

ISSUED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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DAS ENTSCHAEDIGUNGS-SCHLUSSGESETZ

Am 26. Mai ist das "Zweite Gesetz zur Aenderung des Bundesentschaedigungsgesetzes" vom deutschen Bundestag verabschiedet worden. Dabei ist an diesem letzten Tage der Beratungen der Titel des Gesetzes in "Bundesentschaedigungsschlussgesetz" geaendert worden, um zum Ausdruck zu bringen, dass das Gesetz die Entschaedigung der Verfolgten des Nationalsozialismus abschliessend regeln solle.

Der Inhalt des Schlussgesetzes ist, im grossen gesehen, auch von den Verfolgten zu begruessen. Dies wurde auch von der "Claims Conference," der Dachorganisation der Verfolgten im Ausland, zum Ausdruck gebracht. Der "Council of Jews from Germany," dem die AJR und die Vereinigungen fruereher deutscher Juden in anderen Laendern angehoren und der in der "Claims Conference" vertreten ist, kann dieser Auffassung nur beitreten. Vielleicht ist die Beurteilung des Gesetzes am besten in den wohlabgewogenen Worten des Vorsitzenden des Wiedergutmachungsausschusses des Bundestages, Rechtsanwalt Martin Hirsch, zusammengefasst, der in seiner Schlussrede sagte: "Das Gesetz laesst selbstverstaendlich manche Hoffnung unerfuellt. Es hat weiterhin Luecken. Es ist nicht der letzte Stein der Weisen. Das kann es auch nicht sein. Aber es loest die wesentlichen Probleme und es loest sie so, dass wir uns mit dieser Novelle sehen lassen koennen." Zugleich hat Rechtsanwalt Hirsch hervorgehoben, dass die Bezeichnung des Gesetzes als "Schlussgesetz" nicht einen spaeteren Bundestag binden koenne.

An dem positiven Ergebnis dieser letzten grossen Wiedergutmachungsnovelle hat Rechtsanwalt Hirsch durch seine jahrelange muhevollste Arbeit einen besonderen Anteil, neben ihm aber auch vor allem sein Stellvertreter, Professor Dr. Boehm, sein Vorgaenger, Rechtsanwalt Jahn und im Abschlussstadium der Bundestagspraesident, Dr. Gerstenmaier.

Die Verhandlungen ueber das Gesetz haben fast vier Jahre in Anspruch genommen. Bereits Ende 1961 waren die Vorbereitungen soweit im Gange, dass der "Council of Jews from Germany" in *AJR Information* vom Dezember 1961 eine Reihe von Forderungen fuer die von ihm vertretenen Verfolgten formulieren konnte. Es hat dann aber noch anderthalb Jahre gedauert, bis der Gesetzentwurf der Bundesregierung fertiggestellt war. Zunaechst hatte die Bundesregierung erklart, dass sie an dem Aufbau des bisherigen Gesetzes grundsaeztliche Aenderungen nicht vornehmen koenne. Sie hat aber dann doch so viele Unebenheiten, Ungerechtigkeiten und

Luecken in dem bisherigen Gesetz gefunden, dass der von ihr Mitte 1963 vorgelegte Entwurf nicht weniger als 106 Aenderungsvorschlaege enthielt, zu denen weitere umfangreiche Bestimmungen verschiedenster Art hinzukamen, z.B. ueber den Uebergang von der bisherigen zur kuenftigen Regelung und ueber die Sonderregelung fuer besondere Verfolgtengruppen.

Die wichtigsten Bestimmungen des Gesetzentwurfs wurden in *AJR Information* im August 1963 dargestellt. Im September 1963 hat der zustaendige Ministerialdirektor im Bundesfinanzministerium, Herr Dr. Féaux de la Croix, auf einer Versammlung des "Council of Jews from Germany" in London unseren hiesigen Freunden ueber den Entwurf berichtet.

Der grosse Umfang des Gesetzentwurfs hat dann dazu gefuehrt, dass sich die weiteren Verhandlungen, insbesondere die Beratungen im Wiedergutmachungsausschuss des Bundestages, hinzogen, bis dann auf der Plenarsitzung des Bundestages vom 26. Mai 1965 die zweite und dritte Lesung und damit die Verabschiedung des Gesetzes durch den Bundestag erfolgte.

Das Gesetz wurde dann dem Bundesrat, in dem die Vertretungen der Laender zusammengefasst sind, zur Zustimmung weitergeleitet. Der Bundesrat hat auf seiner Sitzung vom 11. Juni 1965 beschlossen, den sog. Vermittlungsausschuss anzurufen, der fuer den Ausgleich von Differenzen zwischen Bundesrat und Bundestag zustaendig ist. Der Grund hierfuer liegt aber nicht darin, dass der Bundesrat sachliche Einwendungen gegen den Gesetzentwurf erhoben hat, sondern dass die Laender sich nicht an den durch die Vergroesserung des Sonderfonds (Haerteausgleich fuer besondere Gruppen von Verfolgten) erwachsenden Entschaedigungsaufwendungen beteiligen wollen. Wir glauben aber, erwarten zu duerfen, dass niemand wegen dieser internen Differenzen zwischen den Laendern und dem Bund die Verantwortung fuer eine Verzoegerung des Gesetzgebungswerkes ueber die bevorstehenden Wahlen hinaus uebernehmen wird und dass die Gesetzgebungsarbeit in den naechsten Wochen abgeschlossen werden kann. In dieser Erwartung ist in Aussicht genommen, in einer der naechsten Nummern von *AJR Information* eine eingehende Darstellung der Bestimmungen des Schlussgesetzes zu veroeffentlichen. Wir beschraenken uns daher heute auf einige grundsaeztliche Punkte, die in den letzten Stadien der Beratungen von besonderer Bedeutung waren.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

MARTIN BUBER

While the work of Martin Buber, who passed away in Jerusalem on June 13 in his 88th year, belongs to humanity and to the Jewish people as a whole, Jews from Central Europe have added reason for mourning his departure. He spent the major part of his life in German-speaking countries and exerted a decisive influence on German Jewry, especially among members of the younger generation.

It testified to his loyalty that he stayed in Germany in 1933 to organise adult education at a time when the German Jews, cut off from their environment, had to gather strength and self-confidence by deepening the knowledge of their own Jewish spiritual heritage. Equally, he identified himself with the remnants of Germany. Jewry dispersed all over the world, and it was in this spirit that he addressed a public meeting of the "Council of Jews from Germany", held in London shortly after the end of the war.

In Jerusalem, where he lived since 1938, Buber was closely associated with the Leo Baeck Institute to which he also passed on the major part of the Erasmus Prize awarded to him in 1963, to be used for special research work.

Tributes to his memory will be published in our next issue.

FUNERAL IN JERUSALEM

Members of the Israeli Cabinet and of the Knesset, professors, non-Jewish clergymen, writers and thousands of pupils and admirers paid their last respect to Martin Buber when he was laid to rest in Jerusalem. In his eulogy at the University campus, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol described Professor Buber as "the spiritual giant of the century" who was mourned by all humanity. Though a man of spirit, he never divorced himself from the world of deeds. Tributes were also paid to him by his life-long friend, Professor Hugo Bergman, former rector of the Hebrew University, and by the University's former and present rectors, Yoel Rakah and Nathan Rottenstreich, respectively. The catafalque was then borne by President Shazar, Premier Eshkol, Yigal Allon, Eliahu Elath, Yaakov Tzur and Professor Adoar, and the funeral procession moved from the campus to the cemetery, where Professor Buber was eulogised by Professors Gershom Sholem and Ernst Simon, and laid to rest. His son recited the Kaddish.

It symbolises the impact of Buber's message that also Arab youth organisations had associated themselves with the country's general feeling of mourning by sending flowers to the funeral.

The Federal German President, Dr. Heinrich Lübke, has sent a cable of condolence to President Shazar, and former Chancellor Adenauer described Buber as "one of the leading men of Jewish thought, to whom Christianity, too, owes much." The German press gave extensive coverage to Buber's death.

DAS ENTSCHAEDIGUNGS-SCHLUSSGESETZ

(Continued from page 1)

Eine der entscheidenden Fragen war, wie von vorneherein feststand, die Regelung der Entschädigung fuer diejenigen, die erst nach dem Jahre 1953 aus den Laendern "hinter dem eisernen Vorhang" nach westlichen Laendern, insbesondere nach Israel und den Vereinigten Staaten, ausgewandert waren. Diese Verfolgten waren bisher von jeder Entschädigung ausgeschlossen. Da seit 1953 nicht weniger als 150,000-180,000 Juden, von denen ein sehr grosser Teil vorher von den nationalsozialistischen Besatzungsorganen verfolgt worden war, Rumänien, Polen und Ungarn verlassen konnten, so war es unbedingt geboten, diesen Verfolgten gerecht zu werden.

Der "Council of Jews from Germany" hat im Interesse der juedischen Solidaritaet und der Gerechtigkeit jede Gelegenheit wahrgenommen, bei schriftlichen und muendlichen Vorstellungen den Behoerden gegenueber zu betonen, dass die Regelung dieser Frage auch nach seiner Auffassung an allererster Stelle stuende. Die "Claims Conference" hat die Verhandlungen fuer diese Verfolgten mit grosser Entschiedenheit und Zaehigkeit gefuehrt. Leider ist die Forderung, Angehoerige dieser Gruppe ebenso zu behandeln wie diejenigen, die schon vor 1953 ausgewandert waren, nicht erfuellt worden. Der Gesetzentwurf hatte jedoch bereits einen Sonderfonds von 600 Millionen DM. ausgeworfen, aus dem unter gewissen Voraussetzungen ein Haerteausgleich fuer diese Verfolgten gewaehrt werden sollte. Es ist im letzten Stadium gelungen, eine Verstaendigung zwischen der Regierung und den Fraktionen des Bundestages zu erzielen, wonach dieser Fonds von 600, oder spaeter 700 Millionen DM., auf 1.200 Millionen DM. erhoehrt wurde.

Diese Regelung ist nicht ohne Widerstand erfolgt. Bei der Beratung im Haushaltsausschuss, die der Plenarsitzung des Bundestages vorausging, musste sich der Bundesfinanzminister heftigen Angriffen durch einige Mitglieder der Regierungsparteien aussetzen, und nach dem Bericht in der Zeitung "Die Welt" wurde eine Mehrheit nur durch das geschlossene positive Eintreten der sozialdemokratischen Opposition erzielt. Auch im Plenum des Bundestages konnte leider nicht, wie bei den bisherigen Wiedergutmachungsgesetzen, ein einstimmiger Beschluss erzielt werden; als Sprecher der Opposition trat ein Abgeordneter Deneke auf, der der eigenen Partei des Finanzministers, der Freien Demokratischen Partei, angehoert. Umsomehr ist anzuerkennen, dass der Minister und die Regierung fest geblieben sind und dass dadurch der Vorsitzende nach der Schlussabstimmung verkuenden konnte, der Gesetzentwurf sei "bei einer Anzahl von Nein-Stimmen und Enthaltungen mit grosser Mehrheit angenommen worden".

Was nun diejenigen Bestimmungen des Gesetzes anbetrifft, die fuer die Juden aus Deutschland von besonderer Bedeutung sind, so ist ueber die, zum Teil erst in letzter Stunde vorgenommenen Verbesserungen folgendes zu berichten:

1. *Witwenrente.* Der "Council of Jews from Germany" hatte bereits bei der Formulierung seiner ersten Vorschlaege im Jahre 1961 die Forderung an die Spitze gestellt, das Unrecht gutzumachen, das

darin bestand, dass den Witwen von Verfolgten, die aus ihrem Beruf verdraengt worden waren, keine Witwenrente gewaehrt wurde, wenn der Verfolgte selbst vor dem 1. Oktober 1953 verstorben war. Der Gesetzentwurf hatte auch bereits die Berechtigung dieser Forderung im Prinzip anerkannt, jedoch die Witwen dieser Verfolgten insofern benachteiligt, als sie die Witwenrente nicht wie andere Witwen von Berufsgeschädigten vom 1. Oktober 1953 erhalten sollten, sondern erst mit Wirkung vom 1. Januar 1960. Da auf die Witwenrente eine etwa gezahlte Kapitalentschädigung anrechnungspflichtig ist, so schloss diese Regelung die Gefahr in sich, dass diese Witwen noch auf Jahre hinaus nichts erhalten wuerden, weil die vor Jahren gezahlte und in vielen Faellen laengst fuer den Lebensunterhalt aufgezehrte Kapitalentschädigung die Rentenruueckstaende seit 1960 und die laufende Rente fuer mehrere kommende Jahre ueberstieg.

Hiergegen ist schon in *AJR Information* vom September 1963 sowie in der Diskussion nach dem bereits erwaehnten Vortrag des Herrn Ministerialdirektors Dr. Féaux de la Croix Stellung genommen worden. Leider ist jedoch die Forderung, die "vor-53er" Witwen den Witwen anderer Berufsgeschädigter gleichzustellen, nicht ohne Einschränkungen erfuellt worden. Immerhin sind die unguenstigen Konsequenzen der urspruenglichen Vorschlaege dadurch erheblich abgeschwaecht worden, dass die Anrechnung von Kapitalentschädigungen nur in der Weise erfolgen soll, dass der berechtigten Witwe auf jeden Fall ein Teil des ihr gesetzlich zustehenden Monatsbetrages ungekuerzt verbleibt. Hierbei war zunaechst nur die Belassung von mindestens der Haelfte der Rente in Aussicht genommen. Bei der letzten Besprechung, die die Vertreter des Council mit dem Referenten des Bundesfinanzministeriums hatten, haben dann die Vertreter des Council vorgeschlagen, wenigstens dreiviertel der Rente ungekuerzt zu lassen, und dieser Kompromissvorschlag ist von dem Referenten und anschliessend vom Bundestag akzeptiert worden.

Es soll nicht behauptet werden, dass diese Regelung voll befriedigt und dass sie alle Haerten ausschliesst. Die Eigenart der gesetzlichen Bestimmungen wird voraussichtlich in manchen Faellen Enttaeschungen mit sich bringen, insbesondere fuer Witwen von Verfolgten, die als Angestellte taetig waren, und fuer Witwen, die ausser der Berufsschadens-Witwenrente noch andere Renten erhalten. Immerhin besteht die Hoffnung, dass die Existenz der ueberlebenden Witwen in den meisten Faellen gesichert werden konnte.

2. *Einbeziehung der aus Danzig ausgewanderten Verfolgten in das Gesetz, sowie der Witwen von Verfolgten aus Ostdeutschland und Danzig.* Verfolgte, die vor dem 31. Dezember 1952 ausgewandert, deportiert oder ausgewiesen worden sind und ihren letzten Wohnsitz oder dauernden Aufenthalt im Gebiete der Freien Stadt Danzig gehabt haben, sollen nunmehr voll anspruchsberechtigt werden.

Ebenso ist es gelungen, die Rechte der Witwen berufsgeschädigter Verfolgter in denjenigen Faellen sicherzustellen, in denen der Verfolgte—vor, waehrend, oder nach der Kriegszeit—vor dem 31. Dezember 1952 verstorben ist und seinen letzten Wohnsitz in Ostdeutschland oder Danzig hatte. Auf die Haerte, die

durch den bisherigen Ausschluss dieser Faelle bestand, ist insbesondere von unserem verstorbenen Freunde Reichmann immer wieder hingewiesen worden. Der Gesetzentwurf enthielt nur eine sehr eingeschaenkte Haerteklausel, nach den jetzigen Beschlüssen jedoch stehen auch die Witwen dieser Verfolgten den Witwen derer gleich, die nach der Auswanderung verstorben sind oder in Zukunft versterben.

3. *Hoehe der Berufsschadensrente.* Schon nach der bisherigen Regelung sind Renten, die den Verfolgten zugesprochen wurden, infolge Fortschreitens der Geldentwertung in Deutschland von Zeit zu Zeit den geaenderten Verhaeltnissen angepasst worden. Die Bundesregierung hatte jedoch bei ihren letzten Verordnungen die Berufsschadensrente der Witwen fruereher Angestellter von dieser Anpassung ausgeschlossen, weil angeblich hierfuer die gesetzliche Ermaechtigung nicht ausreichte. Es ist gelungen, diese Einschränkung zu beseitigen.

Ferner ist der Hoechstbetrag der Berufsschadensrenten, der zur Zeit DM. 785.— monatlich betraegt, mit Wirkung vom 1. Januar 1966, auf DM. 1.000.—erhoehrt worden.

4. *Abaenderung von Entscheidungen und Vergleichen.* Einer Anregung des Council, § 206 BEG in der Richtung zu ergaenzen, dass Entscheidungen und Vergleiche, die den Verfolgten wiederkehrende Leistungen gewaehren, nach Erreichung eines bestimmten Lebensalters nicht mehr zu Ungunsten der Berechtigten abgeaendert werden duerften, ist nicht stattgegeben worden.

Der Wiedergutmachungsausschuss hat aber zu Abaenderungen der §§ 21 und 35 BEG in seinem schriftlichen Bericht (Bundestags-Drucksache IV/3423, S.5/6) folgendes bemerkt: "Der Ausschuss geht bei der Neuregelung . . . selbstverstaendlich davon aus, dass die linearen Rentenerhoehungen auf Grund kuenftiger Erhoehungen der Beamtenbesoldung auch weiterhin ohne Ruecksicht auf die Mindestgrenze von 30 vom 100 gewaehrt werden. Die neue Fassung soll vor allem aber auch der Vereinfachung der Praxis dienen und soweit moeglich vermeiden, dass die Verfolgten laufend und immer wieder Fragebogen ausfuellen muessen und dadurch unnoetig an ihr Verfolgungsschicksal erinnert werden. Der Ausschuss erwartet, dass die Entschädigungsbehoerden derartige Befragungen der Verfolgten soweit wie moeglich vermeiden oder mindestens einschaenken".

Mit diesen Ausfuehrungen hat der Wiedergutmachungsausschuss vom Council vorgetragene Bedenken gegen die bisherige Praxis beruecksichtigt.

5. *Ausbildungsschaden.* Das Pauschale, das bisher in Hoehe von DM. 5.000.—denjenigen Personen gewaehrt worden ist, die Ausbildungsschaden erlitten haben, ist auf DM. 10.000.—erhoehrt worden. Verschiedene Einschränkungen dieser Verbesserung, die zunaechst von der Regierungsseite gemacht wurden, sind letzten Endes gestrichen worden. Fuer die Streichung der Einschränkungen hat sich der Council im Interesse der ausgewanderten Verfolgten eingesetzt. Von grosser Bedeutung duerften aber auch die Wuensche der politischen Verfolgten in Deutschland gewesen sein, die mit denen des Councils paralle gingen und die Abgeordneten beeindruckten.

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Das Entschadigungs-Schlussgesetz

(Continued from page 2)

Erfreulich ist auch, dass diejenigen nicht mehr auf Ausbildungsschaden beschränkt sind, sondern vollen Berufsverdrängungsschaden erhalten sollen, die alle fuer den erstrebten Beruf vorgeschriebenen staatlichen Pruefungen abgelegt haben, jedoch aus Verfolgungsgruenden eine fuer die Aufnahme ihres Berufs vorgeschriebene staatliche Zulassung nicht erlangt haben. Hier ist besonders der Fall der damals jungen Aerzte von Bedeutung gewesen, die nach Bestehen ihrer Pruefungen zu dem vorgeschriebenen praktischen Jahr nicht mehr zugelassen worden sind.

6. *Gesundheitsschaden.* Auf dem Gebiete der Gesundheitsschaeden ist eine Bestimmung getroffen worden, die eine Neuaufnahme von Verfahren auch in einer Reihe von bereits abgeschlossenen Faellen ermöglichen wird.

7. *Sozialversicherung.* Eine vom Council in letzter Stunde erwirkte Sonderregelung ist schliesslich zu Gunsten derjenigen weiblichen Verfolgten getroffen worden, denen in der Verfolgungszeit Beitrage zu den gesetzlichen Rentenversicherungen wegen Heirat erstattet worden sind. Sie hatten dadurch ihre Anwartschaft auf Renten der Sozialversicherung verloren, werden aber auf Grund der Novelle ihre fruhere Rechtsstellung wieder erlangen koennen.

* * *

Wir haben, wie bereits hervorgehoben, der Wuerdigung des BEG-Schlussgesetzes durch den Vorsitzenden des Wiedergutmachungsausschusses des Bundestages zugestimmt. Wir koennen ihm auch darin folgen, dass die Verfolgten — sagen wir genauer, die *ueberlebenden* Verfolgten — zwar auch mit den bewilligten Aufbesserungen in den Grenzen ihrer bisherigen Lebenshaltung verbleiben, dass aber der Lebensabend vieler durch die Entschadigungsgesetzgebung beträchtlich erleichtert worden ist.

BUNDESRUECKERSTATTUNGSGESETZ

Durchfuehrungs-Verordnung Verkuendet

Nach der Drucklegung der im Juniheft von "AJR Information" veroeffentlichten Darstellung der 1. Durchfuehrungsverordnung zum BRueG ist die Verkuendung der Verordnung im Bundesgesetzblatt Teil I erfolgt und zwar in der Nummer 21 vom 22.5.1965 (Seiten 420 ff). Die Verordnung ist am Tage nach der Verkuendung, also am 23.5.1965, in Kraft getreten. Die Verordnung selbst traegt das Datum des 14.5.1965.

Unter Hinweis auf die Darstellung im Juniheft wird bemerkt, dass die Fristen fuer die erneute Geltendmachung der in § 29 b BRueG behandelten Ansprueche im Rueckerstattungsverfahren und fuer die Anmeldung der in § 44 a BRueG behandelten Ansprueche zum Haertefond am 23.5.1966 — ein Jahr nach dem Inkrafttreten der V.O. — ablaufen.

RESTITUTION COURT PRESIDENT

Mr. Ivan Wallenberg, of Sweden, has been appointed President of the Supreme Restitution Court in West Berlin. Members of the Court consist of judges from Sweden, the United States, Britain, France and West Germany.—(J.C.)

FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

NEW HAMBURG MAYOR

Dr. Herbert Weichmann has been elected First Mayor of Hamburg. He was born in Silesia 69 years ago and, under the Weimar Republic, was personal attaché to the Prussian Premier, Otto Braun. As a Jew and Social Democrat, he was dismissed in 1933 and emigrated first to France and, later on, to the United States. At the request of the former Mayor of Hamburg, Max Brauer, he returned to Germany in 1948. For several years he was President of the Hamburg "Rechnungshof", until, in 1957, he became Senator of Finances. Particular importance is attributed to the fact that the Senate entrusted him with the City's highest office, which is usually reserved for personalities who were born or brought up in Hamburg.

At a ceremony "20 Jahre Aufbau 1945-1965", 30 Hamburg citizens were awarded medals in recognition of their public services. Among them were Ida Ehre of the Hamburger Kammerspiele, Notar Hans W. Hertz who salvaged important material referring to the history of the Hamburg Jews, Konrad Hoffmann for his work on behalf of the victims of the Nuernberg Laws and the promoter of the "Peace with Israel" movement, Erich Lueth.

FRANZ BOEHM HONOURED

Dr. F. E. Shinnar, head of the Israeli mission in Cologne, at a banquet in honour of Professor Franz Boehm, who recently celebrated his 70th birthday, announced that twenty trees have been planted in the Martyrs' forest dedicated to Professor Boehm. He is known as the "father of the Reparations Agreement" between West Germany and Israel.

Addressing the guests, Professor Boehm said that the admission of German responsibility for the reparation of Nazi wrongs would continue to be a main principle of West German policy.—(J.C.)

AWARD FOR ISRAEL CORRESPONDENT

The Federal Cross of Merit, First Class, was also awarded to Rudolf Kuestermeier, the Israel correspondent of the German Press Agency and of the North-West German Broadcasting Company, in recognition of his work for German-Israeli understanding.

M.P. ACCUSED

Dr. Hermann Conring, a Christian Democrat deputy in the Bonn Parliament, has rejected Dutch accusations that he took part in Nazi measures against the Jews during the war.

Dr. Conring, who was the war-time Nazi commissioner-general for economic and financial affairs in Groningen, Holland, denied that he had had anything to do with Jewish matters, either in an official or private capacity. All Jewish issues had been the responsibility of the Nazi security police, who had been outside the jurisdiction of his office.—(J.C.)

CEMETERY DESECRATIONS

Believed to be the work of extremists in reaction to the arrest of Oskar Christ, Wiesbaden's police chief, unknown persons overturned about sixty gravestones in the Jewish cemetery of Wiesbaden. Christ has been charged with complicity in the murder of Jews on the eastern front during the Second World War.

Five boys between the ages of nine and ten admitted that they had overturned and damaged 34 gravestones in the old Jewish cemetery in the South German town of Memmingen. The boys could give no reason for their action, the damage for which was estimated at 12,000 marks.—(J.C.)

JEWS IN EAST GERMANY

The latest issue of the Bulletin of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Eastern Germany carries reports on a visit to Theresienstadt, Prague and Lidice, which was organised by the Federation and in which 80 members of the Jewish communities of Dresden, Erfurt, Halle, Karl-Marx-Stadt (Chemnitz), Leipzig and Mecklenburg participated.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the death of Max Liebermann, on February 8th, a memorial ceremony was held at the artist's graveside at the Schoenhauser Allee Jewish Cemetery, in the presence of representatives of the East German Ministry of Culture and the East German Academy of Arts. In his address, the late Landesrabbiner Dr. Riesenburger paid tribute to the memory of the great painter, who, until 1933, held high offices in Germany, but whose funeral two years later was only attended by a small circle of relatives and friends. He also recalled that Max Liebermann's late wife, who is buried next to him, poisoned herself in 1943 when her deportation was imminent.

In Dresden a memorial tablet will be affixed to the Students' Hostel of the Technical University, which has been erected at the bombed site of the former Jewish Home for the Aged. The Secretary of the Community since 1945, Herr Richard Lewinsohn, has resigned for reasons of age. The Hon. Member of the Community, Herr Owsei Fanger, recently celebrated his 90th birthday; he is a survivor of the Theresienstadt Camp.

The Bulletin also reports that the old Jewish cemetery of Guentenberg (between Prenzlau and Angermuende), which, until 1910, was used by the small community of Greiffenberg had been restored and that a Memorial Stone was consecrated last November.

The presence of Jews at places which have no communities of their own is indicated by birthday tributes to persons resident in Prenzlau, Stralsund and Suhl (Thuringia).

WAR CRIMINALS ARRESTED

Five former S.S. and Gestapo members have been arrested in Bielefeld. Lothar Heinbach, Heinz Errelis, Richard Dibus, Hermann Ploch and Dr. Wilhelm Altenloh are charged with complicity in the mass murder of Jews and Poles at Bialystock, Grodno and Koenigsberg between 1942 and 1944.

MEMO

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

PROTESTS IN AMERICA

The New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, consisting of 40 major Jewish groups, sponsored a Madison Square Garden rally to protest at Soviet discrimination against Russian Jewry. The rally was attended by at least 16,000 New York Jews.

In a message, President Johnson expressed his deep concern and that of the Administration at the plight of Soviet Jewry, stating his belief that their spiritual and cultural heritage should be nurtured and preserved.

Before the rally was held, the "New York Times" published a letter from two prominent Russian Jews attacking the idea of the rally. Dr. Lev Landau, the world-famous physicist and Nobel Prize winner, and Professor Yevsei Liberman, one of Russia's leading economists, expressed "profound indignation at the fact that some Western circles spread all kinds of fabrications on the position of the Jews in the U.S.S.R." The letter went on to say that Jews enjoyed equality in all the social, economic, cultural and political life in the country. Soviet Jews regarded the rally as a provocation "where, without our representatives, it is intended to discuss a non-existent problem." Five of the Jewish leaders who spoke at the rally issued an answering statement stating that, as Jews, they shared natural bonds with other Jews and would "continue to insist upon the right to protest on their behalf if their voices are muffled."

Mr. Alexander Zinchuk, the Counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, called at the State Department to lodge a protest against U.S.A. "attempts to interfere in the domestic affairs of the U.S.S.R." by its endorsement of a resolution proposed by Senator Ribicoff and condemning Soviet discrimination against her Jewish citizens. Last year the State Department refused to endorse the Ribicoff resolution saying the time was not ripe for it. Recently, however, it indicated a change of mind. Following the Soviet protest, it may revert to its original attitude.—(J.C.)

NAZIS IN TORONTO

About 4,000 people, many of whom were former concentration camp inmates, gathered in Toronto's Allan Gardens to protest at the holding of a Nazi Party rally there. Eight of the demonstrators and John Beattie, 23-year-old self-styled leader of the Canadian Nazi Party, were arrested when the demonstration turned into a riot. They were afterwards released on bail.

Rabbi Abraham Feinberg, of Toronto, later said that violence was no answer to Nazism, but he believed the riot was bound to happen because the Canadian Government had not stopped Nazi propaganda. The Canadian Jewish Congress issued a warning against violence.

Toronto City Council has passed a resolution urging the Canadian Parliament to deal with the activities of the Canadian Nazi Party as "expeditiously as possible". A petition asking for the removal of the party's headquarters from the East End of Toronto has been signed by over 3,000 people.

AUSTRALIA

Mr. Walter Lippmann, a member of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, has stated that Australia's Jewish community has more than doubled since 1947, from 32,000 to 67,000. Most of the immigrants were survivors of the Nazi concentration camps. Mr. Lippmann, who is also president of the Jewish Welfare Society in Melbourne, added that last year 10 per cent of Melbourne Jewish families needed the services, in one form or another, of the society.

FRANCE

A plaque to "the memory of the thousands of men, women and children of the 11th arrondissement who were assembled here on August 2, 1941, and July 16, 1942, and whose destination was Auschwitz because of their Jewish religion", has been unveiled at the Japy secondary school in Paris.

A synagogue and community centre have been opened in Grasse in the South of France. The building was financed by the Fonds Sociale Juife Unifié and the Chief Rabbinate of France. Although there were already Jews in Grasse from the early Middle Ages, these have assimilated and the modern community has been founded by refugees from Egypt and North Africa.

Athis-Mons, near Paris, is perhaps the only Jewish community in the world to have a woman president. Mme S. Libman, who has worked devotedly for this new community of about 400, most of them from North Africa, was elected president in recognition of her

SWEDEN

Swedish police in Stockholm arrested the leaders of a militant organisation, on suspicion of plotting against the Government and State Security. A Stockholm court has now acquitted Bjoern Lundhal, self-styled "Fuehrer" of the organisation, on charges involving armed threats against law and order and heading an illegal organisation.

SWISS AWARD

Dr. Adolf F. Schnitzer (Geneva), until 1933 a practising lawyer in Berlin, has been awarded an honorary doctorate of the University of Geneva in recognition of his works on legal subjects published in Switzerland. One of his books, the "Handbuch des Internationalen Privatrechts", has become a standard work and already been published in its fourth edition. In 1947 Dr. Schnitzer attended the London session of the "Council of Jews from Germany" and gave an address on questions of nationality and statelessness, then of special interest for the Jewish refugees from Germany.

HERZL MEMORIAL IN EDLACH

The Viennese Jewish community has erected a memorial to Dr. Theodor Herzl. The memorial has been unveiled in the garden of the sanatorium in Edlach, Austria, where he died in 1904.

SCENE FROM THE EAST

ISRAELI ACCUSED

Mr. David Bartov, First Secretary at the Israeli Embassy in Moscow, has been accused of subversive activities by *Zarya Vostoka*, a paper published in Tbilisi, capital of the Soviet Republic of Georgia. The paper stated Mr. Bartov visited two Georgian synagogues and made "an undisguised appeal" to Jews to "leave their fatherland, to betray the country which brought them up as honest Soviet citizens".

STALIN'S PURGE

Members of the family of Colonel Itzig Effer and relatives of some of the other leading Soviet-Jewish writers who were executed in August, 1952, under Stalin's rule, are reported to have appealed to the Soviet Ministry of Justice for full details of the circumstances of the trial and subsequent execution of the writers, who have now been officially rehabilitated. The Soviet authorities declined to release the records. *Voprosy Istorii*, the journal of the Soviet Communist Party, no longer records these cases of rehabilitation and it seems that the process is now coming to an end.—(J.C.)

JEWISH HEROISM PRAISED

Moscow's Central Synagogue held a special service marking "Victory Day" in the Soviet Union. A large congregation attended, headed by the Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Y. L. Levin, and members of the synagogue committee. The Israeli Ambassador and members of his staff were also present.

Mr. Grigory Manevich, a senior member of the community, after praising the role of the Red Army in the victory over Nazism, spoke of the heroism shown by the Jewish people throughout their history. He also pronounced his blessing upon the State of Israel. The Jewish people, he said, had waited 1,900 years for this national rebirth. This should be remembered even if one did not agree with everything that Israel did. Mr. Manevich also requested the erection of monuments to commemorate Jewish martyrdom at Babi Yar and similar sites.

JEWS ELECTED

From the list of the 1,104 members elected to the Moscow Soviet recently, published in *Vecherniya Moskva*, the Moscow evening newspaper, about twelve seem to be Jews. There is one Jew among the 39 heads of departments named in the issue.

WARSAW FIGHTERS' HOUSE

Part of the commemorations in Poland of the victory over Nazi Germany in 1945 was the laying of flowers on the site of Mila 18, the house the Warsaw Ghetto fighters made their headquarters. Those present at the ceremony included representatives of the Cultural and Social Union of Polish Jews, members of the editorial staff of *Folks-Sztyme* and representatives of Ort.

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HOME NEWS

HONOURS LIST

The Queen's Birthday Honours List includes life peerages for Mr. Arnold Goodman, chairman of the Arts Council, and Professor Richard F. Kahn, professor of economics at Cambridge University; Professor Kahn is a son of the educationist, the late Mr. Augustus Kahn, who took a leading part in the work of the Jewish Refugees Committee.

Other awards include knighthoods for Mr. Victor Gollancz, the publisher and writer, Alderman Jack Cohen, former Mayor of Sunderland, and Alderman Maurice Pariser, Alderman of Manchester City Council. Mr. Emanuel Shinwell became a Companion of Honour, Major-General James A. d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, a Companion of the Bath, and Mr. Marcus Lipton, M.P., a C.B.E. The O.B.E. was awarded to Mr. Maurice Beck, managing director of Beck & Co. (Fashions) Ltd., Mr. Isidore Godfrey, conductor, Mr. Derek Salberg, managing director of the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, and Mr. Frankie Vaughan for services to welfare of youth. Mr. Percy Gorgey, chairman of Poale Zion, was made an M.B.E.

"EXODUS" COSTS

Dr. W. Dering, who was a doctor at the Auschwitz concentration camp, claimed in a London High Court action last year that he was libelled in a passage in "Exodus". He was awarded a halfpenny damages against Leon Uris, the author, and his London publishers. He was also ordered to pay the costs of the hearing, which amounted to £17,000. It is understood that because of Dr. Dering's severe illness, Mr. Uris has decided that the question of costs should be left in abeyance.

DISCRIMINATING BEQUEST

A £5,000 bequest, to enable studentships at the Royal College of Surgeons, contained a clause excluding Jewish and Roman Catholic students from benefiting. The College disclaimed the gift on the terms laid out in the will of the late Rosalind Morris Lysaght.

A High Court ruling stated that this clause should be omitted from the terms of the bequest so that its primary intention of establishing studentships could be carried out, which would otherwise be defeated by the refusal of the Royal College to accept the gift on the testatrix's terms.

CARDINAL ON INTOLERANCE

Cardinal Heenan, the Archbishop of Westminster, in a sermon attacked religious intolerance. "If today we hound the Negro or the Indian from his home, tomorrow we shall burn the Jewish synagogue. Then we shall rapidly return to political and religious intolerance of all kinds", he declared. The United States had, in this country, been criticised by many for its treatment of its coloured citizens. But the time had come for us to put our own house in order.—(J.C.)

NAZI BOOKSHOP OPENED

The Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women has expressed concern about the opening at West Norwood of a bookshop selling anti-Jewish propaganda. Viking Books is run by the Greater Britain Movement, the extreme Nazi organisation led by John Tyn-dall, former secretary of Colin Jordan's National Socialist Movement.

MANCHESTER CIVIC SERVICE

At the installation of the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Bernard S. Langton, a Service of Dedication was held at the South Manchester Synagogue. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Felix Carlebach, the Lord Mayor's Chaplain.

RACE BILL CHANGES

In the Parliamentary standing committee on the Race Relations Bill Sir Frank Soskice, the Home Secretary, moved amendments to the Bill accepting the view that a procedure by way of conciliation would be preferable to summary proceedings in the court. The amendments take away the criminal remedy and substitute a remedy by way of injunction to be sued for in the civil courts in appropriate cases by the Attorney-General.

Under the new procedure no isolated case of discrimination would be involved but a course of conduct. It would be unlawful, not on one occasion, but to practise discrimination. The Attorney-General, in any suit for an injunction, would have to establish that there was a course of discrimination which was likely to continue. If the judge were satisfied that the course was likely to continue he would grant an injunction.

The Home Secretary said there would be a Race Relations Board, consisting of three persons, which would have the duty of appointing conciliation committees in areas in which it thought they were appropriate.—(J.C.)

M.P.s THREATENED

After Mr. Frank Allaun, M.P., complained of a letter threatening M.P.s who supported the Race Relations Bill, the committee on privileges decided that the document constituted a breach of privilege "in attempting by improper means to influence Members of Parliament in their Parliamentary conduct". Since, however, it was improbable that any Member would be influenced by its terms, the committee was of the opinion that "the dignity of the House will be best maintained by its taking no further action in regard to this offence".

Colin Jordan, leader of the National Socialist Movement, described the committee's decision as "a ludicrous retreat". The movement, he said, would now put into general distribution literature denouncing "this treason at Westminster and demanding that the racial traitors be brought to trial".

ARRESTS FOR YESHIVA DAMAGE

A North London Magistrate's court charged three young men with wilfully damaging three windows and two glass door panels to the amount of £30 in a Talmudical college at Cazenove Road, Stamford Hill. According to the three defendants, the incident started as a joke when they spoke to some Jewish people, and an argument followed. One of the young men further admitted wilfully damaging a car door to the amount of £8, having in his possession an offensive weapon—an adjustable spanner—without authority, and assaulting one Joshua Weisz, causing him bodily harm.

The magistrate fined this defendant £10, plus £15 compensation. The other two were remanded in custody for a fortnight.

ATTACKS ON SYNAGOGUES

Two incendiary bombs were thrown into the premises of the Edmonton and Tottenham Synagogue. A similar type of bomb, with a swastika painted on it, was thrown through a kitchen window at the Herbert Samuel Hall, Bayswater, which adjoins the New West End Synagogue. Only slight damage was caused in both cases. This follows fires earlier this year at two other synagogues. Police are taking precautions to ensure that these attacks do not occur again. The incidents are being treated seriously and investigations are being carried out.

DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Henry Nyman has been nominated as Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff. This is the first time in the history of the Cardiff Jewish community that a Jewish Councillor has been so honoured.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

New Chief Rabbi

Dr. Yaacov Herzog has accepted the invitation to become Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth of Nations. He will take up his duties in October. The invitation was conveyed to him at his home in Jerusalem by a seven-member delegation from the Chief Rabbinate conference. Dr. Herzog, who is 43, resigned from his post as deputy director-general in the Israeli Foreign Ministry to take up the appointment.

Dr. Brodie's Last Functions

The last London synagogal event to be attended by Dr. Israel Brodie in his capacity as Chief Rabbi took place in his own congregation of St. John's Wood at the official consecration of the synagogue's Beth Hamedrash. Dr. Brodie conducted the service.

The last sermon in London to be preached by Dr. Brodie as Chief Rabbi was at the Western Synagogue, where he spoke of the happy relationship that existed between the synagogue and himself.

Award for Oscar Joseph

At a dinner given in his honour by the First Lodge of England, Mr. Oscar Joseph was presented with Anglo-Jewry's "Oscar"—the B'nai B'rith award for communal achievement and, above all, the promotion of communal unity. Mr. Joseph, chairman of the Central British Fund and president of the International Council on Jewish Social and Welfare Services, was given the 1965 award "for his selfless and tremendous work over the years for refugees and the youth of many countries".

Previous recipients of the award were the late Alderman A. Moss, Professor Norman Bentwich, Dr. I. Feldman and J. C. Gilbert.

16-Year-Old Chazan

A 16-year-old chazan from Jerusalem, Itzak Cohen, has been named as a likely successor to the Rev. Solomon Hershman, chazan emeritus of the Higher Crumpsall Synagogue, Manchester. The young chazan gave a recital in the Broughton Assembly Rooms and conducted a Shabbat service in the synagogue. He will be making a concert tour of Europe and the United States before returning to Jerusalem.

East End Synagogue to Close

The Vine Court (Federation) Synagogue in the East End of London is to be closed. One of the main reasons is the poor attendance at services—it is impossible to get a minyan for daily services. Membership numbering 350 is to be transferred to the Nelson Street Synagogue.

Controversial Concerts

In an article in the "Belfast Jewish Record," Rabbi Dr. A. Carlebach, minister of the Belfast Hebrew Congregation, referred to the recent series of concerts in the New London Synagogue which the former Chief Rabbi, Dr. Israel Brodie, openly criticised. Dr. Carlebach quotes rabbinic sources to prove that such concerts do not contravene the Din. Only two things are forbidden in synagogue, Dr. Carlebach points out: levity and secular activities. He does not term serious music as "levity." As for "secular activities," he states, religion ought to permeate and sanctify all aspects of life.

Glasgow Old Age Home

An appeal to members of the community to assist in the work of the Jewish Old Age Home for Scotland has been made on behalf of the board of management. More voluntary workers are urgently needed to enable the home to function with the maximum efficiency. The home has 30 residents at present but, when the extension now under way is completed, there will be accommodation for a total of 58 aged people. A waiting list has already been started.

Fritz Friedlander

CENTENARY OF LILY BRAUN'S BIRTH

General Hans von Kretschman's elder daughter, Lily, born in Halberstadt on July 2, 1865, was a very intelligent and ambitious child. When she was first sent to an exclusive private school in Berlin, she was anxious to be top in her form. However, she found an able competitor in Edith, the only Jewish girl there, who was isolated and insulted by her antisemitic classmates. Lily strongly defended and even befriended the persecuted girl, whose passion for books she shared. In gratitude, Edith's parents invited Lily to their home but, despite their kindness Lily did not take to them. Though only a child, she felt that they wanted her to pave the way for Edith into high society. General von Kretschman strictly forbade Lily to visit Edith and her parents again, for "a girl, who wants to keep her rank in society, must not associate with Jews." Likewise, the General, transferred to the City of Posen, parried his wife's suggestion to send Lily to an ordinary secondary school, with the indignant words: "Must she sit together with fifty Cohns and Goldsteins in the same classroom?" Though he could barely afford it, he provided private tuition for her.

Why did young Lily resist the stubborn spirit of racial discrimination and social arrogance prevailing in her family? She owed this to the salutary influence of her grandmother on her mother's side, Jenny von Gustedt, whose noble mind was imbued with humanitarian ideals. In her formative years, Goethe had been Jenny's paternal friend and adored mentor in Weimar. In Goethe's circle, besides others, Jenny met Felix Mendelssohn and Rahel Varnhagen, of whom she wrote in her notebook: "Es fiel Niemandem ein, wie das heute in anderen Städten der Fall sein würde, ihn (Felix Mendelssohn) seiner Abstammung wegen misstrauisch zu betrachten. Der Gedanke wäre im damaligen Weimar unmöglich gewesen, und wird es sein, so lange die grossen Traditionen nicht zur Fabel geworden sind. ... So gehörte Rahel, so gehörte Mendelssohn zu unserer anerkanntesten Aristokratie".

Of course, the von Kretschman family tried

to thwart the influence on Lily of "eccentric" Jenny, but in vain: Lily's whole life was a revolt against her family's reactionary Prussianism; a revolt that led her first to the progressive middle-class intellectualism and from there to the organised German Social Democracy. It is true that before she finally broke away from her family's mentality, she occasionally suffered a relapse. For example, during her turn to progressive liberalism she visited a house near Tegernsee, socially ostracised by her family: "Ein Baron Goldberger, ein Wiener Bankier, war der Besitzer, und sein Aussehen verriet seine Rasse noch mehr als sein Name, so dass sich ihm gegenüber jener ästhetische Antisemitismus geltend machte, den auch Vorurteilslose oft nicht abstreifen können". Yet she qualifies her judgement: "Der Magnet des Hauses waren seine vier Töchter, von denen eine immer hübscher war als die andere". She also gratefully acknowledged that it was in this house that she first heard of Ibsen, who revolutionised her outlook.

Though her family sneered at her relations with Jewish writers, Lily felt attracted to eminent Jews like Professor Ludwig Geiger, the Goethe scholar, and Julius Rodenberg, the editor of the "Deutsche Rundschau," who helped her to embark on a literary career. In Rodenberg's house she met protagonists of modern literature and art. By chance she also became acquainted with Juliane Déry, the hyper-modern Jewish writer, who died at an early age as the result of a dissipated life, reminiscent of Else Lasker-Schüler. However, although also a rebel against tradition, Lily was still too aristocratic to get along well with Juliane.

It was a non-Jew who caused Lily to embrace Socialism. In Berlin in 1891 she was introduced to the philosopher, Georg von Gizycki, who taught her to conceive Socialism as a personal fight for social justice. Lily was so deeply impressed that she married Gizycki two years later, though he was crippled and sick; he died on March 2, 1895 in Berlin.

Through Gizycki, in 1892 she met Dr. Heinrich Braun, who was to become her second husband: "Ein grosser, blonder Mann stand mir gegenüber, wir sahen einander einen Augenblick lang ins Gesicht, und mit einer stummen Verbeugung ging er an mir vorbei zum Zimmer hinaus".

At that time, Braun, a Jew born in 1854 in Laag, Styria, already played an important role as a writer in the German Social Democratic Party. Under his influence Lily joined the Party and blossomed into a powerful orator and author who fought for the human rights of the working class and for complete female emancipation. Heinrich Braun, a very capable, bold, but also difficult man, married Lily in 1896, and their only son, Otto, was born the following year. As Heinrich and Lily Braun were both uncompromising personalities, their married life was afflicted by crises. But, in their differences, her husband's Jewishness hardly affected Lily; like his friend Eduard Bernstein at that time, Heinrich Braun was completely indifferent towards Judaism. In this respect it is significant that General von Kretschman wrote to his daughter: "Ich bin Dir die Erklärung schuldig, dass Dein Mann, dessen vollendeter Takt mir so wohltuend ist, ganz auf mich zählen kann."

On the other hand, the same man—who approved of the ruthless protectionist policy which, enforced by the powerful landowners, cut down the workers' living standard—once said to Lily: "Du findest uns alle an deiner

Seite, wenn es gilt, den jüdischen Konfektionären, diesen Menschenschindern und Ausbeutern, das Handwerk zu legen."

Though Lily Braun respected her father, she refused to bridge the gulf between them by making concessions to his antisemitic outlook. For example, when she wrote, probably with reference to Rosa Luxemburg: "Eine kleine polnische Jüdin, die eben erst in die deutsche Partei eingetreten war, kritisierte mit der Sicherheit einer Parteiautorität die Ansichten und Handlungen bewährter Führer," it is certain she did not take exception to this party member's Jewishness, which in her case was accidental, but to a method of criticism which, in Lily's opinion, went too far.

This view is confirmed by the fact that one of Lily Braun's closest friends was a Jewess: Julie Vogelstein, born as the daughter of an esteemed rabbi in Stettin in 1883. She was a Ph.D. and a gifted art historian. When she got to know the Brauns, she became as much attached to Lily as to their highly talented son Otto.

Though Lily Braun was a true friend of the Jews, she preserved her independent judgement. In her novel "Lebenssucher" (1915), which delineates the German scene prior to 1914, we come across three Jewish figures, each representing a different type: Kommerzienrat Siegmund Veit, the unpleasant money-making social climber. His counterpart is Sara Rubner, a sagacious Eastern Jewish intellectual and also a passionate woman, ruined by a fatal love for a worthless German. Sara inspires a Jewish medical student, Walter Warburg, with the Zionist ideal, but she is not responsive to his affection. The hero of the novel, Baron Konrad von Hochsess, is deeply attached to Walter Warburg who is to him a critical, but also a faithful, reliable friend. In conceiving this fine figure, Lily Braun definitely wanted to shape her image of the German Jew.

When Lily Braun died prematurely in Berlin-Zehlendorf on August 9, 1916, she was at least spared a dreadful blow of fate: it was in France in 1918 that her beloved son Otto was killed in action. One year later, Julie Vogelstein edited "Otto Braun—Aus nachgelassenen Schriften eines Frühvollendeten", but nowhere in this admirable book does Otto seem to be conscious of his half-Jewish origin. The lonely Heinrich Braun married Julie. After his death on February 9, 1927, she set out to write his biography which, shortly after its publication in 1933, was seized by the Gestapo.

In 1936, Julie Braun left for Carmel (U.S.A.) and later settled in New York, where she again worked as an art historian, remaining a faithful guardian of Lily Braun's spiritual legacy.

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Egon Larsen

Monolulu's Last Love

On the first week-end after my arrival in London some months before the war English friends took me to Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park; a "must" for every Continental. What impressed me most was a six-foot Negro, in a fantastic, colourful garb, his enormous bulk topped by an exotic headgear of gaudy ostrich feathers. He had drawn the biggest crowd of all the speakers, and the most appreciative one.

"Thank God for the Jews!" he shouted, and again, with even more emphasis: "Thank God—for the Jews—!" And he went on to elaborate, with great temperament and a sharp wit, what the Jews had done for mankind and why Hitler was the most evil man in world history for persecuting them. There were, of course, hecklers; it was all part of the game. The black fellow's admiration for the Jews could not pass unchallenged. "Why don't you go and join them?" someone cried.

"Because I am one of them, you noodle!" the Negro shouted back.

That was the first time I saw Prince Rass Monolulu, as he called himself, king of the racing tipsters and orator for fun. You can still find his name, under "M", in the London telephone directory; when he died earlier this year the English capital mourned one of its most lovable eccentrics. With his famous cry, "I gotta horse!" uttered in a wonderfully deep, rasping voice, he had been a familiar figure at all the great race meetings in Britain, and at many Continental ones, too, for more than forty years. The stories he told about himself and his adventures were as tall as the teller; the autobiography he published in 1950 is full of them. But to the people he liked he would reveal some authentic facts about his life, and I think what he told me some years ago one evening in his flat near Euston Road, which was full of pieces of evidence about his past, may have been more or less the truth. It was dramatic enough.

He was, in fact, a Jew (and would offer to go to embarrassing lengths to prove it to you): a *falasha*, born in Addis Ababa in 1880, according to him his father was a "chief" of that strange Hamitic tribe which has been practising the Jewish faith since the days of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Monolulu's real name was, for some reason he could not, or would not, explain, Scottish with a German touch: Peter Carl Mackay. At any rate, he left his homeland at the age of 14, made his way to Djibouti in French Somaliland, and got a job as a stoker's mate on a boat bound for New York.

For some time he did the lowest jobs, such as cleaning spittoons in bars; and he carried Salvation Army banners on Sundays for a good hot meal. When he was old enough he joined the U.S. Navy, but he was only 20 or so when he got out again and worked his way to Europe on a freighter (during the crossing he had to feed sugar to seasick horses). Somehow he got to Bavaria; in fact, he started his Continental career in Munich.

At this point of his story he switched to German, which he spoke surprisingly well (occasionally mixing it with Yiddish words). "Ah, München!" he cried, and began to sing: "So lang der alte Peter" in his wonderful, warm Negro bass, but with a genuine Bavarian accent. It must have been in 1902 when he first turned up at the *Oktoberfest*, selling peanuts, which were then still a novelty. "I made a fortune", he boasted. "But once I had trouble with one of my customers—a peasant who went to the police and said I had

sold him pieces of wood instead of nuts. The stupid yokel had gobbled them up with their shells!"

A year or two later Monolulu was hired for the *Negerdorf* at the October fair as a "cannibal". They had to do some weird dancing and chanting. He jumped up and showed me: "Ho, ho, ho, ho—*verstehst du mir?* And then suddenly we charged right into the audience—like this—" and he grabbed my head, obviously trying to bite a piece out of it. I could not help admiring the extraordinary agility of that man, who was getting on for eighty.

In between the October fairs, which he seems to have attended regularly, he wandered all over Central Europe, from Baden to Poland and from Austria to Prussia, telling fortunes, selling patent medicines and the like. Every now and then he ended up in some village jail, and more than once it was a local parson who got him out by pleading with the police: "Let him go, the poor black devil", or something to that effect. During the First World War he wore a fez and said he was a Turk.

He happened to be in Berlin in November, 1918. True to his temperament he demonstrated with the revolutionaries. The police arrested him and took him to the *Alex*, together with the big red flag he had been waving from a lorry. "You black man, what are you doing here?" he was asked. "I point to my nose—black". Monolulu continued his story. "I show them my teeth—white. I stick out my tongue—red. I ask them: 'Schwarz-weiss-rot—isn't that German enough?' And I sing to them 'O alte Burschenherrlichkeit'. They let me out of the *Alex* in no time!"

Somehow he got the Danish Legation in Berlin to give him a Danish passport, which protected him against further arrests during those times of unrest in Central Europe. He made his living now on a slightly higher level than before, as a circus rider, lion tamer, prize fighter, sharpshooter and pub singer. In 1920 he came to England and found his true vocation as a "turf adviser", or, in everyday language: tipster.

He had a tough time establishing himself. He had fights with the racecourse gangs. He won £35,000 in the 1935 Derby, put it all on one horse the next day, and lost the lot. His war-cry "I gotta horse" became proverbial. He claimed to be friends with the Aga Khan, the Prince of Wales (now the Duke of Windsor), Edgar Wallace and dozens of lords. He used to stroll through London in his fantastic gear, being greeted everywhere with smiles and jokes: a warm-hearted, good-natured, witty colossus of a man. People crowded around him in Hyde Park to hear him speak, no matter what he chose as his subject; but it was usually friendship and better understanding between the races.

His private life was always something of a mystery; he was fond of claiming that he had been married ten times, but this seems to have been a slight exaggeration. No doubt, he had a way with the ladies. Once when I went to see him in his flat I was greeted by a charming Austrian woman in her thirties, Baroness X from Salzburg; while we were waiting for Monolulu's return she told me her own story. She had been married to a doctor in Zagreb. During the German occupation the S.S. shot him and her father, a naval officer, and she was deported to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. Coloured American soldiers

(Continued on page 8, column 3)

Old Acquaintances

Home News: Lucie Mannheim is to appear in Otto Preminger's "Bunny Lake is Missing" currently in production in London and starring Sir Laurence Olivier and Noel Coward.—Tom Osborn, a son of the late pianist, Franz Osborn, and grandson of Berlin's art critic, Max Osborn, was responsible for the adaptation of Wedekind's "Spring Awakening", which had a successful run at the Royal Court Theatre.—Heinrich Fischer, who during and after the war worked for the German B.B.C. Section in Bush House and who now lives in Munich, lectured at Balliol College in Oxford about his personal memories of Karl Kraus, Else Lasker-Schueler and Bertolt Brecht.—Martin Miller is to appear in "Up Comes the Swagman", starring Frank Ifield.—Ernst Gumbel, of New York's Columbia University, gave a talk entitled "Memories of an Outsider" to the members of Club 43 and the German P.E.N. Centre.—"Operation Crossbow", with Milo Sperber, Wolf Frees, Anton Difrting, Ferdy Mayne, Karel Stepanek, Offenbach, Lili Palmer and Paul Henreid, was a field day for refugee actors.

U.S.A.: Oscar Werner gives a star-making performance in "Ships of Fools", supported by Heinz Rühmann, Olga Fabian, John Wengraf, Werner Klemperer and Lilia Skala.—Peter Kortner, son of Fritz Kortner, is producing the TV series of the "John Forsythe Show".—Maria Ley-Piscator has adapted Kafka's "Metamorphosis" for the Actor's Workshop at New York's Phoenix.—Stefan Wolpe composed the music for Brecht's "The Exception and the Rule" at the Greenwich Mews.

Germany: Peter Zadek is to produce Wedekind's "Fruehlingserwachen" in Bremen.—Gustav Froehlich appeared in "Nur keine Blumen . . ." in Stuttgart.—Erich Kaestner was appointed Hon. President of the German P.E.N. Club.—Hein Heckroth is to design the décors for Sartre's "Nekrassov" at Berlin's Volksbuehne.

News from Everywhere: Max Mack, the 81-year-old film director now living in London, was invited to attend the 1965 Berlin Film Festival, where he will receive the golden "Filmband" for his services to the German film industry.—Marcel Ophuels, son of Max Ophuels the director of "La Ronde", produced a French film featuring Eddie Constantine.—Hans Jaray successfully directed Wilder's "Our Town" in Vienna.

Milestones: Wilhelm Thiele, who directed "Drei von der Tankstelle" and "Die Privatsekretarin", and who survived the Nazi régime in the States, celebrated his 75th birthday in retirement in Vienna.—Berlin's Academy of Arts celebrated Fritz von Unruh's 80th birthday with a lecture by Ludwig Berger and readings by well-known actors.—Charlotte Berend-Corinth, Lovis Corinth's widow, has turned 85 in New York, where she has lived for the past 25 years.

Books and Authors: Gabriele Tergit's "Das Tulpenbuechlein" has been published by Landbuch-Verlag in Hanover; she has also contributed to the Berlin anthology "Im Zeichen des Baeren".—Ludwig Marcuse's "Obscene" has been published by MacGibbon & Kee in London.—John Izbecki, son of Manchester former refugees, and a former foreign editor of the now defunct "Topic", has had his novel, "The Naked Heroine", published by "Four Square Books" here.—Hilde Spiel edited "Der Wiener Kongress in Augenzeugenberichten", published by Rauch-Verlag in Duesseldorf.

PEM

THE TIETZ DEPARTMENT STORES

Memoirs of Georg Tietz

The memoirs of Georg Tietz, the former partner of the Hermann Tietz Department Store combine, have recently been published under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Institute.* The author's own life story is inseparably linked up with the history of the firm founded by his great-uncle, Hermann Tietz, and his father, Oscar Tietz. Unfortunately, Georg Tietz died in 1953 before completing his memoirs which end with the year 1923. The book has been jointly edited by his widow, Edith Tietz, and Edith J. Hirsch, with the help of Dr. Max Kreutzberger, Director of the New York branch of the L.B.I. In the preface, Edith Hirsch recalls that her late husband, the economist, Professor Julius Hirsch, had done important research work into the development of the department store system in Germany but that comparatively little was known about the personalities behind these enterprises. In this respect the new publication fills a widely felt gap.

The opening chapter deals with the family's origin. The first traceable ancestor is believed to have been born in Holland, settling under Frederick the Great in the Netze district, just acquired by Prussia. He owned real estate near the township of Tuetz. His son, Jacob Isaac Tietz, and members of subsequent generations, lived in Birnbaum. Two of Jacob Isaac's sons, David and Isaac, were founders of the wholesale haberdashery firm of Gebrueder Tietz, which was later transferred to Berlin. The third son, Salomon, a carter in Birnbaum, was the father of Hermann Tietz and, through another son of his, Jakob, the grandfather of Oscar and Leonhard Tietz.

It is interesting to note that both Hermann Tietz and several of his brothers first emigrated to the United States, but later returned to their country of birth. Hermann Tietz retained his American citizenship throughout his life.

The book deals mainly with the history of the firm of Hermann Tietz, yet it also refers to the links with firms founded by other members of the family, viz., H. and C. Tietz (originally managed by brothers of Hermann) and Leonhard Tietz, first in Stralsund, later on in Elberfeld, Cologne and other cities in the Rhineland. These wide-spread activities reflect the enterprising spirit of and the close bonds between the members of the family.

The firm of Hermann Tietz started with a shop of woollen wares in Gera, opened by Herman and Oscar Tietz in 1882. The next stepping stone was Weimar, and the first true department store was established in Munich in 1889. Berlin followed eleven years later in 1900, when the house in the Leipziger Strasse was completed, and gradually further branches were set up in the capital.

The various stages of the family's rise are recorded from the idyllic, modest and intensely Jewish life in Birnbaum, to the wealthy upper middle-class position later on acquired. Its members were always aware of their obligations to their fellow-Jews. George Tietz mentions that he, and the other children, had to sleep on the floor when, in 1903, victims of the Kishinev pogroms were put up in the flat, using every available bed and chair. At that time, Hermann and Oscar Tietz also negotiated with the authorities on behalf of the hapless refugees. Some of the peculiar aspects of the

Jewish position in the Wilhemian era come to life again: Jews were awarded titles and honours on the understanding that they displayed a sufficient degree of munificence.

From the very beginning the fight against department stores, regarded by the small shopkeepers as dangerous competitors, was carried out with antisemitic arguments. As far back as the end of the last century, Oscar Tietz was exposed to slanderous accusations and had to clear his name by several court actions.

The book also conveys some interesting background knowledge about the introduction of new schemes into the retail trade, such as "Weisse Woche" and "Inventurverkäufe". For the benefit of their personnel, various welfare schemes were launched, such as vocational training courses and retirement pension endowments. We are also given examples of the treatment meted out to clients by the big German banks, who employed methods which have been, and always will be, repugnant in England.

Last, but not least, there are interesting side-lights on the social and political life in Germany during the period covered by the book. Paul Hirsch, a friend of the family, on November 8, 1918, is reported to have said: "Tomorrow morning I shall either hang from the gallows, or be Prime Minister of Prussia," and the assurance of Reichsbankpraesident Havenstein, "Mark bleibt Mark" is bound to evoke sad recollections.

It is gratifying that the Leo Baeck Institute has made these interesting memoirs accessible to the public. W.R.

Letter to the Editor

DAS BERLINER WILHELMSGYMNASIUM

Zum Tode von Dr. F. Demuth

Im Anschluss an die schoenen Nachrufe im Juniheft sei es mir gestattet, einen ergaenzenden Hinweis zu geben, der mir allgemeines Interesse zu haben scheint. Fritz Demuth war ein besonders treues Mitglied einer in London bestehenden losen Gruppe ehemaliger Schueler des Wilhelmsgymnasiums in Berlin und nahm an ihren jaehrlichen Treffen stets teil, solange seine Gesundheit es zulies. Damit hat es eine besondere Bewandnis. Die Schule, der auch ich angehoerte, hatte, obwohl eine staatliche ("koenigliche") Schule, infolge ihrer Lage im Tiergartenviertel mehr als 50% juedischer oder "nicht arischer" Schueler, weshalb sie oft als "Lackstiebelgymnasium" bezeichnet wurde. Das Tiergartenviertel wurde damals von wohlhabenden juedischen Familien und andererseits von Diplomaten, hohen Beamten usw. bewohnt. So kommt es, dass eine ganz besonders grosse Zahl ehemaliger Schueler dieser deutschen Schule in der Emigration lebt, und dass eine erhebliche Zahl in der Verfolgung umgekommen ist.

Im Anschluss an die Schule bestand eine Vereinigung ihrer ehemaligen Schueler. Ihr Vorsitzender war zur Zeit der Machtuebernahme Magistratsrat Hans Graff, ein Nichtjude. Er besass ein ungewoehnliches Mass an Zivilcourage. So lud er bis zum Kriegsbeginn die noch in Deutschland befindlichen juedischen Mitschueler stets zu den Veranstaltungen der Vereinigung ein. Sie leisteten kaum je Folge, doch erkannten sie die Gesinnung an, die sich darin aussprach. Graff wurde im Fruehjahr 1933 auf Grund des "politischen Paragraphen" des Berufsbeamtengesetzes aus seinem Amt als Magistratsrat ausgestossen, weil er es ablehnte, die Hakenkreuzflagge auf seinem Dienstgebäude zu hissen, als sie noch nicht Reichsflagge, sondern nur Parteifahne war. Er wurde Pfarrer der "bekenennenden Kirche."

Nach dem Kriege bemuehte er sich, immer noch Vorsitzender der Vereinigung, mit den in alle Welt verstreuten, durch die Rassenverfolgung zur Auswanderung gezwungenen Mitschuelern in Verbindung zu treten und die Namen der Umgekommenen zu ermitteln. Den Ausgewanderten sandte er regelmaessig die einmal jaehrlich erscheinende "Zeitung" der Vereinigung. In dieser veroeffentlichte er ihre Namen und Adressen, und ausserdem die Namen der Todesopfer der Verfolgung aus dem Mitschuelerkreise. So erklart es sich, dass die in England lebenden Mitschueler, z.Zt. noch etwa 30, aus meiner eigenen Klasse 5, die ihnen von Graff gebotene Hand nicht zurueckwiesen, sondern dass die Mehrzahl von ihnen sich hier zu einer losen Gruppe mit jaehrlichen Treffen zusammenschloss. Graff, der bis zuletzt Vorsitzender der eigentlichen Vereinigung war, ist vor zehn Jahren verstorben. Diese Zeilen sollen zugleich auch sein mutiges und konsequentes Verhalten wuerdigen.

E. SCHAEFER.

'MONOLULU'S LAST LOVE'

(Continued from page 7)

liberated her. After the war she applied for a job as governess in London.

One day she was walking in Regent's Park with the two children in her care, when a tall old Negro, with ostrich feathers on his head, blocked her way. "Nice children you've got", he said. "They are not my own", she replied. "That's a pity", grinned the Negro. "Would you like to marry me?" he added, just like that. The Baroness laughed; the idea was just too absurd. They never married; but soon they were—to use a contemporary euphemism—"just good friends".

She was not his last love. In the summer of 1963 he was returning from a race meeting in Germany when he literally ran into a young German woman at Düsseldorf airport: trying to pass each other, they ended up face to face. To her, Monolulu, in his full regalia, "seemed like a prince from fairyland", as she said later, and the 83-year-old man fell in love with her, head over heels. Flamboyant as ever, he offered her, over a cup of coffee, to take her with him and "show her the whole world". She replied that she was happily married, but he made her promise to come to England soon; meanwhile, he would write to her.

And he did, indeed. Within the short span of life that was left to him—less than eighteen months—he wrote to her well over three dozen postcards and letters, mostly in German. She was to him his "only dearest friend this side of heaven". He was hoping to show her Royal Ascot and "something of English life". For some months he was in hospital, then out for the Derby, and back again in hospital. His "lieber guter Kamerad", as he called her, was unable to come. From his lonely bed he confessed: "I fell in love with you. Such is life. . . ."

Last February he died at the Middlesex. They put him on a bier at a Chapel of Rest and his friends filed past the peaceful figure in white satin robes, with a zouave jacket still bearing his famous slogan "I gotta horse". He was cremated in Golders Green; that had been his last wish. His German friend heard about his death only through the newspapers.

I never bought a race tip from him, but I shall never forget the last time I saw him at his modest home. His goodbye was a song: "Wenn auch die Jahre enteilen, bleibt die Erinnerung doch. . . ." And I can still see him towering over his listeners at Speakers' Corner. I can still hear his mighty voice booming: "Thank God for the Jews!"

* Hermann Tietz—Geschichte einer Familie und ihrer Waerhaeuser. Bericht von Georg Tietz, mit einem Vorwort von Edith J. Hirsch. Deutsche Verlagsanstalt Stuttgart. D.M.19.80, for members of the Society of Friends of the L.B.I. £1 8s.

A TRIBUTE TO SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

"Let us now praise famous men". This is a time-honoured sentiment which has been given expression in various ways. Some praise in words which, having been uttered, can be forgotten. Some translate praise into a material form and erect statues so that a figure may be perpetuated and the human likeness remembered. There is, however, another form which lends prominence to an idea through the medium of a symbolism rich in meaning and content.

Israel has devised a unique method of paying tribute to those whom she wishes to honour. It takes the form of a Forest. High on the bare hillsides, thousands of saplings are planted which, with the advancing years, continue to grow and flourish and in the course of time reproduce themselves, create new soil and attract additional rainfall to the surrounding area. Such a Forest is given a name and an appropriate plaque is erected so that all who come and sit beneath the shade of the trees or enjoy the life-giving substance of the Forest bless those who planted these trees and him whose name it perpetuates. This is a living and life-giving memorial. Truly unique and certainly more beneficial than a cold, lifeless statue or obelisk.

Such a Forest is to be planted in the name of the Anglo-Jewish community in historic, picturesque Galilee on the North-Eastern slopes of Nazareth, on a steep promontory high above Emek Yizreel.

From this spot one looks down on the valley spreading like a rich green carpet below. Across the valley lie Mount Tabor, Givat Hamoreh and Mount Gilboa, all recalling the history of Israel's past struggles in Biblical time and her achievements during the period of her recent reconstruction. This is the area which has been selected for the Winston Churchill Forest where 300,000 trees will be planted and where a commemorative column will be erected to mark the fact that Jewry expresses its gratitude to a man to whom so many owe so much.

The concept of such a tribute should capture the imagination of the whole community, for no man deserves Jewry's appreciation more than he. In Britain's darkest hour, he shone forth like a beacon holding aloft the torch of hope, giving encouragement and inspiration not only to the nation but to Jewry throughout the world. His profound utterances and unique leadership gave new heart to a continent steeped in the misery of Nazi tyranny. For this alone he deserves our gratitude, but Jewry owes him much more. His contribution to the cause of Israel's rebirth in its historic land, his courageous stand on behalf of this ideal in Parliamentary debates and on the public platform, his denunciation of the 1939 White Paper and his numerous expressions of support for Israel's aspirations, make him eminently worthy of a permanent memorial in the Land of Israel.

The Jewish National Fund has undertaken to sponsor this project because afforestation is an integral part of its valuable work in the reclamation of the soil of Israel. It is confidently believed that every member of the community and particularly the members of the AJR will feel privileged to participate in this tribute. The knowledge that the names of every contributor will be inscribed in a Commemorative Volume to be presented to Lady Churchill should be an added impetus to such participation in that it will indicate that this tribute is both communal and personal.

BRITISH PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL

Dr. Cuthbert Bardsley, the Bishop of Coventry, headed a group of 300 pilgrims from Britain, who went to Israel as part of an "ecumenical cruise." The Bishop visited the Chamber of the Holocaust on Mount Zion and lit the six-branched candelabrum there in memory of the slaughtered Jews of Europe.

ARAB AND JEWISH PARTICIPATION

The Movement Against Racism and Anti-semitism and for Peace (Mrap) is to organise a colloquium, probably in Paris, on the problems of the Middle East, with the participation of Israelis and Arabs favourable to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

A resolution to this effect, greeting all the efforts and initiatives both in Israel and in the Arab countries intended to open the way for a dialogue, was unanimously approved at Mrap's national conference at Unesco headquarters in Paris. The debate reflected to an extent the embarrassment among Jewish Leftists over the vehemently anti-Israeli line followed by certain Communist parties.

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KURT WILHELM—IN MEMORIAM

It is tragic to have to write an obituary for Kurt Wilhelm—a dear friend, about ten years my junior. He was a rabbi of rare distinction, a scholar, a brilliant publicist but, above all, a man of deep humanity. This was what determined his character, his attitude to life and also his own religiosity. Although an expert on Jewish folk-lore and ritual, personally keeping the mitzvot, he was aware of the danger of overestimating the form at the expense of the ethical content of Judaism. His religiosity manifested itself in active response to social duties and in understanding of the spiritual needs of men. Aware of the intricacies of the human condition, he was eager to give guidance wherever he could. But he was far from hubris. Rather was he self-critical, feeling as he did the limitations of every human being and the predicament whereby man has to rely on his conscience.

Wilhelm was born in Magdeburg in 1900 and studied at the Breslau Rabbiner-Seminar and later at the Theological Seminary in New York. He also studied Semitic languages and the comparative history of religions and was versed in the classics not less than in the Talmud and in the Midrash. His first appointment as a rabbi in 1925 was at Braunschweig. From there he was called to Dortmund and in 1933 he came to Jerusalem. This fulfilment of a dream was not without its disappointments. But later, together with a group of sympathisers, he founded the first liberal congregation, *Emeth ve-Emunah*, of which he became the spiritual head. The members were mostly immigrants from Central Europe. He loved the Holy City, but the official Establishment ignored non-Orthodox rabbis. From the material point of view he had a hard time. His brave wife, Ilka, helped to sustain the family in a modest way by working as a dressmaker. Wilhelm worked for the Schocken publishing house which, in Jerusalem, had established a new branch, and for the Research Institute for Hebrew Poetry. In spite of his own difficulties he always showed concern for the needs of others. He was a *Seelsorger* in the truest sense—one of

the very few who visited people in distress to comfort them in a selfless manner. His community became a spiritual centre, such as had never existed in Jerusalem before.

Wilhelm was an ardent Zionist who believed in the spiritual and universalist meaning of Zionism. Jewish nationalism was to him unthinkable otherwise than in the form of Hebrew humanism. This view determined his political attitude. When, in 1942, the President of the Hebrew University, Dr. J. L. Magnes, founded the Ihud (Union) association (which, in the words of Norman Bentwich in his "Magnes Biography", set itself the "task of creating a public life based on justice and mercy" amidst the rising wave of terrorism), Wilhelm became one of its faithful members and, indeed, its secretary. He was one of those who could not imagine a Jewish future in Palestine except on the basis of Jewish-Arab understanding and co-operation.

These hopes, alas, were disappointed, and there followed the strained years of struggle before the establishment of the State of Israel in a part of Palestine. This was a heartbreaking time for Wilhelm. He also suffered personally when a bomb wrecked his home in Jerusalem. While other religious leaders bristled with chauvinism, Wilhelm's solitary voice condemned crime and murders, whatever side committed it. In a time of crisis and moral confusion he courageously defended the dignity of man.

A new opportunity arose for him when, in 1948, the Stockholm Jewish community invited him to become Chief Rabbi of Sweden. This office he occupied for seventeen years. His house in Stockholm became one of the international meeting points for Jews of the whole world. Sweden's neutral position enabled him also to keep in touch with some Jewish communities of Eastern Europe, in whose educational problems he took a deep interest. In matters of principle and Jewish philosophy Wilhelm did not easily bow to outside influences, so it is not to be wondered at that

he occasionally encountered difficulties also within his own community.

Wilhelm was a man of wide knowledge and erudition, both in Jewish and general matters, and produced many papers and essays in Hebrew, German and Swedish. His desire to devote himself completely to scholarly work was, alas, never fulfilled. But during the 'fifties he was invited to take the chair of Jewish studies at the University of Frankfurt, established when he was a rector by Professor Horkheimer, with the support of the American Loew Foundation. As Wilhelm could serve in Frankfurt only as a guest professor, he declined the offer of a permanent chair. He also lectured at Stockholm University and elsewhere on Jewish subjects. He was a member of the London Board of the Leo Baeck Institute, a contributor to the Institute's Year Book, and recently concluded two major works for the Institute, one of which, a commented and annotated anthology of important essays of the *Wissenschaft des Judentums*, is now being prepared for publication.

Wilhelm was an accomplished anthologist. One of the beautiful books he left us and which is recommended for popular use, is his selection from Jewish scriptures, old and modern, which appeared a few years ago under the title, *Jüdischer Glaube, eine Auswahl aus zwei Jahrtausenden* (Carl Schünemann Verlag Bremen).

European Jewry has lost one of its outstanding figures, a man who combined Jewish enthusiasm with common sense, knowledge with humanity, a defender of Judaism and of justice. In a memorial article which Wilhelm devoted to his predecessor in the Dortmund rabbinate, Dr. Benno Jacob, on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the latter's birth (in Year Book VII of the Leo Baeck Institute, London, 1962) he quoted one of Jacob's remarks: "When a rabbi is nothing but popular, that arouses my suspicions". On which Wilhelm commented: "Not a bad representative of his calling, one who spoke like this". It is as though Kurt Wilhelm had written his own fitting epitaph.

ROBERT WELTSCH.

FAMILY EVENTS

Deaths

Borchard.—Dr. Else Borchard, Henfield, passed away after a short illness, deeply mourned by her sisters, relatives and friends.

Butterfass.—On June 18, Mrs. Paula Butterfass (née Wagenheim), our beloved sister and sister-in-law, passed away after a long illness in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Erna and Karl Goitein, 14 Osborne Court, Osborne Road, Windsor, Berks.

Gerson.—Mr. Richard Gerson, of 84 West Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, 20 (formerly of Breslau) passed away suddenly on May 14, aged 77.

Meyer.—Mrs. Else Helene Meyer, 6 Queens Court, Finchley Road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.8, passed away on June 10 after an illness bravely borne. Deeply mourned by her relatives and friends.

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Miscellaneous

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Inquiries

Lustig.—Alice (née Lustig), married name unknown, from Leipzig, wanted by Erica Hahne de Ritterband, Argentina. Information to Mrs. Martin Newstead, 84 Raglan Court, Wembley Park, Middx. (WEMbley 0584.)

Weiss.—Relatives and friends of Mrs. Margarete Weiss, formerly High Class Millinery, Fleischmarkt, Vienna, 1, should please contact Miss Rosa Schlesinger, 4 Mount Park Crescent, London, W.5.

Enquiries by AJR

Gross.—Mrs. Selma (Selly) Gross, formerly Breslau, sought by Erwin Blumenfeld, Santiago de Chile.

Klein.—Mrs. Klara Klein, formerly Vienna, last known address 77 Warwick Avenue, London, W.2.

OBITUARY

DR. HANS FLEISCHHACKER

With the sudden death of Dr. Hans Fleischhacker on June 17, the AJR lost a devoted fellow-worker and trusted adviser.

Dr. Fleischhacker was born in Berlin in 1897. He studied medicine, specialising in psychiatry and neurology. After having worked with several hospitals in Berlin, he obtained a position with the University Hospital for Nervous Diseases in Frankfurt (Main) in 1927. He was on the verge of being appointed a lecturer at Frankfurt University, when his career was cut short by the events of 1933. He returned to Berlin to take up private practice and, in 1936, emigrated to England. From 1942 until 1963, when he reached retiring age, he was head of the Pathological Department of the Mental Hospital in Shenley. He published more than 150 papers, both in German and English, and also established a widely recognised reputation as a lecturer on subjects of his research.

Hans Fleischhacker always felt a strong solidarity with those who had shared his fate as refugees, and he was associated with the AJR as a member, and later on as a Board member, for many years. Yet his main contribution to our community consisted in the expert assistance he rendered to the AJR Social Services Department. Throughout the past ten years he visited our Head Office once or even twice a week, to help those who, often as the result of past sufferings, required guidance, advice and encouragement. His compassion, devotion and sense of responsibility knew no limits. These qualities as well as his first-hand knowledge of our people's background made his co-operation with the AJR invaluable, and it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to replace him. His departure also means a sad personal loss for his fellow-workers at the AJR who felt deeply attached to him and to whom he had become a trusted friend.

Hans Fleischhacker had a wide range of interests and he also endeared himself to many by his sincerity, modesty and fine sense of humour. Above all he excelled by an unsurpassed personal reliability: he would go out of his way if he felt that his presence might give comfort to others.

He died in harness, almost immediately after returning home from his Consulting Hour at the AJR, and at the same time when, at the AJR Meeting, his splendid work was referred to in the Annual Report.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and the other members of his family.

THERESE FREIMANN

Mrs. Therese Freimann died in New York at the age of 82. She was an outstanding welfare worker. In Frankfurt, where she lived prior to her emigration, she was associated with the "Zentrale fuer Wohlfahrtspflege" of the Jewish community. In New York she was a Board member of "Help and Reconstruction" and, in this capacity, was especially helpful to the refugees from Central Europe during the first difficult years after their arrival. For their benefit, she founded kindergartens under the auspices of "Help and Reconstruction", thus enabling young mothers to go out for work. Mrs. Freimann was the daughter of Rabbi Markus Horovitz (Frankfurt) and the widow of Professor Aron Freimann, the bibliographer and librarian at the Frankfurt Municipal Library. One of her brothers was the late lawyer Abraham Horovitz, a founder-member of the AJR.

DR. PAUL RIESENFELD

The musicologist, Dr. Paul Riesenfeld, died in Tel Aviv at the age of 84. Prior to his emigration, he was a well-known music critic in Breslau. In Israel he was a regular musical contributor to the "Mitteilungsblatt" of the "Irgun Oley Merkas Europa", the organisation of Jews from Central Europe.

RUTH GOETZ

Many readers will remember the weekly articles of Ruth Goetz in the *Berliner Tageblatt*. Her reports and witty comments referred to matters of special interest to women, such as fashion, social events, etc. She was also well-known for her work as a film script writer.

In 1935, Ruth Goetz, whose married name was von Schuching, emigrated to England. She earned her living by teaching languages and passed the examinations qualifying her as a teacher in this country. She also gave lessons in the religion school of the St. John's Wood Synagogue in Abbey Road. The last years of her life were overshadowed by great tragedy. Her general health was failing and she gradually lost her eye sight. She was a very sick woman when she moved into Osmond House in 1963, where she has now passed away.

PROFESSOR SELMAR ASCHHEIM

The gynaecologist, Professor Selmar Aschheim, died in Paris in his 88th year. He was a Fellow of many scientific societies and also a member of "La Solidarité", the organisation of former German Jews in France.

DR. FRANZ KOBLER

Dr. Franz Kobler, the lawyer, scholar and historian, died on May 12, 1965, in San Francisco, aged 83. He left friends in London, Jerusalem, New York and wherever interest prevailed for Jewish and Zionist research work.

Franz Kobler was born in Jung-Bunzlau (C.S.R.) in 1882, studied in Prague, Berlin and Vienna, where he settled as a lawyer. In Vienna he belonged to the circle of Adolf Boehm, the Zionist historian, Dr. Ernst Mueller, the translator of Bialik into German, and of Tulo Nussenblatt, author of several books on Herzl. He wrote essays and books on legal questions, among them "Justice and Injustice on Expulsion" (1932) and (together with Ernst Mueller) on Plato's Symposium (1933). But his main work before the war was "Jews and Judaism in German Letters from Three Centuries" (1935).

He arrived in London in 1939 and in the same year became a co-founder of the Institute of Jewish Learning, where leading personalities regularly gave lectures to guide the audience to the sources of Judaism and to promote Jewish knowledge. He was a member of the National Council and of the Research Committee of the World Jewish Congress and a Board Member of the AJR. During the war he, Dr. A. Steinberg and the late Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld prepared a memorandum on the aspects of international law in relation to Nazi crimes against humanity and on indemnification which was submitted to the Chief Counsel of the United States. Together with Dr. Steinberg he also formulated proposals concerning the restoration of Jewish cultural treasures in Europe. Two important books of his were also published in London: "Letters of Jews Through the Ages" (1952) and "The Vision Was There" (1956). The first one, which he called "Autobiography of the Jewish People", deals with selected Jewish letters from Biblical times to the Emancipation, whilst the other one is a history of the British movement for the Restoration of Palestine to the Jews. His lecture at the Jewish Historical Society on Sir Henry Finch appeared in the Society's Transactions, 1952.

In 1947 Kobler left London for America, where he continued his research work. His study on "Charles Henry Churchill" was included in the Herzl Year Book, vol. 4, edited by Raphael Patai. Kobler was a contributor to a number of magazines and a Fellow of the American Section of the Leo Baeck Institute. He had many devoted readers who will mourn the loss of a memorable scholar. He was a serious writer and had the spirit and mind of a true historian in constant search of new material.

JOSEF FRAENKEL.

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Organisational News

CLAIMS CONFERENCE

The Claims Conference now has no further major allocations to make, but it will remain in existence until available residual funds, now standing at about £1,750,000, have been allotted, and until there is fulfilment of all individual claims provided for under the agreements with Bonn.

In the eleven-year period of its agreement with Germany, the Conference has allocated a total of \$130 million (about £46½ million). Of this, \$84,600,000 had been spent on relief and reconstruction. The Joint Distribution Committee has administered this sum, supplementing it with \$21,600,000 of its own funds. Cultural and educational reconstruction took \$19½ million and the commemoration and documentation of the holocaust \$4½ million. —(J.C.)

WORLD CONFERENCE OF JEWISH ORGANISATIONS

Cojo, the Conference of Jewish Organisations representing Jewish bodies throughout the world, at its recent meeting in Geneva agreed to strengthen and formalise its structure. It has now acquired powers to take collective action, when circumstances warrant it, in the name of its ten constituent groups. Previously Cojo's primary role was in a consultative capacity.

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AJR GENERAL MEETING

The good attendance of the General Meeting, held on June 17, reflected the interest taken by members in the widespread constructive activities of the AJR. After the addresses on the work during the past year and the ensuing discussion, the members of the Executive and Board were elected and re-elected respectively as proposed from the platform. A full report will be published in the next issue.

Letter to the Editor

THE MONASCH FAMILY

Sir,—It will be of interest to the readers of the article "The General Who Hated War" (June, 1965) to know that I have in my library various sets of *Machsorim*, which have been printed by L. Monasch of Krotoschin. Some of the books date from the year 1838.

There is a special edition for subscribers who, like my own great-grandfather, had paid the purchase price in advance. The list of subscribers ("Alphabetisches Verzeichnis der Herren Praenumeranten"), classified according to their places of residence in the former Province of Posen, is attached to the copies. This list is certainly also of interest with regard to the genealogy of Jewish families hailing from this district.

An amusing story, which has been handed down through generations of our family, is the following one: A Jew, rather ignorant in Jewish rituals, but anxious to impress his host on Yom Kippur in shool, was told that on Yom Kippur the last sentence of the prayer book has to be repeated seven times. He was heard to recite seven times with emphasis: "Gedruckt bei Monasch in Krotoschin."

MR. H. LIBROWICZ.

Shipley, Yorks.

POSTSCRIPT TO "MONUMENTA JUDAICA" EXHIBITION

The impressive two volumes—a Catalogue and a Handbook—published on the occasion of the "Monumenta Judaica" Exhibition in Cologne have now been complemented by a third publication, called "Fazit". The book carries records of the Exhibition from its opening ceremony on October 15, 1963, up to its closure five months later, which was marked by a Mass Rally of 5,000 people. The addresses, delivered on both occasions by prominent Christians and Jews are published in the volume. "Fazit" also includes press reports on the Exhibition.

One article, written in a dignified way by Pater Dr. Willehad Paul Eckert (Cologne), deals with certain criticism, levelled against the Exhibition from non-Jewish and also some Jewish quarters. In another contribution, one of the well informed students who acted as guides relates his observations on the reaction of the visitors. The preparatory work as well as the basic object and the achievements of the Exhibition, are described by Studienrat Konrad Schilling (Cologne), the General Secretary of the Exhibition, and by Dr. Kurt Hackenberg, Head of the Cultural Department of the Cologne City Council. "Fazit" (DM4—plus postage) may be ordered from: Verwaltung der Museen, Wallraf-Richartz Museum, An der Rechtsschule, 5, Cologne (W. German).

E.G.L.

YAD VASHEM AWARD TO ENGLISH SISTERS

Miss Louise Cook and Miss Ida Cook were, at the Israeli Embassy in London, presented with certificates on behalf of Yad Vashem, the Israeli memorial authority for the victims of Nazi persecution. The two sisters helped to save 29 German-Jewish men, women and children in the years immediately before the Second World War.

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