Tel Aviv and Berlin: Austrian Eva Kerbler-Lion, for three years a gifted member of Israel's Habimah ensemble, was scheduled for the part of Maggie in Arthur Miller's "After the Fall" at Berlin's Schiller-Theater. The rehearsals had already started when she suddenly cancelled her contract because Habimah actors are not permitted to perform in Germany. Actually in 1959 she appeared in "Ein klarer Fall" at Berlin's Komoedie. Director Barlog had to postpone the first night while looking for another actress. By the way, Eva Kerbler will visit London with the Habimah ensemble in April.

Home News: On his way back from America, where he gave recitals in New York and Montreal, Werner Finck will stop over in London and will give a lecture at the German Institute on May 10.—In August, East Berlin's "Berliner Ensemble" will come to London for three weeks. They will present Brecht's "Dreigroschenoper", "Arturo Ui", "Coriolanus" and "Days of the Commune" at the Old Vic.

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FAMOUS JEWS AND LUDENDORFF

On the Occasion of his Birth Centenary—April 9, 1965

"Ludendorff offers rich material to any future imaginative writer in search of a subject among the figures of the present time. He makes a strong and effective stage character, by reason of the wealth and variety of his own traits".

—Theodor Wolff.

While a wave of enthusiasm swept Germany in August, 1914, Walther Rathenau, conscious of the terrible risk of war, was worried and, driven by his ardent patriotism, did his best to help by organising the supply of raw materials. With regard to the military aspect of warfare he, like his friend Maximilian Harden, set his hopes on the person of General Erich Ludendorff, who had distinguished himself at Liège and in the battle of Tannenberg.

It was in Kovno, at the end of 1915, that Rathenau was first introduced to Ludendorff. He was deeply impressed by the General's strong personality, his immense will-power, intelligence and quick understanding. Rathenau was too sober and realistic to expect a smashing German victory, but he considered Ludendorff as the man who, by virtue of his military talents, would at least secure an honourable peace. He therefore did everything he could to support Ludendorff in the field of war economy, particularly in the execution of the so-called "Hindenburg-Programme". He also associated himself with those who tried to manoeuvre the Supreme Command into the General's hands: probably he secretly hoped to imbue Ludendorff's mind with his own ideas.

Another great economic expert of Jewish origin, Franz Oppenheimer, despite his Zionist sympathies, was, like Rathenau, inspired by a strong German patriotism and wanted to assist the "common fatherland" to the best of his abilities. In consequence he was requested to discuss matters of war economy with Ludendorff, who, as Chief of Staff of the German High Command in the East, was then Hindenburg's right hand. Before the meeting staff officers politely asked Oppenheimer to consider the General's limited time, but they were much surprised when their chief conversed with his caller for an unusually long time. Ludendorff and Oppenheimer got along very well, the latter stating afterwards: "Damals hatte ich den allerstärksten Eindruck von der Gedankenkraft und Persönlichkeit des Siegers von Tannenberg (Ludendorff). Es war ein blitzschnelles Verstehen, und jede neue Frage zielte fehllos auf den Kern der noch übrigen Dinge".

On January 29, 1916, Paul Nathan, the eminent Jewish politician and humanitarian, received an invitation from Ludendorff to take part in an Eastern German High Command conference in Kovno scheduled for February 21. Nathan's opinion was sought as an expert on Eastern Jewish questions, because the German military administration was toying with the idea of transporting masses of Eastern Jews overseas in order to alleviate the food shortage in the German-occupied area of East Europe. It was strange that Paul Nathan, the civilian, had to tell the military men that it was impossible to send such transports over an ocean ruled by the enemy. The Jews could be brought on the ships only by force, and enemy propaganda would decry this as an act of violence. Ludendorff saw the validity of Nathan's objections and dropped the plan. Nathan, on the other hand, was impressed by Ludendorff's ability of comprehension and of taking his decision accordingly.

However, when Franz Oppenheimer saw

Ludendorff again he was disappointed: "Ich fand Ludendorff stark verändert, schon äusserlich. . . Ich hatte ihn ausserordentlich hoch verehrt und war recht traurig über diese Veränderung; ich habe mich damals vertrauten Freunden gegenüber sofort dahin geäußert, dass ich an ihm die ersten Zeichen des Caesarenwahnsinns zu bemerken glaubte, dem er später zu unserm Schmerze immer mehr verfiel".

Walther Rathenau had to undergo a similar experience. When he strongly warned Ludendorff against the monstrous assumption that Britain could be forced by the unrestricted submarine war to capitulate in the summer of 1917, Ludendorff ill-humouredly cut the conversation short. However, when Rathenau reminded him by letter in June, 1917, that his prediction had proved correct, Ludendorff thoroughly discussed the matter with him at Kreuznach on July 10. Rathenau based his argument on statistical material. He emphasised that this was not a question of strategy, but of economy and technology, and for this reason dared to oppose Ludendorff's opinion. Ludendorff appreciated Rathenau's concern, but did not accept his view because, as he said, he had to follow his intuition.

After this Rathenau lost confidence in him. Events proved Rathenau right and Ludendorff wrong. On the other hand, it must be stated in the latter's favour that Britain was really at the brink of a breakdown in consequence of the submarine war, and that Germany's situation was so desperate that Ludendorff had to gamble everything on one stake, namely, to try to knock out Britain before the American support could be effective.

When Ludendorff, weighed down by the disastrous military situation, urged the Reich Government on September 29, 1918, to negotiate for an armistice, Rathenau, in a sensational article published in the *Vossische Zeitung* on October 7, 1918, strongly opposed this and recommended a *levée en masse*. He also incautiously suggested that "the man who has lost his nerve must be replaced." Thus he became the target of Ludendorff's vindictive hate. When Reich Chancellor Prince Max von Baden asked Ludendorff for his opinion he refused Rathenau's desperate proposal, and there is no doubt that in this case he was right and Rathenau wrong.

After his own downfall and Germany's defeat, Ludendorff tried to vindicate his leadership in the war. For this purpose he asked Theodor Wolff, the influential editor of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, for a meeting, though this eminent Jewish journalist had always opposed Ludendorff's war policy. Wolff met Ludendorff at a private party in Berlin. In a passionate statement the General insisted that he was unjustly charged with having interfered in politics, set up the Kingdom of Poland, and initiated the unrestricted submarine war. He announced that he intended to write a book to prove his point of view. When Theodor Wolff dared to raise objections Ludendorff hardly concealed his chagrin. Despite this, his personality impressed Wolff, too: "Perhaps it was not greatness, but, at all events, bigness."

Like Wolff, democratically-minded people were unconvinced by Ludendorff's published War Memoirs and, when, in Berlin, the belligerent author came across Professor Ludwig Stein, the Jewish thinker and writer, he gave vent to his bad temper. But his determination to whitewash himself and to try to shift

the blame on others became abjectly obvious when he declared before the Reichstag Committee of Enquiry in November, 1920: "I regret that I am compelled to repeat Walther Rathenau's remark that on the day the Kaiser and his paladins on their white chargers ride victoriously through the Brandenburger Tor, history will have lost all meaning. There were currents of opinion in the nation, which did not subscribe to the view of the Supreme Command that we must fight to a victorious end, and these currents of opinion must be taken into account."

In an article published in the *Berliner Tageblatt* the outraged Rathenau strongly protested against Ludendorff's accusation of his having undermined German morale during the war; he also proved that Ludendorff had maliciously distorted the meaning of one sentence of his essay "Der Kaiser." Yet, despite his defence, Rathenau became a marked man and his assassination in 1922 was to a large degree a consequence of this vile attack.

Ludendorff's statement before the Reichstag was only a step to his notorious "crusade" against Jews, Jesuits and Freemasons, which can only be interpreted as the outburst of the persecution mania of a man who, conscious of his qualities, was revolting against the acceptance of his failure.

If we try to analyse the General's former relationship with Jewish people, we come to the conclusion that, subconsciously, he regarded the German Jew still as the "Court-Jew" of the age of Absolutism, i.e., a tool to be used as long as it was useful, to be dispensed with as soon as it had lost its usefulness. *Mutatis mutandis*, Ludendorff, to further his ends, used, or tried to use, the prominent Jews whom he met, and he either turned against them, as in Rathenau's case, or ignored them when they no longer served his purpose.

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F. L. Brassloff

SINISTER SHADOWS AND DIM LIGHT

Almost twenty years ago, immediately after the collapse of the Third Reich, Christine, a seventeen-year-old Austrian girl, had a deep traumatic experience. Liberated Jewish concentration camp inmates suffering from typhoid are being temporarily housed in miserable sheds. By order of the local Commander of the American occupation forces they have to be attended to by her father, the village doctor, assisted by colleagues from among the Jewish survivors. Christine and a few other girls volunteer to nurse the patients, who are a collection of strange human beings, disturbed and ugly from their sufferings. Christine's attitude to them is ambivalent. Repugnance and pity intermingle with an attachment which leads to a girlish infatuation.

The mysterious Commander is responsible for the lack of food, medical supplies and elementary comfort of the makeshift hospital. Christine calls on him, even willing to pay with her virginity for an alleviation of the plight of the hapless patients. Her sacrifice is rejected. The Commander reveals to her the reason for his refusal to accede to her pleadings: "I was born in Vienna, my parents were Austrians, Austrian Jews. . . . Yes, I know, I should help. Not only your father came to me but also the other doctors. They are Jews, I am a Jew, but I do not care for them. Whom would I help? These Jews? They can no longer be helped. I would only help your father and you and the other village people. You see, this is what I do not want to do. I do not want it, I cannot do it." A few days later, however, the Commander sends all the things his visitor has asked him to provide.

Christine's father dies, a victim of the disease he tried to treat. When the Jews are being moved to another place she becomes painfully aware that she does not belong to them: "The pain dissolved imperceptibly and I felt the peace of the afternoon. The sun no longer hurt my eyes; it had set so low that I could look at it without having to cover my eyes; when it will have gone completely, it will be mild, big and red".

A Controversial Novel

This is the story "Das Schattennetz," by Käthe Recheis, published by the distinguished Catholic Herder Verlag of Vienna. It was in 1964 accorded both the Austrian State Prize for the best book of the year for youth and the Youth Book Award of the City of Vienna. Shortly before the prize-giving ceremony the Vienna Jewish Community Council expressed apprehension at the decision of the jury. Its monthly "Die Gemeinde" published two critical appreciations of the book. The journalist, Alexander Charim, concedes that Frau Recheis has considerable descriptive abilities. He conjectures that a personal experience of hers is likely to have caused her to draw such a particularly hateful character as the Commander. Be that as it may: "The gentlemen who had to scrutinise the book ought to have been objective experts of contemporary history. . . . They would then not have given an official award to such a book for young people".

Dr. Ella Lingens, a non-Jewish victim of Nazi persecution, who had gone through the hell of Auschwitz and was an important witness at the Frankfurt trial, strongly condemns the book and its author. Her reasoning is much weightier and partly sounder than Charim's sweeping assumptions. She points out that camp conditions after the liberation

were quite different from those described by Frau Recheis. The occupation authorities immediately provided ample help for the survivors. The story is therefore essentially devoid of, and even contrary to, historic truth. Dr. Lingens also considers the Commander to be the key-figure. The readers are bound to draw the conclusion that the Jewish returnees were and are despicable human beings: "They lived abroad in clover, marched in and avenged themselves indiscriminately on the people of their former home country, they let their poor and wretched, but suddenly so nice, co-religionists perish—only to give vent to their abysmal hatred against people represented so nobly by Christine and her father. They try to buy fresh young girls—just as already before the 'Stürmer' of blessed memory had described it".

A piece of antisemitism in its slyest form, propagating the most recent thesis that the decent Jews perished while the bad ones survived—thus runs Dr. Lingens's stern judgement.

The concern felt by the Viennese critics is commendable. It is, no doubt, appropriate and necessary that steps are being taken lest the poison of racial and religious hatred contaminates once more the minds of a highly susceptible young generation. The awards accorded to the book will secure it a wide public. It will be bought by schools and individuals not only in Austria but also in Germany and Switzerland. Professional educationists and the authorities are rightly being taken to task for having failed to recognise that the "Schattennetz" is not particularly suitable for official praise and distinction.

Frau Recheis may, however, legitimately plead that she had not the slightest intention of spreading antisemitism. Not all the Jewish characters in the book are unpleasant. Gentiles are also shown in an unfavourable light. A work of fiction does not claim to be a correct record of history. Even the nastiness of the Commander is explained, if not justified. He is not a representative type, but an exceptional case conditioned by such circumstances as illness and extreme loneliness. Thinking readers should be capable of distinguishing between fact and fiction. Moreover, they will understand that the story is told by a woman who recollects her emotions and experiences in adolescence. The moral which may be drawn from the "Schattennetz" is that love and understanding has to be extended also to those who are alien to oneself in origin and thinking, but that there are limits to a successful "bridge building" between peoples.

Such an assessment does not amount to an outright refutation of the serious objections made against the decisions of the adjudicators in the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and their colleagues at the Viennese Town Hall. It would be advisable if reprints of the articles by Alexander Charim and Dr. Ella Lingens could be distributed to teachers and youth leaders as a warning that the "Net of Shadows" may ensnare inexperienced and gullible readers.

There should be no quarrel with the intuitive conclusion arrived at by the heroine of the book. Friendly contacts with a group to which one does not belong cannot, and ought not, to lead to ignoring genuine differences. This would be a particularly useful lesson in view of facile and ill-considered attempts at an all-too-superficial Christian-Jewish understanding, which often contributes to, but does not remove, dangerous misunderstandings.

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS'S WORK FOR REFUGEES

Ursula Vaughan Williams's biography of her late husband* includes several references to the efforts which the great English composer made on behalf of refugee musicians. He abhorred the Nazi régime, and when, in 1937, the University of Hamburg offered him the Shakespeare Prize, he wrote to Professor Fiedler: "I feel bound to explain that I am strongly opposed to the present system of government in Germany, especially with regard to its treatment of artists and scholars. I belong to more than one English society whose object is to combat all that the present German régime stands for." He finally decided to accept, but he stipulated in his letter to the University authorities that "I shall feel free as an honourable man, if I accept, to hold and express any views on the general state of Germany which are allowable to any British citizen". Later, his music was banned in Germany, "owing to his anti-Nazi propaganda".

In December, 1938, he joined the Dorking Committee for Refugees from Nazi oppression and "took a full share of work. He went to all the meetings, wrote many letters, raised money . . . and visited frequently—usually once a week—the house which the Committee had acquired to lodge some of the refugees". (The author herself, together with Maud Karpeles, helped with the work at Bloomsbury House.)

In 1940 Vaughan Williams became Chairman of the Home Office Committee for the Release of Interned Alien Musicians, where his judgement, knowledge and experience enabled him to help his colleagues and fellow-musicians. There were many other interned musicians on whose behalf he saw officials in Government departments, interviewed M.P.s and for whom he wrote letters urging suitable employment and help to emigrate. He was also able to bring back others who had been swept off to internment in Australia or Canada.

H.W.F.

* Oxford University Press, 1964. 50s.



BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO DR. C. KAPRALIK

FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION

Readers who know Dr. C. Kapralik will be surprised that the occasion which prompts this tribute is his 70th birthday which he will celebrate on April 24. His youthful energy and almost unlimited working power make it difficult to believe that he has attained that venerable age. His signal services as Joint Secretary of the Central British Fund and as General Secretary of the Jewish Trust Corporation are described in the tributes by the chairmen of these two organisations. Yet the AJR has many special reasons for also expressing its own feelings of gratitude to the reluctant septuagenarian.

Our close co-operation with Dr. Kapralik started when part of the recovered heirless Jewish assets in Germany became available for constructive and large-scale social work in this country. It was generally agreed at that time that one of the most important tasks to be carried out with the help of these funds was the establishment of Homes for the Aged. However, it was less uncontroversial whether the Homes should be run autonomously by the former refugees themselves or in co-operation with the C.B.F. which had many years of work for refugees to its credit and which had also built up the machinery for recovering the heirless property. In the end the latter course was taken and now, as five Homes have been established in London, it can be stated that, after unavoidable teething troubles, this arrangement has proved most beneficial for all parties concerned. The day-to-day work is done by enthusiastic and devoted AJR members who serve on the various House Committees, and questions of general policy are dealt with by a Management Committee which consists of representatives of the AJR and of the C.B.F. Dr. Kapralik has been a member of the Management Committee since its inception and, throughout the years, has also dealt with a great amount of the administrative work involved. In the course of time, the Management Committee has become a happy team of friends and colleagues, each of whom is solely guided by his personal convictions without petty considerations of organisational prestige. Equally, a happy collaboration has developed between the offices of the two organisations at Woburn House and Fairfax Mansions.

If this could be achieved and if, above all,

it has been possible to establish and run the Homes in a spirit which does justice to the background of those for whom they are meant, it is to a high extent due to the approach and qualifications of Charles Kapralik. His knowledge and experience are enhanced by an efficiency which, notwithstanding his Danubian background, one almost feels tempted to describe as Prussian. What makes his work so particularly valuable is his personal identification with his task: every discussion and every decision shows anew that he has his heart in it. He never forgets that we have to deal with human beings, and with fellow refugees at that. His grasp of the wider problems involved is coupled with an astounding sense of detail. For the administration of the Homes and for the welfare of the former refugees in general it has proved a decisive asset that a very important key position is held by a man of his outlook and talents.

It is only natural that service to a common cause and daily exchanges of views have also resulted in strong personal bonds with him. We have also got to know him as a personality of wide cultural interests. His birthday serves as a happy opportunity for expressing our thanks and good wishes to him. At the same time we look forward to many further years of co-operation.

ALFRED S. DRESEL,
WERNER ROSENSTOCK.

WORK FOR JEWISH TRUST CORPORATION

SIR HENRY D'AVIGDOR-GOLDSMID, Bt., D.S.O., M.C., M.P., writes:

It is a great pleasure for me to add my tribute to the many that Dr. Charles Kapralik will be receiving on the celebration of his 70th birthday.

It is now almost exactly fourteen years since the Jewish Trust Corporation came into being, and in all that time it has had only one General Secretary and one Chairman. For myself, I can say that it has been a happy and most rewarding joint relationship, and one that promises to go on for quite a time yet. His friends note with pleasure that the passing of the years has not made any difference to the vigour and devotion with which Dr. Kapralik has controlled the affairs of the Corporation. The book that he wrote, "Reclaiming the Nazi Loot," has become a classic in the field of reparation and will be a monument to him. Nevertheless, his best memorial will be the gratitude and appreciation of innumerable victims of Nazism, to whom he has brought aid, comfort and a renewal of hope. No one working in this field can surpass his record of service which goes back to pre-war Vienna; everyone who works or has worked in this field will know that Charles Kapralik made an invaluable and irreplaceable contribution to it.

It has always been a great pleasure to be associated with him in this work in an honorary capacity, and I am delighted that you have given me the chance of telling him through your pages how highly he is cherished by all who know and work with him.

SERVICE TO C.B.F.

MR. H. OSCAR JOSEPH, Chairman of the Central British Fund, writes:

Even before he came to this country Dr. Kapralik was working on behalf of refugees. After the Anschluss in 1938 he joined the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde in Vienna to assist in the emigration of those whose lives had become unbearable. In consequence he and his wife were among the last to leave Austria, and they arrived here only a few months before the outbreak of war.

Since then he has been engaged almost exclusively on similar work; and, except for

a brief interlude, he has throughout been connected with the Central British Fund or with one of its committees. For many years he was the principal assistant to Mr. Stephany, and when the latter retired in 1958, Dr. Kapralik was a natural choice as Joint Secretary.

His duties have brought him into contact with a wider section of the community and his knowledge and sincerity have deservedly earned for him the high respect of all.

Having worked in close association with him for almost 20 years I have had ample opportunities and good reasons to recognise his valuable qualities. He has combined a deep feeling of humanity with an intelligent appraisal of the many problems that have confronted our organisation. His advice has always been constructive and he has never failed to show a great sense of loyalty—loyalty to the cause as well as to the lay leaders. I am very glad indeed, therefore, to be allowed to pay my tribute on the occasion of his 70th birthday. I am confident, too, that I am expressing the sentiments of the Honorary Officers and Members of the Council as well as of the officials and members of the staff of the C.B.F. in wishing him many more years of good health and contentment in which to render further services to the Jewish people.

LONDON REFUGEES ON TV

On February 23, the Bavarian television network showed a documentary film by Egon Larsen and Gerald Sharp, *Sie kamen nach London*. In this 50-minute programme, which was produced last autumn, the experiences of Central European refugees are recalled in a series of interviews: their struggles to find shelter from persecution; internment and pioneer corps; problems of settling in a new country, and—for most of them—success in building up a new life. The problems of elderly refugees are also dealt with, and some scenes were shot at Leo Baeck House.

The film begins with an historical survey of Britain as the traditional asylum for the exiled and ends with some spontaneous answers to the question why many of those who were driven out by the Nazis preferred to stay in England instead of returning to Germany. The programme may be transmitted also by other German networks.

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ALMA MATER'S STEPSONS

Reminiscences of a K.C. Member

Among the manifestations of antisemitism in Germany between the period of emancipation and the advent of the Nazi régime, the atmosphere at the universities was perhaps the severest one. We realise this even more since we have had the opportunity of getting some insight into the university life of this country. While there may also be some prejudice and occasional social discrimination, on the whole Jewish students mix freely with their non-Jewish fellow students.

In Germany, after a short halcyon period, Jewish students were always in a more or less underprivileged position. There were only comparatively few progressive elements in the German middle-classes from which the students hailed; the majority adhered to right-wing tendencies and to a narrow aggressive nationalism. Thus, the Jewish students were left to their own devices. They reacted to their predicament in different ways. Some joined hands with liberal Germans and founded so-called "paritaetische" fraternities; yet soon most of these fraternities consisted almost exclusively of Jewish members. Others, especially after the First World War, joined the political liberal and left-wing student groups; they, too, soon had an unduly high proportion of Jewish members and thus laid themselves open to antisemitic attacks by their

political adversaries. Others again felt that the energies required for the fight against antisemitism at the universities would be used in a more constructive way if they were dedicated to the idea of a Jewish renaissance; they joined the Zionist fraternities, or Zionist, "neutral" and also non-Zionist Jewish youth organisations.

Yet there was one federation of fraternities, the K.C., which took up the challenge under a Jewish flag and fought for the rights of the Jewish students. Some of the vicissitudes of the K.C. from the inception of its first fraternity in 1886 up to the end of its activities in 1933 are recorded in a recently published book by Dr. Adolph Asch.* Dealing first with the political trends at the German universities until 1886, the author sets out to describe the creation and development of the K.C. fraternities, linking up the internal happenings with the impact of German events and problems before, during and after the First World War. Among the documents quoted is the memorandum which led to the foundation of the first fraternity, the Viadrina, in Breslau. The sincere and realistic analysis of the Jewish position and the Jewish self-respect which the

* Dr. Adolph Asch: Geschichte des K.C. im Lichte der deutschen kulturellen und politischen Entwicklung. 138 Seiten. 1964. Im Selbstverlag des Verfassers, 412 Wimbledon Park Road, London, S.W.19.

memorandum reflects are apt to refute some of the misconceptions of the K.C.'s original aims.

To meet the opponent on his own ground, it appeared necessary to accept his code of honour, and the book relates many examples of bravery. Yet this code became outdated after the war and attempts aiming at an adaptation to the changed circumstances did not meet with success.

The narration is interspersed with personal recollections and comments by the author. However, its main value arises from the quotation of important source material, some of which might otherwise soon have fallen into oblivion. The book is therefore not only interesting to those who shared the author's experiences but will also render useful services to the future historian of German Jewry.

W. ROSENSTOCK.

THE LATE PROFESSOR RAHEL HIRSCH Information Required

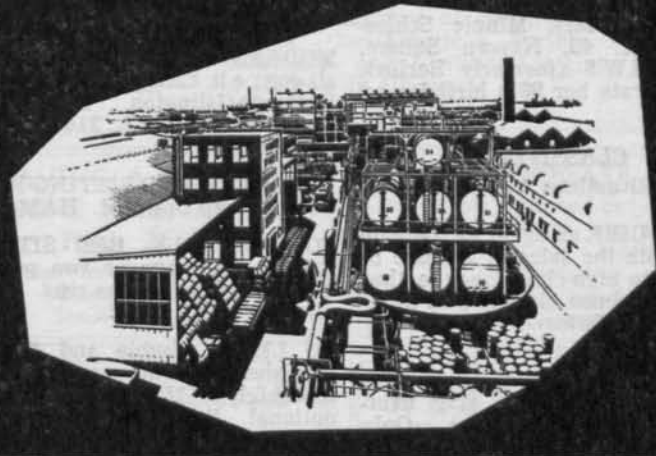
A German medical student wants to include in her doctor thesis some reference to Professor Rahel Hirsch, the second woman who obtained a German professorship. Professor Hirsch, who made an important discovery in the field of gastro-enterology, held a position with the Charité in Berlin from 1903 to 1919. She left Germany in 1938 for London, where she died in Friern Hospital (Barnet) on October 6, 1953, at the age of 83. The student is particularly anxious to obtain information about Professor Hirsch's life between 1919 and 1938. Any details should be sent to: Miss Adelheid Molwitz, Kirchstr. 5, Markkleeberg-Ost bei Leipzig, East Germany.

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ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

SELF-SUPPORTING FLATLET HOME

About 30 persons who had notified the AJR of their interest in a Self-Supporting Flatlet Home met on February 21 at Zion House for an exchange of ideas. It appears that most members would like this Home to be erected in the North-West of London, near the public transport and a shopping centre. Prospective tenants were also anxious that this Home should provide a certain amount of care for the residents and that the appointment of a Matron and caretaker-couple would therefore be desirable. All flats should have their own kitchens and bathrooms. While some potential participants would be satisfied with one-room flats, the majority seemed more interested in two-room apartments.

The meeting appointed a small committee which, as a first step, should prepare the formation of a Housing Society. After registration, the Housing Society would look for a suitable building site and would also negotiate with the authorities for a building loan.

In the meantime the detailed requirements of future residents will be ascertained by a questionnaire which the office of the AJR is going to send out to all interested parties.

From negotiations already conducted by our solicitor, it appears that the Housing Corporation formed by the Government in 1964 may be able to be of special assistance in the execution of this project by lending it the

greater part of the finance required. This will mean that those who only possess very limited capital may be able to participate in the venture.

All members who are, in principle, interested in participating in the scheme should therefore, if they have not yet done so, notify the AJR under the heading "Self-Supporting Flatlet Home", so that their names may be put on the list of persons who will receive further circulars regarding the project.

NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AJR CLUB

Some 150 enthusiastic supporters gathered at 57 Eton Avenue on February 28 to celebrate the ninth birthday of the AJR Club. Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, to whose warm-hearted energy much of the success of the Club is due, welcomed the guests and expressed her special satisfaction at Mrs. Gertrud Schachne's return after a prolonged illness. She thanked the hostesses Mesdames Wilker, Sheiner, Berlowitz, Bernstein, Berent, Dean, Seidel and Segall, whose untiring work for the Club was greatly appreciated. She was looking forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Club in its new home, which is now under construction and which will provide far more adequate accommodation for its ever-growing ranks. Greetings from well-wishers included telegrams from Dr. and Mrs. Falk and Miss Susan Markus, and letters from club-members showing their gratitude and appreciation of the

work done. Dr. A. Levy donated a subscription for a daily or weekly newspaper.

The soloists at the celebration concert were Mrs. Martha Freudmann, Johanna Metzger-Lichtenstern and Paul Lichtenstern. Mrs. Freudmann, a resident of Heinrich-Stahl House and frequent visitor to the Club, played a number of piano solos ranging from Beethoven's Sonate Pathétique to a Strauss Waltz with a verve and artistic sensibility which belied her age and earned her sustained applause. Johanna Metzger-Lichtenstern, accompanied by Paul Lichtenstern, enhanced the festive atmosphere by her vast repertory of songs which included some less well-known Schubert and many Jewish and other folk-songs.

At the informal gathering which followed, over 110 people celebrated the anniversary over a glass of wine and home-made cakes.

M.P.

Letter to the Editor

"READER'S DIGEST" COPIES REQUIRED

Sir,—I would greatly appreciate it if any readers of the German and French "Reader's Digest" could send copies to me when they no longer require them. I would pass them on to some refugee mental patients in hospitals whom I visit regularly and who expressed a special interest in these publications.

Yours, etc.,

MISS ROSA SCHLESINGER.

4 Mount Park Crescent,
Ealing, London, W.5.

FAMILY EVENTS

Birthdays

Korn.—Miss Irma Korn, of 17 Belsize Park, N.W.3, will celebrate her 80th birthday on April 6. Her many friends, to whom she has always been particularly helpful, and the AJR, of which she has been an interested member since its inception, extend to her their heartiest congratulations.

Schlesinger.—Mrs. Minnie Schlesinger-Woolf, 42, Nevern Square, London, S.W.5 (formerly Berlin), will celebrate her 98th birthday on April 17.

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Personal

DOCTOR'S WIDOW, 49, journalist, youthful in appearance and outlook, owner of good home in N.W. London and car; family grown up and on their own; desires to meet cultured companion (non-Orthodox), view marriage; free partnership in old-established, very profitable business offered to acceptable applicant, if desired; must be intelligent and of kindly disposition; widower no obstacle. Apply Box 535.

WIDOW, good-looking, middle-aged, wishes to meet educated gentleman, object friendship and companionship. Box 536.

SPAIN. Widely travelled merchant, 60, of East German origin, car driver, of cheerful disposition, property on the South Coast of Spain, wants to remarry and looks for pleasant Jewish lady with substantial financial assets to share in expanding enterprise. Replies with photographs, Box 538.

GOOD-LOOKING, INTELLIGENT WIDOW, mid-50s, independent means, warmhearted, optimistic, good background and personality, would appreciate the companionship of refined gentleman 60/65. Box 540.

MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries

Braun.—The physician, Dr. Charlie Braun, of Bratislava, and his wife, Lizi (née Klein), sought by Mrs. L. Freundlichowa, Soukenicka 14/VI, Praha 1, Czechoslovakia.

Kluger.—Mr. Bruno Kluger, born in Munich, about 60 years old. Please 'phone FOOTscray 6553, Mr. M. Wolff, 31 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent.

Kogon.—Mrs. Elsa Kogon (née Buerger), originally from Russia, moved from Berlin to London in 1931, sought by Mrs. Alexandra (Schura) Le Cerf (née Knaub), Sachsenring 35, 5, Köln, W. Germany.

Kristeller.—Hermine (née Stern), born in Hamburg and believed to have died in London some years ago. Next-of-kin please communicate with Dr. F. P. Jaques, 7 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.2, with regard to a possible claim.

Enquiries by AJR

Gradnauer.—Erwin Gradnauer, born about 1900, of Dresden, son of S.P.D. politician. Supposed to have emigrated to London.

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CULTURAL NEWS

OLD MASTER DRAWINGS AT BROD GALLERY

The range of this exhibition was uncommonly wide: from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, from the Orient to the Occident.

For those interested in things German: A drawing of c. 1550 depicts the Castle of Pless. "A Satyr and a Satyress" by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo is an extremely beautiful piece, the foreshortening of the head reminiscent of Daumier. The Morgan Library in New York from the present exhibition bought four drawings by Eustache Le Sueur (from a sketch-book of 150).

In general, George Romney is not among the most exciting of artists. But here he is represented by a "Figure Study" of remarkable liveliness and motion. Obviously, it is a study for an Annunciation. The angel with his powerful black wings is towering over the demure and expecting Virgin. The same qualities of rapturous draughtsmanship are to be seen in Constantin Guys's "A Young Woman". The rapid movement in the bottom half slows down when going up to the face. It is quite obvious that Guys had feelings for this woman.

Francesco Guardi's son, Giacomo, is represented by a number of views of Venice. Fascinating to compare the father and teacher with his son and pupil. True, the quality is not as delicate as Francesco's, the water has not the same lovely limpidity, but Giacomo's pieces are of interest all the same.

A. ROSENBERG.

"DYBBUK" FILM?

The Habima Theatre Company's production of "The Dybbuk," to be performed at the Aldwych Theatre, London, as part of the World Theatre Season, may soon be filmed. The company is very seriously considering the idea, and the filming would be carried out in Israel.

The Habima will perform at the Aldwych during the week beginning April 26 and will give a total of nine performances.—(J.C.)

ALBERT SCHWEITZER PRIZE

Mrs. Gertrud Kürz, a Swiss Protestant woman who helped many Jewish refugees during the war, was, in Amsterdam, awarded one of the two Albert Schweitzer Prizes for 1964. The prize was established four years ago by the Dutch Albert Schweitzer Foundation for outstanding achievements in the field of Christian humanitarian work. Mrs. Kürz has for a long time worked to help refugees of many countries, and has been very active for Youth Aliyah, particularly for the Swiss children's village near Jerusalem.

MAX BROD HONOURED

Dr. Max Brod was, in Tel Aviv, presented with the Austrian Order of Arts and Sciences, first class, for his contribution to Austrian culture as poet, author, musicologist and composer.

Accepting the decoration from the Austrian Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Brod said that "apart from the recent period of barbarism" he had always been warmly welcomed in Austria and was almost as devoted to Austria as to Israel, his second fatherland.

GERMAN AWARD FOR NELLY SACHS

This year's annual Peace Prize of the Federation of German Booksellers has been awarded to the poetess Nelly Sachs. Since the Prize was endowed in 1951, she is the first woman to receive it. Among the other Prize winners were Martin Buber, Victor Gollancz, Hermann Hesse, Theodor Heuss, Karl Jaspers and Albert Schweitzer.

Nelly Sachs was born in Berlin in 1891. Due to the intervention of Selma Lagerloef, she found refuge in Sweden in June, 1940, and has been living there since. Her poetry has, to a high extent, been inspired by the destiny of the Jewish people.

ELECTED TO FRENCH ACADEMY

Professor Henri Baruk, the psychiatrist, who is prominent in the French Jewish community and well known as a friend of Israel, has been elected to the French Academy of Medicine.

DEATH OF DR. HEINZ UNGER

The conductor, Dr. Heinz Unger, died in Toronto at the age of 79. He was born in Berlin as the son of a well-known *Justizrat* and, at the request of his father, studied law. However, after having acquired his doctor's degree, he switched over to music. He became a conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, where he obtained particular recognition for his interpretation of Gustav Mahler's works. He also founded and conducted the Berlin *Caecilienchor* and later on became a conductor at the concerts promoted by the *Berliner Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde*.

In 1933, Dr. Unger emigrated and was appointed conductor of the Northern Philharmonic Orchestra in Leeds. At the same time he toured many European countries and, until 1937, for six months of each year conducted the Leningrad Radio Orchestra. He recorded his experiences in Russia in a book, "Hammer, Sickle and Baton," published in London in 1939. During the Second World War, he was guest conductor of several English orchestras.

In 1948, Dr. Unger emigrated to Canada. He took charge of the orchestra of the York Concert Society in Toronto but also gave performances in many other countries of the American continent. He was an Hon. Board Member of the Gustav Mahler Society of America and a holder of the Mahler Medal, awarded by the Bruckner Society of America.

RICHARD A. EHRlich (Allston, Mass., U.S.A.)

RUSSIAN-ISRAELI CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Under an agreement signed in Moscow, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will give concerts in Moscow, Leningrad and three other Soviet cities in May, 1966. The Bolshoi and Kirov Ballets and David Oistrakh, the Soviet violinist, have signed contracts to appear in Israel.

APPOINTMENT

Rabbi Dr. O. Lehmann (Oxford) has been elected a member of the American Oriental Society, the American Society of Biblical Literature, and Visiting Associate Professor of Hebrew in Chicago.

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Round and About

HAIFA-PORTSMOUTH "TWINNED"

In August, the first twinning of an Israeli and a British city will take place, when Haifa and Portsmouth become sister-cities. A party of Portsmouth children will arrive in Haifa on August 14 for the twinning. The initiative for the twinning was taken by the Israel-British Commonwealth Association, under Judge A. Slonim.—(J.C.)

"A DIFFERENT GERMANY"

Mr. David Ben-Gurion, the former Prime Minister, told a Foreign Press Association luncheon in Tel Aviv that today's Germany is "a different Germany . . . it is not Hitler's Germany and the present generation are not Nazis". He still believed the Germans fulfilled their agreement—Adenauer's agreement—with him, said Mr. Ben-Gurion, but he refused to elaborate on the terms of the agreement.

Asked if he considered himself a friend of today's Germany, he replied: "I am on personal terms with Dr. Adenauer, who is also a great friend of this country, and I for one believe Dr. Erhard is following his policy as regards this country."—(J.C.)

CZECH VISITOR STAYS IN ISRAEL

Peter Freistadt, a 33-year-old Czech television and stage director, applied for Israeli citizenship after stepping off the aircraft which was to take him back to Prague after a holiday in Israel.

Emphasising that he was not a political refugee and had been well treated in Czechoslovakia, where he had never taken part in politics, Mr. Freistadt said he applied because he was a Jew and would like to bring up his children as Jews. He also said he had fallen in love with an Israeli actress.

Mr. Freistadt was born in Bratislava, of a traditional Jewish family, and spent the war in Theresienstadt concentration camp. His parents were killed at Auschwitz.—(J.C.)

IN MEMORY OF MISS P. D. COWELL

Miss P. D. Cowell, former headmistress of the Hulme Grammar School for Girls at Oldham (Lancs.), died in Winchester on January 29. Several Jewish refugee children who arrived in this country between 1937 and 1939 were given places in her school. Miss

Cowell not only kept her watchful eye on their progress at school but was also concerned in their personal well-being. Whenever she felt that a girl was not too happily placed in her new surroundings, she would, without hesitation, offer her hospitality in her own home. Her help and advice were always most generously given, even long after the girls had left school. She understood the difficulties which these children, cut off from their own families and homes, had to experience, after they had arrived penniless in a strange country, and she did everything in her power to give them strength and courage to rebuild their lives.

BETZI ROSENTHAL.

DEATH OF DR. LEON SOMMER

Dr. Leon Sommer recently died in his 94th year. Born in Freudenberg, Dr. Sommer was a general practitioner and obstetrician in Nuremberg until he emigrated to this country in 1939. Here, he acted as assistant to his son for eight years. He was a deeply religious man and took an active part in Jewish affairs. In Nuremberg, he was a founder, and for four years a President, of the Maimonides B'nai B'rith Lodge. In this country he was a founder-member of the Leo Baeck Lodge. He was also a member of the AJR since its inception. His mental and physical alertness were unimpaired up to the end, and he was greatly liked by all those who knew him.

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