

AJR

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Heinrich Fraenkel

'NEO-NAZISM'—FACTS AND FANCIES

Strictly speaking that overworked term in my headline is a misnomer. There are plenty of old Nazis, but the more intelligent ones among them are well aware of what for them is their erstwhile Fuehrer's greatest crime: his ultimate failure. Significantly when asked by TV reporters about his attitude to Hitler, von Thadden invariably confined himself to the one laconic comment that he lost the war and left much misery behind.

Obviously the N.P.D. leaders have to lean over backwards denying any connection with Hitler's party; if they didn't (and if they didn't expel some of their more exuberantly indiscreet members associating themselves with the Hitler-Reich) they would risk being banned, such as the *Deutsche Reichspartei* before them. Yet a good many of the N.P.D. leaders and a considerable percentage of their rank and file did belong to the D.R.P. and other "neo-Nazi" groups which sprang up and vanished in the course of the 'fifties and the early 'sixties. As for ex-Nazis in the N.P.D. there are more than 1,200 *Alt-P.G.s.*, meaning those who joined Hitler's party before 1933 and a great many more who joined later. As for the ex-Nazi members on the executive of the N.P.D., von Thadden when interviewed by British TV reporters used to admit "five or six", invariably adding that this was the "normal" percentage in all the other parties. Quite an understatement for when totting up the official figures compiled by the *Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz* and confining myself to members of the *Praesidium* and the *Parteivorstand*, I found only ten who were not members (most of them for the simple reason that they were children at the time), whereas 17 had, in fact, been members of the Nazi party, and they include Herr von Thadden, who denied it in practically every of the many interviews he had to give to British reporters after the recent Bavarian elections. According to the official investigation of the *Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz* he joined the N.S.D.A.P. on September 1, 1939. Many of the other N.P.D. leaders had joined rather earlier.

Wilhelm Gutmann, born 9.6.1900, joined N.S.D.A.P. on 1.3.32.

Otto Theodor Brouwer, born 31.5.06, joined 1.8.31.

Otto Hess, born 19.12.08, joined 1.8.30, was *Kreisleiter*, *Gauinspektor*, S.A. *Obersturmbannfuhrer* in 1938 when appointed to *Rechtsamt der obersten S.A. Fuehrung*.

Dr. Karl Lamker, born 22.9.13, joined 1.5.33.

Waldemar Schütz, born 9.10.13, joined H.J. in 1929, N.S.D.A.P. on 1.11.36, 38-39 *Junker der Ordensburg Vogelsang*, S.S. *Hauptsturmfuehrer der Waffen S.S.*

Horst Günther Schweimer, born 11.2.13, joined 1.4.32 S.S. *Hauptsturmfuehrer*, *Legationsrat im A.A.*

Emil Maier-Dorn, born 26.9.08, joined 1.8.30; 1936: Chief of *Gauschulungsburg Schwaben*; 1937: *Reichsschulungsleiter im Amt fuer Technik*.

Gertraud Winkelvoss, born 18.2.17, joined 1.9.38.

Adolf Sarg, born 21.2.06, joined 1.6.33.

Fritz May, born 26.10.14, joined 1.3.33 (S.S. *Sturmbannfuhrer*).

Dr. Lothar Kühne, born 2.1.08, joined 1.12.31, appointed R.S.H.A. in 1934; 1936: Referent in der *parteiamtlichen Pruefungskommission im Stab des Stellvertreters des Fuehrers*, S.S. *Untersturmfuehrer*.

Benno Herrmannsdorfer, born 20.3.16, joined H.J. in 1933, N.S.D.A.P. on 1.1.38.

Heinz Rudolf, born 7.6.22, joined 1.9.40.

Kurt Knüpfer, born 7.6.13, joined 1.5.30.

Dr. Heinz Schimmerohn, born 22.1.11, joined 1.6.30 (S.S. *Obersturmbannfuhrer*).

Martin Schwarz, born 16.9.12, joined 1.5.32.

What makes the N.P.D. noteworthy and rather more dangerous than its predecessors in Right-wing radicalism is the fact that, for once, the younger age groups have been and are being roped in. The old groupings and parties such as the *Deutsche Reichspartei*—all of them long defunct by now—never managed to attract more than their hard core of old Nazis nostalgically longing for what they considered the glory of their past. So long as the total membership of such "parties" did not exceed 10,000 there was nothing to worry about, but the N.P.D. broke through that "safety margin" at the end of 1965 when little more than a year old. By that time membership had risen to 14,000. By June 1, 1966, there were 17,000 and by October 1, 1966, well over 20,000. There can be no doubt either that the party's recent (and vastly overpublicised) successes in the Hesse and Bavarian elections have provided additional impetus, and while no reliable figures are available beyond October 1, it may well be assumed that, by the end of November, the number of paid-up members was nearer 25,000 than 20,000.

As for the crucial question of the age groups here are some figures based on an investigation by the *Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz* up to October 1, 1966, the bracketed figures indicating the respec-

tive age group's percentage in the total population of the Federal Republic.

16-30	22%	(28%)
31-45	27%	(25%)
41-60	29%	(27%)
61 and older	22%	(20%)

When in Germany a few weeks ago I discussed these figures with various persons particularly well informed on this subject, and without exception they stressed the important fact that there is a declining trend in the first and a rising trend in the second of these age groups. Many teenagers and even more in their early twenties were soon disillusioned about the new party whereas an increasing number of men (and women) in their late thirties and early forties are being attracted.

The reasons are obvious. The youngsters, i.e., the first real post-war generation now adult, are not easily amenable to the hysterics of Nazi-style politics; significantly on three occasions of attending sixth-form history classes I found those boys—girls, too, on one of those occasions—react exactly alike to their first experience of listening to a record with bits of Hitler's and Goebbels's oratory. "Warum schreit der denn so?" was the invariable first comment.

But those now round about 40 were H.J. and B.D.M. leaders at the time near what is still called the *Zusammenbruch* rather than the surrender. They were left with an emotional vacuum though they didn't have much time to contend with it in the years in which they had to help first to clear away the wreckage and then to build and enjoy the *Wirtschaftswunder*. Gradually it all crystallised into what, for some time by now, has been called *die unbewaltigte Vergangenheit*, the unconquered past. But here, too, we have to distinguish between the very young and those not so young, to say nothing of the middle-aged and elderly. From those still in their twenties one usually gets a sensible response when addressing them on the *unbewaltigte Vergangenheit* in, say, a *Volkshochschule*. Invariably, on such occasions, I tell them that since they were small children or not even born at the time when the gas ovens of Auschwitz were kept going by the rulers of their country, it would be unfair to burden them with a *moralische Hypothek* for the rest of their lives; but that, being Germans it must be their duty even more than anybody else's not to shut their eyes to what had happened. A good many young Germans see the point and try to live up to it, but for the majority of the middle-aged and elderly, "shutting their eyes to the past" is the very thing they want and they do. At least they try to, and that's one of the favourite talking points for N.P.D. orators.

It is by no means the N.P.D. only; it is a trend which they are shrewdly exploiting and which became manifest two years ago

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when the question of whether or not to prolong the statute of limitations for war crimes and genocide had to be decided. True enough, after much wrangling and under considerable pressure of public opinion abroad the Bonn Parliament did prolong, but it is important to remember that they did so against what was certainly the majority of public opinion in the Federal Republic.

That's when that important age group of those in their middle and late thirties began to remember their H.J. and B.D.M. past and inevitably they looked for a scapegoat to explain away the sediment of a small guilt complex and much frustration; oddly enough, they found him in de Gaulle. Here's how (somewhat oversimplified) the argument ran: we young Germans were only too ready to forget the (somewhat discredited) fatherland and to embrace the new concept of Europe more enthusiastically than anybody else. We were ready to work for Europe, to live for Europe, to die for Europe. We adored de Gaulle and cheered him like a Fuehrer when he came to us a few years ago. But look how that heady wine has since been watered down. Who then—since we must have some outlet for enthusiasm—who can blame us for reverting to the old if narrower concept of our own fatherland?

The trouble is, it makes some sense and, anyway, that was the emotional climate in which, almost exactly 20 years after the *Zusammenbruch*, a sort of patriotism or "nationalism" was reborn. The N.P.D. was certainly not the cause of it, only one of its by-products. One can find it manifested in all the more respectable spheres of the "Establishment", and I for one would consider Franz Josef Strauss rather more dangerous than all the "neo-Nazi" tubthumpers rolled into one. He has a lilywhite past, so far as Nazi-tainting is concerned and yet he shares with Hitler the unbridled ambition to reach power by whatever means. Besides, he happens to be far and away the most intelligent of all German politicians; he has a copious capacity for hatred, too, and undoubtedly he will do his damndest to harm the F.D.P. now that the "Grand Coalition" may make a change of the electoral law possible. Such a change, if and when it comes to pass, would handicap not only the F.D.P. but all small parties; not excluding the N.P.D., may be a year or two before it could even begin to make its first bid for a few seats in the Bonn Bundeshaus.

Does this mean to say that they can be discounted as a serious menace? Certainly not. The growth of the N.P.D. must be taken very seriously, even more so the trend they represent, not necessarily confined to that particular party.

Will they revive antisemitism in Germany? They certainly would if they could, for among the leaders no less than the rank and file there are some of the most rabid Jew-haters and Jew-baiters left in Germany. But why should they bother about the few Jews left? They can use all the venom demagogically useful by lashing out against the foreign workers. After all, there are 1½ million of them and only 30,000 Jews. So far as the *Judenfrage* is concerned the N.P.D. leaders will use it to improve their image by being on their best behaviour. They have yet to produce the two (presumably mythical) Jews

alleged to be Party members, but they will certainly do their damndest to rope in one or two Jews. Undoubtedly they would put one of them into the *Parteivorstand*, maybe as "Referent fuer Rassenversoehnung" and, anyway, as the exact equivalent of what used to be called a *Renomiergoy*.

What matters is to keep a sense of proportion. Unlike so many who moaned about the eight seats in Hesse and 15 in Bavaria, comparing it with Hitler's position five or six years before the *Machtergreifung* and predicting that in the early seventies the N.P.D. would rule Germany. This is nonsense. After all the (divided) Germany of the late sixties cannot be compared with the Germany of the early thirties. Nor can the world situation and the blocks of real power then and now.

To be watchful and yet keep a sense of proportion means just this: when shivering at the sound of 1,500 raucous N.P.D. voices blaring forth at the "forbidden" verse of *Deutschland ueber alles* (the aggressive one: *von der Etsch bis an den Belt*), remember that in the streets outside twice as many students and young trade union members are raising their voices in protest. Remember the desecration of Bamberg's Jewish cemetery a year or two ago? It looked grim enough and one suspected a fairly substantial organisation behind the outrage. Yet even before the culprit turned out to be one solitary (and slightly demented) youth a thousand Bambergers turned out to show their disgust and to do homage to the memory of those desecrated. I shall never forget the picture of that large crowd standing in the rain, many youngsters among them, but many elderly men and women, too. I should think that this, when balancing good and evil, sense and nonsense, has greater weight than the delinquency of one juvenile crackpot.

No doubt, the proper "news value" of the recent Hesse and Bavarian elections has been vastly overpublicised, and a good thing, too. It has roused people with a jolt, it has made them watchful, and it has pushed the Germans a little farther on the road to real democracy. In a chat with Dr. Schröder, the then Foreign Minister, I tried to be polite by observing that in the School of Democracy the average citizen of the Federal Republic would seem to be just about approaching the *Abiturium*. The Minister smiled and shook his head. "*Hochstens das Einjaehrige*", he said; "*kaum die mittlere Reife*".

Well, if they are now on the slow and arduous path from O-level to A-level this would certainly be something to be pleased about.

Reactions in Britain

Board of Deputies

On the day of the Bavarian elections, the British Board of Deputies adopted a resolution demanding an immediate ban on all "Nazi-type activities, parties and publications" in West Germany. The resolution stated that recent political developments in Federal Germany clearly demonstrated the persistence there of the evil ideology of Nazism. Presenting the resolution, Sir Barnett Janner, M.P., chairman of the Board's foreign affairs committee, said that the German authorities themselves had a great deal to answer for the fact that Nazism was once again raising its ugly head.

Parliamentary Moves

An all-party motion expressing grave concern at "the evidence of the rise of neo-Nazism in West Germany in the recent elections in Hesse and Bavaria" has received wide support in the Commons. The motion calls on the Government to seek urgent discussions with France, the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. "with a view to making joint representations to the West German Government about ways and means of dealing with the Nazi threat". The signatories are headed by Mrs. Renée Short and Sir Barnett Janner.

Public Meeting in London

The apprehension felt about recent developments in Germany was reflected in the large attendance at a meeting, held on December 11 under the auspices of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress. Dr. Joachim Prinz, who had just returned from a visit to Germany, gave a thorough analysis of the situation, based on his discussions with political and religious leaders, newspaper publishers, student groups and representatives of the Jewish community. Frustrations and disappointments, he stated, had resulted in an increase of nationalistic trends which were by no means confined to the followers of the N.P.D., but were also echoed in other parties. Dr. S. Levenberg stressed that an increase of nationalism might result in demands such as the re-establishment of the pre-1937 frontiers of Germany and asked the new German Government for an assurance that the prosecution of war criminals would be continued and that it would carry out to the full the obligations to the Nazi victims. He called for the strengthening of the democratic forces inside Germany.

Mr. A. L. Easterman warned against minimising the danger by statements like that of the British Foreign Minister, Mr. George Brown. Rabbi Dr. M. Nussbaum said that, to some extent, the Allies were to be blamed because, during the occupation period, they had in the first place enlisted the co-operation of industrialists and Right-wing Germans and not sufficiently strengthened active anti-Nazis in the Socialist and Trade Union camps. As far as Dr. Kiesinger's appointment as Chancellor was concerned, it was irrelevant whether and to what extent he had been in sympathy with Nazism; the point was that former membership with the Party no longer disqualified from attaining the highest political office in Germany.

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HOME NEWS ANGLO-JUDAICA

RACE RELATIONS

A private Member's Bill to amend the Race Relations Act to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and other economic fields has been published. The Bill, put forward by Mr. Maurice Orbach, followed his remarks in Parliament when he stated that there have been cases in which Jews have been refused employment because of their religion.

The Indian Workers' Association have protested to the Race Relations Board in London about the appointment of Mr. Oscar Hahn as chairman of the board's West Midlands conciliation committee. The complaint arose because Mr. Hahn, a Jew, visited South Africa on a trade mission by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, of which he is president.

Mr. Hahn stated that he went on the board because he was himself racially persecuted as a Jew in Germany. He was a realist and Birmingham depended on its trade with South Africa. Integration, he said, would come only with kindness and humanity, not by slogans and statements.

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Archbishop Ignio Cardinale, Apostolic Delegate to Britain, delivered the 13th Robert Waley Cohen Memorial Lecture given under the auspices of the Council of Christians and Jews. This was the first Robert Waley Cohen lecture by a member of the Roman Catholic Church. The theme of the address was "Tolerance, religious freedom and inter-group relations in the light of the second Vatican Council".

Archbishop Cardinale stated that no sincere Catholic historian can deny that there have been many regrettable instances of religious intolerance, which went far beyond dogmatic intolerance, in the life of the Church. While admitting Christian guilt in the persecution of the Jews, the Archbishop also appealed to Jews to respond to the spirit of conciliation and goodwill expressed in the new Vatican declaration on the Jews by showing reciprocal tolerance towards Christians.

ECONOMIC CRISIS AND RACIAL STRIFE

At the biennial meeting of the Trades Advisory Council held in the House of Commons, strong warnings were voiced that the present economic crisis in Britain and the increase in unemployment may bring racial strife. Mr. M. P. Greengross, chairman of the Council, said that while there had been comparatively little antisemitism in Britain since the war, nobody knew when it might rise again. The crisis fell particularly hard on the working classes and many were ready to find a scapegoat in the Jewish trading community.

COLIN JORDAN

The leader of the National Socialist Party, Colin Jordan, was invited by Tyne-Tees Television serving the Newcastle area to comment on the neo-Nazi election successes. Interviewed by the head of West German television, Jordan, from a studio in London, expressed pleasure at the success but said that the N.P.D. did not strictly match his party in political terms. It was, he said, only a question of time before his party came to power in Britain.

Two members of the Newcastle Jewish Representative Council, who were given a special showing of the programme, said that while they were naturally hurt that Jordan should have even been allowed on television, the programme was quite fair and they would not be taking any further action. A Board of Deputies spokesman said that the question of Jordan's appearance on the programme would be taken up immediately with the appropriate television authorities.—(J.C.)

PASSION PLAY STORM

After the Board of Deputies of British Jews expressed concern about the antisemitic implications of the Oberammergau Passion Play, the three Jews connected with the presentation have withdrawn. Mr. Brian Epstein, manager of the Beatles, Mr. Vic Lewis and Mr. Philip Solomon are no longer connected with the plans to bring it to this country. But the play will still be coming under a new company to be formed by Mr. Solomon's fellow-directors.

In America ten leading literary figures have come out in support of a world boycott against the Oberammergau Passion Play. Among those supporting the boycott are Mr. Theodore Bikel, the actor and folk-singer; Arthur Miller, the playwright; Lionel Trilling, the author; Stanley Kunitz, the poet; and Leslie Fiedler, the critic. The boycott was launched by Mr. Bikel, who is also vice-president of the American Jewish Congress, and Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the A.J.C.'s commission on international affairs.—(J.C.)

PRIME MINISTER ENTERTAINS ISRAELIS

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Harold Wilson gave a cocktail party at 10 Downing Street. The guests included the Israeli Ambassador and Madame Aharon Remez, Mr. Moshe Dayan, who visited Britain, Sir Barnett Janner, M.P., and Lady Janner, Sir Franck and Lady Schon and Mr. Matatihu Sharon, press attaché at the Israeli Embassy.

AYUB KHAN BOYCOTTED

When President Ayub Khan of Pakistan visited Manchester during his recent visit to England, six Jewish members of the Manchester City Council boycotted a civic dinner in his honour. The boycott was in protest at a speech made by the President in Amman. He was quoted as saying that Israel was "a violation of human rights, a negation of the U.N. Charter and a betrayal of the Arab world and the entire Islamic nation."

Five other Jewish members of the Council attended the dinner.

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Mr. Harold Smith, who won the Duncairn Ward, is the first Jew to be elected to the Belfast City Council this century. After the election attempts to introduce antisemitism into the election were deplored. Captain O'Neill, the Prime Minister, referred to Mr. Smith's victory as "a triumph for common-sense."

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Federation Chief Rabbi

The Council of the Federation of Synagogues has given approval to the recommendations by the executive to invite Dr. Eliezer W. Kirzner to accept the combined office of Harav Harashi and Av Beth Din.

Eliezer Kirzner was born in Lithuania. He became rabbi of a synagogue in Kharkov and eventually left for Berlin where he joined the staff of Dr. Haim Heller's Beth Hamedrash Elion and studied Semitic languages at the university. He took his Ph.D. in 1928, when he was settled in London as rav of the Stamford Hill Beth Hamedrash. In 1930 he took an M.A. degree in Oriental languages at King's College, London, and four years later he was called to the Bar.

In 1940 Dr. Kirzner accepted a "call" to become rabbi of the Cape Town New Synagogue, a position he occupied for eight years until he went to Cleveland, Ohio. After being Chief Rabbi of Mexico, he returned to the United States where he is still the rabbi of a Brooklyn synagogue in New York.

Hebrew University

Dr. Alec Lerner, chairman of the executive committee of the British Friends of the Hebrew University, at a dinner held at the Hilton Hotel, London, stated that the university has reached so critical a financial situation that fund-raising priority will henceforth have to be given to the day-to-day running of the university rather than to its physical expansion.

The university population had grown from 7,500 to 12,000 in the past five years but, said Professor Michael Evenari, Otto Warburg Professor of Botany at the university, it would soon have to be decided whether a few very gifted students should be concentrated on, to give a superficial education to the 12,000, or to have two types of university—one for the masses and the other for a few geniuses.

Leo Baeck College Graduates

Rabbinical diplomas were attained by four graduates of the Leo Baeck College. Three of the rabbis are ministers of Reform Congregations in Britain and the fourth is a minister in Berne, Switzerland. The ordinations were made by Rabbi Dr. W. van der Zyl, president of the college.

There are now four British and two foreign students in the college's upper division, seven in the lower ones and two attending only selected courses.

Annual Remembrance

About 5,000 Jewish ex-Servicemen and women took part in the annual remembrance parade and service of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women at the Cenotaph, London.

Anxiety at the recent neo-Nazi election success in West Germany was expressed by Mr. P. Mishon, Ajex's national chairman, and by Mr. George J. Bean, Q.C. Mr. Mishon said that results in Hesse and Bavaria were two of the reasons why Ajex must remain a strong organisation even 21 years after the end of the Second World War. As Nazism had again raised its head in Germany, warned Mr. Bean, Ajex had to be in the midst of the fight against it.

Youth Aliyah

At the Youth Aliyah Aid Society's annual meeting it was reported that over £250,000 had been raised in the twenty years of the society's existence. During the past year £20,000 had been raised.

Recorder of Bedford

The Hon. Samuel Charles Silkin, Q.C., M.P., has been appointed Recorder of Bedford. Mr. Silkin, Labour M.P. for Dulwich, is a son of Lord Silkin and elder brother of Mr. John Silkin, M.P.—(J.C.)

NEWS FROM ABROAD

FLORENCE

Flood Devastation

The Chief Rabbi of Rome, Rabbi Elio Toaff, and Dr. Sergio Piperno, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, issued an appeal to world Jewry to assist the Florence Jewish community in restoring devastated Jewish property. They said that Italian Jewry and the American Joint Distribution Committee "promptly and generously" answered the appeal to help rebuild Florence's synagogue, home for the aged, school, library and community offices. But the damage was such that "the small strength of Italian Jewry will not suffice to complete the necessary reconstruction and repairs".

The estimated cost of reparation is in the region of £90,000, beyond the reach of Italy's 32,000 Jews.

Work goes on to rescue what remains of Florentine Jewry's priceless treasures. Of the 125 sifrei Torah and 15,000-volume library, 80 scrolls and several hundred manuscripts were brought to Rome, where better conditions exist for restoration work.—(J.C.)

FRANCE

Jews Unpopular

The French Institute of Public Opinion has published a poll about the French attitude to Jews. This shows that ten per cent of Frenchmen feel "rather unfriendly" towards Jews and nine per cent openly dislike them. Concerning the mass murder of Jews by the Nazis, 77 per cent of Frenchmen term it as "a monstrous crime", 19 per cent think it was a "horror of war" like the others and one per cent approved the extermination. Particularly disturbing is the general disapproval of the part played by Jews in the nation's political life.

Although the statistics did not come as a shock to responsible Jewish leaders, they were opposed to publication of the survey on the ground that this would give antisemitism public status and thus encourage it. They were strongly critical of the fact that the poll had been published just three months before the Parliamentary Elections, one leader maintaining that it was intended to harm several Jewish candidates.—(J.C.)

SWITZERLAND

Court action is to be taken by the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities against the perpetrators of antisemitic incidents.

Most antisemitic incidents have occurred in the Roman Catholic canton of Valais.

The Federation has decided to reprint at its own expense a report issued by the Swiss Government after the war to explain Switzerland's policy towards refugees.

SWEDEN

The Interpress Photo '66 exhibition in Moscow made the highest award of the Grand Prix to Mrs. Anna Riwkin-Brick, the Swedish photographer. The award was shared with a Dutch photographer.

The exhibition was presented under the slogan "for peace and friendship, humanism and progress".

SPAIN

The new law announced in the Spanish Parliament by General Franco specifically proclaims religious liberty for non-Catholics in Spain. A special law on the freedoms to be guaranteed to Jews and Protestants will follow.

GREECE

Cultural Centre

A cultural centre for the Athens Jewish community was inaugurated in the presence of leading civic and communal figures. The centre comprises a large auditorium, a meeting hall, library and youth club, and a special section for elderly people.

AUSTRALIA

Need for Chief Rabbi

An article by the chief minister of the Sydney Great Synagogue, Rabbi Dr. I. Porush, who is also head of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Orthodox Ministers, appears in the congregational journal. Dr. Porush comments on the election of Rabbi Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits as Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations. He canvasses the need for Australia to have its own Chief Rabbi, stating that many regard the recognition by Australian Jewry of a Chief Rabbi living 12,000 miles away as an anachronism. Australian Jewry is, he says, big and mature enough to organise itself in relation to its common needs. Even if an Australian Chief Rabbi were appointed, he concludes, close co-operation with London would be the natural course.

CANADA

The Canadian Government's anti-hate Bill has been introduced in the Senate. Terms of imprisonment for genocide and incitements to race hatred through speech or writing are advocated. Courts are also empowered to seize literature inciting hatred or contempt. The Bill covers groups defined by colour and ethnic origin but not by religion.

BOURGUIBA VISITS SYNAGOGUE

President Bourguiba visited Tunisia's oldest synagogue on the island of Djerba. He told the assembled Jewish congregation that all Tunisians, whatever their religion, were equal. But the Tunisian State, in return for its readiness to help all without distinction, asked for complete sincerity not only in words but in deeds.

BRAZIL

Centre for Nazi Fugitives

According to a statement by the executive of the Confederation of Brazilian Jewish Communities, a centre staffed by fugitive Nazis wanted for war crimes is operating in the Brazilian province of Santa Catarina.

Jewish Marshal

General Levi Cardoso has been promoted to the rank of marshal, becoming Brazil's first Jewish marshal. He is one of the five Jewish generals in the Brazilian Army, and was promoted on reaching pensionable age and being transferred to the reserve.

MOROCCO

New Grand Rabbi

Rabbi Mikhail Encoua succeeds Rabbi Saul Danan, Morocco's Grand Rabbi, who has just retired, aged 90 years, after over 50 years' service. Under the new legislation the Grand Rabbi is now officially appointed by King Hassan II.

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EASTERN JEWRY

Petition for Writers' Release

A petition to the presidium of the 23rd congress of the Soviet Communist Party requests the release from prison of the Soviet writers, Yuli Daniel and Andrei Sinyavsky. Ilya Ehrenburg's name appears among the signatories.

The two writers were gaoled at the beginning of last year for disseminating anti-Soviet propaganda in their books. Sinyavsky was also accused of antisemitism, but Daniel, a Jew, vigorously defended him against the charge.

According to the Paris Yiddish daily, *Unzer Vort*, a "White Paper" on the trial of the two writers is being clandestinely circulated among Moscow intelligentsia. The "White Paper" is a collection of writings and protests, type-written in a number of copies.

Status of Yiddish

According to the Soviet Academy of Science, Yiddish is a language of the Soviet people. In the first volume on the languages of the U.S.S.R., published by the academy, monographs are included on two Jewish languages—Yiddish and "Tat".

The monograph on Yiddish is some 30 pages in length and was written by Eli Falkovich, an outstanding Yiddish linguist. He states that between eleven and twelve million Jews spoke Yiddish before the Holocaust but that the language is now spoken by about four million Jews in the Soviet Union, the United States, Rumania, Poland, Israel and Western Europe.

The monograph on "Tat" (spoken by the Mountain Jews of Daghestan and Azerbaijan) is by A. G. Grunberg, a well-known Jewish scholar. He says the language is spoken also by Azerbaijani Moslems and Armenian Christians, but only the Jews have created a body of literature in "Tat."—(J.C.)

Antisemitism Attacked

An article by Dr. I. S. Kohn entitled "The Psychology of Prejudice" appears in a recent issue of Russia's leading liberal literary monthly, "Novy Mir". It describes the fight against antisemitism as an indispensable condition for the "building of Communism" and is the first attempt since 1931 to deal scientifically with the problem of antisemitism in the Soviet Union.

References in War History

"The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union", a newly published Soviet history of the Second World War, makes only two minor references to Jewish suffering and contributions during the Nazi invasion of Russia.

Babi Yar

A memorial stone has been unveiled at Babi Yar, the ravine outside Kiev where over 80,000 Jews and others were murdered by the Nazis in 1941. The plaque makes no reference to the fact that the majority of the victims were Jews. A competition for a permanent memorial has been organised by the Russian authorities.

Australian Communist's Criticism

Critical statements were recently made by Mr. Rex Mortimer, a leading Australian Communist Party member, about the Soviet Union's treatment of its Jewish minority and the Kremlin's attitude towards Israel. The Australian Communist Party, dissociating itself from the statements, has pointed out that Mr. Mortimer expressed his personal views and had not consulted the central committee of the party.

Skopje Reconstruction

The Skopje community centre, named after the late Dr. Albert Vajs, former president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia, has been inaugurated. The new centre stands in March 11, 1943 Street, which commemorates the date on which Macedonian Jewry was deported to Treblinka. It was built with the assistance of the Skopje municipality, the Standing Conference of European Jewish Community Services and the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia.

THE WORLD THAT VANISHED

Grete Fischer Remembers

"May Grete Fischer's book be at hand as an indictment for the Trial of the Dead in our hearts," wrote a German reviewer (who has one or two things to confess about his own past) about *Dienstboten, Brecht und andere: Zeitgenossen in Prag, Berlin, London* (Walter-Verlag, Olten, 1966, Sfr. 25). Not a very lucky hit as a title; for this is more or less the story of "our" Central Europe, told on 400 pages of cameo portraits as seen by a Jewish woman, now over seventy, who has known, or at least met, everybody who was anybody in that world which has vanished forever, kicked into the abyss by Hitler's jackboots. This alone is indictment enough; yet Grete Fischer writes without bitterness, trying to be fair to the people she liked as well as to those she disliked. It is a highly personal book, not without snap judgements, and rather *ichbezogen*, but a document all the same.

Born and bred in Prague, she witnessed the fatal flirtation of the Bohemian Jews with everything German even when the young Czechoslovak Republic offered them a cultural life of their own. "We were good Germans", says Grete Fischer. "The generation of our parents helped to destroy old Austria as well as the Jewish community without wanting it." Like so many intellectuals from Prague she was attracted by Berlin.

She became Paul Cassirer's secretary, but left him after he had paid too much personal attention to her, and joined the Ullstein team, writing and reading for the literary department. This was indeed one of the great centres of Berlin's intellectual and artistic life in the 'twenties. There was Vicki Baum calling herself "a first-class second-rate author"; Monty Jacobs and Sling, Remarque and Arnold Zweig, Moritz Goldstein and Franz Leppmann. Grete Fischer was admitted into the circle around Bert Brecht (whom she happened to meet again in London, where they had bed-sitters in the same house). "He was the prototype of the 'angry young man'," she writes. "He was a schoolmaster, birch and all, who wanted to teach what he knew."

After 1933 she went to Palestine for three months, without being a Zionist; Paul Roubiczek's publishing firm in Paris, *Der Neue Merkur*, had commissioned her to write a book on the country. She called it *Palästina, das erlaubte Land*. Her ultimate destination, however, was London, and here she has been living for more than thirty years, writing, teaching, reviewing, translating. One of the many noteworthy people she met before the war was Bernard Shaw, whom she tried to interest in a scheme to transfer the Reinhardt Festival to Tel Aviv. "Good idea", said G.B.S., "but I won't lend my name to it. The Germans might resent it and stop performing my plays. I don't really like the Jews", he added, "but, of course, without the Jews the Germans are unbearable." After hearing the names of people prepared to participate in the scheme, he said, "If you had a bishop and a general I'd join you. But you won't get them." He did not, of course, mean a word of what he said; he was just being playfully provocative as usual. The scheme might have materialised if the war had not intervened.

Grete Fischer's book is a treasure-trove of anecdotes. My own favourite one is the story of Egon Friedell's reply to Ullstein's request that he should change the all-too-scholarly title of his famous *Kulturgeschichte der Neuzeit*: "All right, I shall adapt my style

to the requirements of your publishing firm. You can call it *Kulturgeschichte des Brautfahrts* or, better still, *Von der schwarzen Pest zur Grünen Post*." And there is a highly irreverent anti-climax to Grete Fischer's affectionate pen portrait of Else Lasker-Schüler—the Czech cook's remark as she saw the poetess appear in a rather flowery blouse: "Ta vopice", "What a monkey!"

Just because the book is a document of the period, the author might have added to its authenticity by checking some of her facts. Oedön von Horvath did not, as she states, starve to death in Paris; he was killed by a tree falling on him in the Champs Elysées, to mention only one of several errors. And the pathetically inadequate index, so important in a book with hundreds of well-known names, seems to be the work of a moron, which is a pity.

E.L.

HISTORY OF THE REIMANN SCHULE PUBLISHED

When, in 1964, Albert Reimann, a member of the AJR Board for many years, celebrated his 90th birthday in London, the manuscript of his memoirs, which are inseparably linked with the history of the former Reimann Schule in Berlin, was already completed. Now it has been published under the heading "Die Reimann-Schule in Berlin" by the Bruno Hesling Verlag (Berlin 1966).

The well-made-up book records the initial period of the school, which was founded by Albert Reimann in 1902, and, above all, deals with the three decades between 1904, when the school moved to its premises at Landshuter Strasse, and 1933, when a "Leistungsschau" was displayed in all rooms of the school. The book brings to life the manifold features of the school with classes, seminars, periodicals and workshops, and last, but not least, the annual "Reimann Baelle".—(E.G.L.)



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Old Acquaintances

Obituary: Rudolf Oesterreicher, the Austrian librettist of many operettas, died in Vienna aged 77.—The 77-year-old actress, Margarete Haagen, has died in Munich.—Cameraman Hans Dreier, who remained in the States after going there with Ernst Lubbitsch in 1923, has died near Hollywood at the age of 83.

Germany: Paul Dessau, whose opera "Puntilla" based on Brecht's play was successfully produced at East Berlin's State Opera, is now working on an opera about Einstein.—Adolf Wohlbrueck appeared in Noel Coward's "Duett im Zwielficht" with Friedel Schuster, at Berlin's Renaissance-Theater.—Camilla Horn, who was Gretchen in the film of "Faust", acted in "Glueck der Narren" at Hamburg's kleine Komödie.—Albert Lieven is on tour in Waldbrunn's "Flucht".—Arnold Zweig was awarded East German television's "Golden Laurel".—Karin Hardt appears in Georg Kaiser's "Mutiger Seefahrer" at Berlin's Tribüne.—Berlin's Academy of Arts opened a Piscator Centre.—Peter Lotar, son-in-law of the late Mrs. Luebbert, wrote "Death of the President" for production in Goettingen and Karlsruhe.—Fifteen theatres in East Germany will stage "My Fair Lady" after the musical's success in Dresden.—At \$1,000 per square metre, Aschinger's, Berlin's famous restaurant, has taken over the most expensive site in town—the property at the corner of Hardenberg- and Joachimsthalerstrasse.

Home News: Anton Diffring, who appears in "Fahrenheit 451", went to Hollywood for two months to take part in Universal's "Battle Horn".—John (Hans) Kisch has now been confirmed as editor of "The Illustrated London News".—Wanda Rotha and Wolf Frees visited Hamburg and Munich to star in P. Schulze-Rohr's TV production of Ionesco's "Delire a deux".—Carl Ebert's son, Peter, produced the Houdini musical, "Man of Magic", at the Piccadilly Theatre.—Tom Maschler, managing director of Jonathan Cape, London, is to go into a bookshop partnership with Graham Greene, son of Sir Hugh Graham.—Pinkas Braun, son-in-law of publisher Bermann-Fischer, is in London for his part in "The Man Outside", starring German starlet Heidelinde Weiss.

News from Everywhere: On German TV Lilli Palmer will chat about her meetings with G. B. Shaw, her experiences as a painter and her tennis match with Conny Freundorfer.—The honorary members of Deutsche Theater in East Berlin are: Bassermann, Gertrud Eysoldt, Lucie Hoefflich, Gerda Mueller, Stanislawsky, Paul Wegener, von Winterstein, W. A. Kleinau, Ernst Busch, Heinz Hilpert and Wolfgang Langhoff.—Walter Wicclair has succeeded in his campaign against the naming of a street in West Berlin after the late Heinrich George. Although George's artistic qualities have always been recognised, the idea was opposed because he became a follower of the Nazis. George died in a Russian camp.

Milestones: Hugo Schuster celebrated his 80th birthday last month by appearing in "Out of the Unknown" in London on BBC-2.—Roma Bahn, who partnered Paul Wegener in "Totentanz" and was the original Polly in "Dreigroschenoper" is 70 years old. She now lives in semi-retirement in Rhoendorf.—Sigismund von Radecki, essayist, translator and friend of Karl Kraus, became 75 years old in Zurich.—Maria Ivoguen, the well-known opera singer and teacher of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, is 75 years of age.—Ludwig Koch, the ornithological expert, celebrated his 85th birthday in London.

PEM

Egon Larsen

THE REVELATION OF MASADA

For nearly three thousand years the Trojan War meant nothing but an ancient folk-tale of gods and heroes, an epic poem which was never taken seriously by historians. Then came a German archæologist, Heinrich Schliemann, who found and dug out Troy, and discovered indisputable proof that the Trojan War really did take place, and that Homer's "fiction" was a fact. This was the first archæological sensation in modern times. Even more important, not only to Jews but also to Christians—because some of the finds may shed an entirely new light on the origins of their faith—is the excavation of the desert fort of Masada on the shores of the Dead Sea, carried out during the past three years and now on the whole completed.

Here, too, we had only one source of information, fairly reliable though somewhat distorted by prejudice: Joseph ben Mattathias, better known as Josephus Flavius, the priest, general, writer and prototype of all Quislings in world history. As a young man he had joined the sect of the Essenes, a strange community of Jewish puritans who lived like monks in the desert, but he later changed over to the Pharisees. When the patriotic war against the Roman invaders began he was appointed governor of the two Galilees, mainly because he had visited Rome and was supposed to know more than the average Jew about the intentions and methods of the enemy. Early in 67 Jewish resistance began to crumble. Josephus defended the stronghold of Jotapata for two months—and then went over to the Romans, to spend the rest of his life as an Imperial citizen. His brazen act of treachery may have saved the lives of many of his compatriots, and civilisation is indebted to him for his great historical work on the Jewish War, but his behaviour must have seriously undermined the spirit of resistance among the Jews. Jerusalem fell in the year 70, the Temple was destroyed and the diaspora began. Only a few hundred zealots—extremists who believed that it was better to be dead than Roman slaves—made their way to the desert fortress of Masada, where they put up a desperate resistance under their leader, Eleazar ben Ya'ir. They held out until April, 73, when the Roman onslaught—the entire tenth legion, 10,000 heavily armed soldiers with the latest assault machines—threatened to overwhelm the 960 Zealots, a number which included their women and children.

What happened then has been described by Josephus, though with almost hysterical hatred and bias. The Zealots, "the wickedest and most wretched of mortals," as he calls them, met at last "the end they deserved". Rather than surrender and be dragged through Rome in triumph, they obeyed Eleazar's command to kill their families and themselves. Eleazar was among the last eleven men to draw lots by means of shards, broken pieces of pottery, who should end his comrades' lives and then throw himself on to his sword. When the Romans entered the fortress they found nothing but corpses, smouldering ashes and two women with their children, who had been hiding in a cistern and had survived to tell the gruesome tale.

This was Josephus' account of one of the most dramatic and tragic events in ancient Jewish history. How true was it? Was it possible to confirm it, and fill in the details,

by digging into the rock and rubble of Masada? It was a fascinating challenge, and it appealed more than to anyone else to a man who was a soldier and is now an archæologist, Yigael Yadin.

Born with the surname of Sukenik at Jerusalem in 1917, he is the son of an archæologist who was among the first scholars to recognise the importance of the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered one after the other since 1947. Already as a boy, Yigael adopted a new surname, Yadin, as his *nom de guerre* when he began to work for the Haganah, the clandestine Zionist army, as a courier and look-out. No wonder it took the young man ten years to get his degree in archæology at the Hebrew University—most of his nights were spent working for the Haganah against the British; he rose to the rather important job of running the underground forces' planning department and training its officers.

In 1948 Yadin became Chief of Operations of the new army of Israel, at only 32 the youngest C-in-C. in the world. When things had quietened down and his great task of organising the mobilisation system completed, he resigned from the army ("I never liked soldiering very much", he confessed) and devoted all his energy to archæology—in a country that is one great underground storehouse of history, studded with promising sites for digging. Yadin took no part in the Sinai campaign, but he had discovered a desert road unknown since biblical times, and an Israeli armoured attack using that route which had been mapped out by Yadin the archæologist succeeded by catching the Egyptians unawares.

Yadin, now Professor of Archæology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, had for a long time dreamed of an opportunity to dig into the greatest prize of all in his country, Masada, the table-top rock rising to 1,300 ft. above the south-western shore of the Dead Sea. For centuries, visitors to the Holy Land had

given it hardly more than passing glances; it might have once been a fortress dominating the Judean desert, but there was nothing to be seen except a steep rock of brownish sandstone. Yadin, however, believed that this was the most important archæological site in all Israel, there for the taking. But the taking required money and manpower.

It was the former arch-enemy, England—on whose black lists he must have ranked prominently for a good many years—that enabled Yadin to carry out his project. The *Observer*, the Wolfson Foundation and some Anglo-Jewish families—with Mr. Terence Kennedy and Mrs. Miriam Sacher acting as co-sponsors—provided the funds. A few advertisements were enough to mobilise a whole army of volunteers; five thousand, from 28 countries, were accepted and came, happy to be allowed to help and ready to live under canvas for months on end at the foot of Masada, where 1900 years ago the Roman general Flavius Silva and his tenth legion had camped for their assault on the fortress. These volunteers were Jews and Christians, believers and non-believers, a veritable United Nations of diggers and sifters. They were students and factory workers, doctors and housewives, teachers and air hostesses, journalists and farmers, film directors and midwives, waiters and models, geologists and social workers, travel agents and nurses, priests and shepherds, soldiers and gardeners, architects and miners, pilots and painters, company directors and psychologists, lawyers and sculptors; even an elephant trainer and a violin-maker were amongst them.

Work began in 1963. Centuries of destruction by man, by earthquakes and the elements had transformed Masada into a pile of rubble. Slowly, under Yadin's guidance, the various layers emerged. The earliest fortifications had been carried out by an obscure High Priest called Jonathan. Three decades before the beginning of the Christian era, the cruel and suspicious tyrant King Herod had made it into an unapproachable hideout, a palace on two levels, with cisterns and arsenal, synagogue and swimming-pool. Here, the lonely ruler felt safe from the wrath of his many enemies.

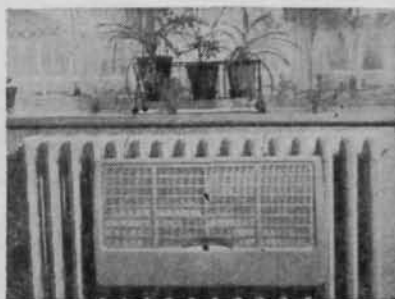
Then, after the destruction of the Temple, the Zealots, determined to resist the invaders to the last, gathered their warriors and families and withdrew to the desert stronghold, which they fortified and supplied for a long siege. The Zealots were observant Jews, but not austere Puritans like the Essenes; their womenfolk used cosmetics and had trinkets; the men off duty whiled away the time gambling. But they made the synagogue, which had been used as a stable by some Roman garrison, again a place of worship. It is the earliest known synagogue in the world.

The volunteers found it, and much more besides. There were the skeletons of Zealots who had obeyed Eleazar ben Ya'ir's command of mass suicide; the artificial ramp built by the Romans for their mighty siege towers and ballistic machines; a hoard of shekels; storage jars for oil and beans, grain and wine; many household articles and toilet requisites, even a woman's plait of hair and her little sandal; central heating and sewage pipes; intricate mosaic floors and an efficient water supply system; necklaces and shreds of clothing, ovens and oil lamps, remnants of food—dates, salt, wheat, pomegranates.

Perhaps the most pathetic find was eleven broken pieces of pottery, shards with Hebrew words on them. Professor Yadin believes that these were the lots drawn by the last of the Zealot leaders to decide who should put the others to death before ending his own life; and one of them bears the letters "BEN YA'IR".

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The Revelation of Masada

Continued from page 6

But the discovery that will occupy scholars for a long time to come, and which may be of greatest importance for Christians and Jews alike, was made under six feet of debris and a heap of coins: a black, creased parchment scroll, one of fourteen that were found at Masada. It is the Hebrew original of the Book of Ben-Sirach, the Ecclesiasticus, which so far was known only in a much later Greek translation and forms part of the Christian Bible. These scrolls are similar to those found at Qumram, in the Dead Sea caves, and their importance lies not only in that similarity but also in the fact that they are—like all Masada finds—precisely dated. Here is a previously unknown link between Zealots and Essenes, and it may be of the most momentous value in the current discussions about the identity of Jesus. If he really lived, if he was not only the personified image of an ancient magic cult—was he perhaps an Essene? The philologists, and not the theologians, may find an answer.

The Masada Exhibition

England had provided the money for the excavations (and the most efficient volunteers, says Yadin), and so London was to see the first exhibition in the western world of the Masada discoveries. There are, at any given time, innumerable exhibitions in the British capital, but this one—held late last November and early December—caught the interest and imagination of the people to an extraordinary degree. Designed by the Polish-born artist, George Him, who, prior to his emigration, studied comparative religion in Germany, it occupied part of the large foyer of the Royal Festival Hall. It gave a vivid impression of the desert fortress, of Herod's palace and of the daily lives of the Zealots as well as the lives of the five thousand volunteer diggers. George Him had re-created the whole tenth legion; there were life-size models of its ballistic machines, excavated pieces of soldiers' breast armour, the women's spatulae for applying kohl to their eyelashes, the men's dice. There were some of the scroll fragments—and the little shards with Hebrew names that determined the order of death.

Three or four thousand visitors a day crowded into the exhibition, yet one heard only a few whispered words. There was a kind of awed silence as the visitors shuffled along, ordinary English families with their children, Indians and Chinese, Americans and Negroes, City gents in striped trousers, nuns and nurses. It was the unimaginable idea of the mass suicide of nearly a thousand men, women and children that moved them more than anything else. It was all so near, despite the 1,900 years that had gone by: there were the things those people had used and touched, lying there before our eyes as though it had been only yesterday; and history came suddenly alive for us.

Mrs. Wilson, the Prime Minister's wife, had opened the exhibition, and Professor Yadin thanked the sponsors and helpers. Champagne was handed round. "You Jews are very much like us", said an English guest. "There's nothing you like to drink to more than a good defeat."

"We are not drinking to defeat", he was told. "We are drinking to survival"

And, one might have added, to the toughness of the men of Masada: the toughness that made us—or at least some of us—survive Rome and Hitler, the Inquisition and the pogroms.

Without that toughness we wouldn't be here.

PROSECUTION OF NAZI CRIMES

German Lawyers' Warning

Grave concern at the conduct of war crimes trials in Germany was voiced by the German Lawyers' Association, the leading organisation of German jurists composed of Professors of Law, Judges, State Prosecutors, Lawyers and Notaries. At its 46th meeting the Association made public, for the first time, the findings of a Commission of 18 outstanding legal experts established by the Association last spring for the purpose of studying the whole problem of how to deal with Nazi crimes.

In his address, the President of the Association, Professor Ernst Friesenhahn, said: "In view of the numbers involved—over 100,000 individuals—it may see impossible to prosecute every single person ever involved in carrying out orders. We have to face the fact that action is taken only against those who appear to be particularly deserving of punishment. So far as the lower grades are concerned, proceedings are instituted only against those charged with exceptional offences".

Some courts, Professor Friesenhahn said, referring to the Commission's report, were showing uncalled for leniency towards Nazi criminals. Several illustrations were given. One court, for example, had delivered itself of this pronouncement: "The need to atone is after 20 years no longer as great as it was. Time has mercifully drawn a veil of forgetting over the sufferings of the victims and the tears of their families".

Other cases of leniency produced arguments like these: the accused do not have to be deterred by heavy sentences as they are unlikely ever to get into a similar situation; the accused had been since 1945 a respectable member of society; the accused had proved himself proficient in his profession; in the accused's favour, it must be taken into account that Germans generally are inclined to trust authority blindly; the danger of getting involved in crime had been such that those who had never lived under totalitarian rule must find it inconceivable, and consequently individual guilt had to be rated correspondingly lower. A former high-ranking official charged with several murders, was let off lightly because he had regarded his killings as reprisals admissible under international law.

Dealing particularly with the crucial question of "duress" as a defence, Professor Friesenhahn pointed out that "in spite of extensive research by the Central Office of Criminal Investigation at Ludwigsburg, not a single case has yet been traced where a member of either S.S. or police had suffered serious harm as a result of a refusal to kill human beings."

Figures relating to the prosecution were given by the new director of the Ludwigsburg Central Agency for Prosecution of Nazi Criminals, State Prosecutor Dr. Rueckerl, who said that since the end of the war proceedings had been started against 61,761 people. Up to the end of 1964, the courts had found 6,115 persons guilty.

The presiding judge of the first Auschwitz trial, Herr Hofmeyer, in his address, thought that "monster trials" like that should in future be avoided as they could not be properly handled under the existing law dating back as it did to the nineteenth century. For instance, he was not allowed to suspend hearings for more than ten days and had to deliver judgement within four days.

Professor Lackner, of Heidelberg, empha-

sised that the administration of justice in the case of Nazi crimes suffered from the unconscious desire of a part of the German people to suppress the terrible memory of the past and to ascribe the crimes to the smallest possible circle of people. The theory of "duress," of not having recognised the illegality of the criminal action—a theory without any foundation in historical fact—was the result of this mentality. But "judges are not entitled to minimise the historic crime either because they feel that in similar circumstances they, too, might have failed or because they know that had the perpetrator of the crime refused to commit it, he would have been easily replaced by another".—(Institute of Jewish Affairs)

"END TRIALS"

The Schleswig-Holstein Minister of Justice, Dr. Bernhard Leverenz, declared to reporters in Kiel that he shared the view of German public opinion which wanted a quick end to the prosecution of Nazi criminals. He thought that the success of the National Democratic Party in the elections might have been contributed to by the fact that these proceedings were still continuing.

The East German publication of a Brown Book of former Nazis lists Dr. Leverenz, who is stated to have joined the Nazi Party in 1933 and to have served before 1945 as a senior naval staff judge.

SICK WAR CRIMINALS

Herr Bosselmann, State Minister of Justice, in the Hanover State Parliament, replied to a question from the Social Democratic Party about the temporary release of Dr. Otto Bradfisch, a former S.S. officer sentenced to 13 years' hard labour in 1963. Bradfisch, he stated, had been at liberty since 1965 to undergo treatment in a Munich hospital. Imprisonment of three Nazi criminals sentenced by courts in Lower Saxony in past years was interrupted temporarily some time ago also for health reasons. For that reason the imprisonment of a fourth Nazi criminal had been postponed.

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Herbert Freedman

VIENNA AND ITS CONTRADICTIONS

The offices of the Ministry of Education are on the Minoritenplatz in Vienna in the former Starhemberg Palace—baroque staircases, mirrors, marble columns and urns. I am received by the Minister of Education, Piffel-Percevit. Meticulously turned out as if for a diplomatic reception and carefully groomed, he introduces me to the head of his foreign department.

I ask about the teaching of contemporary history in Austrian schools. Malicious gossip has it that such teaching ends with the death of Emperor Franz Josef in 1916. The Minister's reply is as elegantly expressed as are his gestures. During the nine-year school curriculum history up to the present time is covered twice, once by Classes 1-4, and then more thoroughly by Classes 5-9. "Those teachers who did not attend university until after the Second World War attend special courses on contemporary history."

A further question concerns the case of Borodajkewicz. Even before the Anschluss this Viennese professor of economics and social history had been an active fighter in the Nazi underground movement, and was reinstated in his chair in 1955. For ten years he continued to teach, expressing his unchanged views without let or hindrance—until the amazing scandal in March, 1965. After a press conference where he did not recoil from open antisemitic aggression, there were student demonstrations both for and against him. During these a non-Jewish former concentration camp victim, Ernst Kirchweyer, was mortally wounded. In the meantime Borodajkewicz has been suspended in anticipation of retirement.

The Minister for Education does not consider the Borodajkewicz case to be a typical episode. "It was by no means the case that only those groups ranged themselves behind the professor that could be accused of antisemitic tendencies. This was really a matter that concerned the personality of a highly respected teacher; personal allegiance also played its role. The demonstration should not be considered as an identification with his utterances."

In the parliamentary elections in the spring of 1966 the Christian Conservative People's Party of Austria (Oe.V.P.) obtained 85 of the 165 seats and the Socialists (S.P.Oe.) only 74, so that for the first time in 20 years the "red-black" coalition collapsed and the Oe.V.P. formed a government by itself. The six remaining seats went to the Austrian Freedom Party (F.P.Oe.), a grouping of nationalist elements. Amongst the students the proportions were, however, entirely different. In their representative body the Oe.V.P. had 55 per cent, the S.P.Oe. only 11 per cent, whereas the Right-wing Association of Freedom Students (R.F.S.) had 28 per cent. In interpreting these figures the Minister denies that the R.F.S. is entirely composed of nationalist elements. Many students only want to show their "impatience"—angry young men, others are national-liberal or anticlerical without being socialists.

The Minister for Education sees "no dangerous snowball effect" in the high percentage. In his view the percentage of antisemites amongst students in Austria is no higher than in France or Italy. "It was entirely different after the First World War", he continues, "for at that time these young people were suffering from an inferiority complex since they had no Austrian tradition. They were thinking in terms of a Greater Germany and Austria seemed a wearisome burden. Today

the situation is absolutely different: they accept the Austrian State".

The emergence of a new awareness of Austrian statehood was also stressed during my conversations with Editor-in-Chief Pisa at the headquarters of the Oe.V.P. in the Kaerntnerstrasse next to the State Opera House. Pisa, who is responsible for the Party publications, is one of the most striking intellectuals amongst the younger generation of the Oe.V.P. and seems destined for a great career. He is optimistic as far as the present is concerned. Today Austria has three great economic potentialities: oil, water-power and tourism. It is a member of E.F.T.A. and is attempting to become associated with the Common Market. This, however, presents certain problems arising out of the treaty signed with the four Great Powers in 1955, according to which Austria has declared its "perpetual neutrality". According to the Russians the Common Market is the economic basis for Nato and automatic acceptance of the decisions of the European community would be viewed by the Russians as an abnegation of Austrian sovereignty.

The antisemitic utterances made on behalf of his party at last year's spring elections were, according to Pisa, contrary to the advice and views of the party leadership; they had been made by subordinate groups in the provinces and even there not because there was any antisemitic feeling but because it was hoped thereby to gain some tactical advantage. In an Oe.V.P. pamphlet it was stated: "The Jews in the S.P.Oe. are striving for power! Pittermann, Kreisky, Czernetz, Waldbrunner." And in another: "Herr Pittermann, Kreisky, Waldbrunner, will you be emigrating again . . . that should be easy for you in view of your connections with international Jewry." (Incidentally, neither Pittermann nor Waldbrunner are Jews.)

On the other hand Hermann Withalm, general secretary of the Oe.V.P., said in parliament on April 22, 1966, as leader of his parliamentary group: "Every citizen . . . must himself condemn antisemitism as a primitive form of mass condemnation. In our ranks there must be no form of antisemitism of any kind whatsoever." Dr. Josef Klaus, the present Chancellor, declared as leader of the party at the 1963 Oe.V.P. Congress in Klagenfurt: "I personally and the party are opposed to any form of direct or indirect antisemitism."

Dr. Bruno Kreisky, socialist foreign minister in the last coalition government, was the object of antisemitic attacks. Dr. Kreisky receives me in the offices of the S.P.Oe. for Lower Austria. He is the first Jewish statesman that post-war Austria has produced, and although he denies it, he has variously been proposed as a possible successor to U Thant in the U.N. secretariat.

"Real virulent antisemitism does not exist amongst the youth", declares Dr. Kreisky categorically, "it merely played a part in the election propaganda of the Oe.V.P.". He describes antisemitism as a "petty bourgeois phenomenon", which only finds an echo in the younger generation when the latter is exposed to the appropriate propaganda.

Dr. Kreisky, who left the Jewish community in 1928, is respected even by his opponents as one of the most outstanding political figures in present-day Austria. On his desk there stands a calendar with an Arabic inscription—a souvenir of his official visit to Cairo in 1964. He seems not to like my question as to why he did not accept the invitation of the Israeli Government when he was in office. He had also refused other invitations, he says obliquely, and a trip to Israel now was not a real issue since the official invitation had lapsed and he wished to concern himself primarily with home affairs.

To sum up these conversations that were supplemented by meetings with people in public positions and in the public service, with teachers, doctors and diplomats: Austria cannot afford antisemitism and therefore ignores it; since the existence of antisemitism is inopportune to the concept of the State, it is belittled by responsible politicians. For the existence of Austria as a nation and State is based on a fiction: that Austria was not a partner but a victim of National Socialism.

"In March, 1938, German troops occupied Austria which was then forcibly incorporated in the German Reich. Tens of thousands of Austrians were arrested and put in concentration camps", is stated in the official publication, "Austria—Facts and Figures". No mention is made of the fact that a large proportion of the population, led by the Catholic ecclesiastical authorities, openly welcomed the German troops nor that a large proportion of the arrested Austrians were Jews. The fiction of the forcible conquest of Austria by the Germans has become the necessary hypothesis for present freedom and sovereignty; the treaty with the four Great Powers is based upon it.

Austria's past was officially "overcome" by the treaty. Hence antisemitic manifestations are no less undesirable than Jewish claims for restitution. Hence the few war crimes trials that have taken place have ended in scandalous acquittals because, despite the overwhelming weight of evidence, the judges took into account the fact that the accused were Austrians who were subject to German rule and could thus claim that they were "acting under duress". Recent history has been rewritten by the treaty.

There is a further reason for presenting antisemitism as an insignificant fringe manifestation. For the past 20 years each of the two large parties has received about the same number of votes, to the exclusion of the extreme Right and Left. Neither of them dares alienate the votes of the 600,000 former Nazis, about one-tenth of the population and almost a fifth of the electorate. Attempts to gain their favour have not only influenced domestic politics but have made their mark, or if that is preferred, have poisoned the whole of public life. It has resulted in most of the Nazis being rehabilitated—in the judiciary and universities, in schools and in the police. The hope is not only for a gain of votes but for a further miracle, that the favourable climate of the two leading parties will make these former Nazis "more tolerant".

Thus Austria remains a paradox. Because officially there is no sin, in practice there is no atonement; since all has been forgotten nobody awaits forgiveness; because the past has been "overcome", what is left over from the past cannot be true; because the existence of antisemitism is denied, nothing is done against it; because the former Nazis are needed, the illusion is fostered that in the meantime they have all become good democrats.

Vienna and its contradictions. . . . There is plenty of good will there—and lots of opportunism and sanctimoniousness.

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The Council's Work for Restitution

The recently published report of the Council of Jews from Germany about its activities in the field of restitution and compensation* is to be welcomed for several reasons. It is an important contribution to historiography by giving a vivid and reliable account of developments in a sphere of vital importance to post-war Jewry. As the authors took an active part in this work their book is based not only on written evidence, but also on personal recollections. The report also makes the uninitiated reader aware of the innumerable difficulties which had to be encountered. But for the perseverance and expert knowledge of the Council's representatives many legislative measures which the beneficiaries now take for granted would not have been achieved. Furthermore, as the concluding chapter of the book confirms, the Council's work for fair treatment of the Nazi victims has not yet come to an end; the postponement of certain payments after the enactment of the "Haushaltssicherungsgesetz" is a case in point.

The chronological narrative provides the layman with a comprehensive survey of the subject matter. Its chapters deal with the Allied Restitution Laws, the first compensation laws of the Lander, the Hague Conference with its ensuing Federal Indemnification Law, the Federal Restitution Law (concerning the so-called "Dritte Masse") and the payments to Israel and the Claims Conference.

A special chapter deals with those questions

* Dr. W. Breslauer and Dr. F. Goldschmidt: Die Arbeit des Council of Jews from Germany auf dem Gebiet der Wiedergutmachung. Abgeschlossen am 1. August 1966. 56 pages. Copies 3/- (including postage) obtainable from: Association of Jewish Refugees, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3.

in which the Council was particularly active in the interest of the Jews from Germany (e.g., preferential treatment of certain kinds of claims, pensions for the former Jewish communal officials, claims against the successor organisations for a share in the proceeds of the recovered heirless, unclaimed and communal property in Western Germany, etc.).

The book also describes the internal organisation of the Council and the establishment of U.R.O. at the initiative of the Council. The annexe carries full texts of important documents and impressive lists of memoranda submitted to the German authorities, personal visits of the Council's representatives to Germany and publications in the press.

The AJR is particularly closely linked up with the Council not only because it is its British constituent and one of its founder-members, but also because the work in the field of restitution and compensation has been delegated by the Presidium of the Council to its London representatives. The authors of the report deserve the gratitude of the Jews from Germany for their painstaking work, and readers of this journal who peruse the book will be amply rewarded.

HISTORY OF FRANKFURT JEWS

The Memor Book of the Frankfurt Jewish Community, carrying records about the dates of death and biographical details of Frankfurt Jews from 1628 to 1901, was taken to the United States in 1938. Later, with the help of an American benefactor, it became the property of the National Library in Jerusalem.

In 1966 its contents were perused in Israel

in a Memorial Book headed: "In Commemoration of the Frankfurt Jewish Community". The contributors were the President of the Hebrew University, Eliahu Elath, Professor Cecil Roth (Jerusalem, formerly Oxford) and Dr. Eugen Meyer (Jerusalem). The publication is, however, not on sale. Now the German version of Dr. Meyer's contribution has been published by the Frankfurt Municipal Commission for Research on the History of the Frankfurt Jews under the title: "Die Frankfurter Juden—Blicke in die Vergangenheit" (Verlag Waldemar Kramer, Frankfurt am Main). The 84-year-old author, who was Syndikus of the Frankfurt Community from 1919 to 1933, gives a concise and most informative survey of the development and the economic and religious role of the former Frankfurt Community from the early Middle Ages up to the destruction in 1942. The book is enhanced by beautiful illustrations and carries a well selected list of relevant literature.—(E.G.L.)

RECEPTION FOR DR. MAX PLAUT

To mark the 65th birthday of Dr. Max Plaut (Hamburg), a reception was held in Bremen, at which the municipality, the churches and many organisations were represented. Dr. Plaut voluntarily stayed in Nazi Germany to serve his fellow-Jews in Hamburg. He was deported in 1944, emigrated to Israel after the war and returned to Germany in 1951. His numerous friends in this country and abroad who know him from his pre-war Jewish activities extend their heartiest congratulations to him.

AWARD BY BELSEN SURVIVORS

The Association of Organisations of Survivors of Bergen-Belsen in New York is offering a prize of about £900 for the best literary work on the Holocaust, to be awarded in November, 1967.



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ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

CHARITY SHOW IN AID OF CAMDEN NURSERY

Under the auspices of the Camden Committee for Community Relations (C.C.C.R.) a nursery school at Lady Margaret Church Hall, Kentish Town, was established three months ago. It caters for 30 children of the three-five age group, some of them from underprivileged homes, and including many immigrants—Greek Cypriots, Indians and West Africans. At a recent reception, held at the invitation of the Mayor of Camden, Councillor L. P. O'Connor, the teacher in charge of the school, Mrs. P. Lacey, said: "It is important that these children should mix at an early age with English-speaking children." Subject to the availability of funds, the launching of further play-groups is envisaged.

In aid of the project, a charity performance of the musical play "Love from Judy" will be given by the Stock Exchange Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society on Wednesday, February 22, at 7.30 p.m., at the Scala Theatre, Charlotte Street, W.1. The proceeds will be used for more equipment in the present play-group and towards the setting up of a second play-group in the Kilburn area. Tickets from £2 2s. to 5s. may be ordered from: Camden Committee for Community Relations, 25 Euston Road, N.W.1 (Tel.: TERminus 2793, Ext. 45).

As readers know from previous announcements, the AJR is represented on the C.C.C.R., which carries out important work in the interests of the immigrants who arrived in this country during the post-war years. Though the problems of integration with which these new arrivals are faced differ in many respects from those experienced by the pre-war refugees from the European Continent, the fact that we, too, had to adjust our lives to a new environment is added reason for lending the C.C.C.R. full support in its efforts. It is therefore hoped that many readers of this journal will help to make the function on February 22 a success.

MANCHESTER OLD AGE HOME

General Meeting of Morris Feinmann Homes Trust

At the General Meeting of the Morris Feinmann Homes Trust, which was founded at the initiative of members of the AJR Manchester Branch and is in charge of the Home for elderly refugees in Manchester, it was reported that a new wing to the Home will be completed soon. It will provide single-room accommodation for 28 additional residents and a few vacancies are still available. The official opening will take place in the spring. Speakers paid special tribute to Mr. W. Kay, who was in charge of the building work, for doing his job with such care for detail. Thanks were also expressed to Matron and the staff. Mr. O. L. Einstein was congratulated on arranging the Social Afternoon for members and friends of the AJR, and the valuable help received by the Allocations Committee of the C.B.F. and by Self-Aid was acknowledged. The members of the Management Committee were re-elected *en bloc*. The delegates to the Manchester & Salford Council of Jews (Mr. O. L. Einstein) and to the Manchester & Salford Council of Social Service (Messrs. E. R. Kingsley and W. Treuherz) were re-appointed. On behalf of the residents, Mr. Charles Hertz thanked the committee, matron and staff.

Mr. W. Treuherz was in the chair.

ZION HOUSE LECTURES

This year's series of Zion House Lectures, held under the auspices of the Theodor Herzl Society in conjunction with the University of London, will be centred on the subject "Anthropological Studies of Israel". The seven lectures will be given at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3. At the first lecture on Tuesday, January 10, at 8.15 p.m., Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs will speak about "Development of Jewish Religion". Readers of *AJR Information* who live in London will find a full syllabus of the lectures in this issue. It is hoped that they and their friends will avail themselves of the opportunity of listening to the expert speakers on topical subjects.

JEWISH SCHOOLS DURING THE NAZI PERIOD

Information Required

In connection with a research project sponsored by the Leo Baeck Institute it would be appreciated if teachers, educationists and administrators who were associated with Jewish schools in Germany during the years 1933-1942 kindly get in touch with Mr. Joseph Walk, c/o Leo Baeck Institute, 33 Bustanai Street, Jerusalem (Israel), or 4 Devonshire Street, London, W.1, stating also their previous place of residence in Germany and the year of their emigration.

CHANUCAH CELEBRATION AT AJR CLUB

More than 200 members attended the Chanukah Celebration of the AJR Club, held at Hannah Karminski House on December 11. They were welcomed by Mrs. M. Jacoby, Chairman of the Club. Dr. Adelheid Levy spoke about the meaning of Chanukah. Her talk was followed by the rendering of record recitals, selected and compered by Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Horwell. The function concluded with an informal gathering of the guests, all of whom greatly enjoyed the spirit of friendship and community feeling which determined the atmosphere of the gathering.

Chanukah celebrations with performances of various kinds also took place in the Old Age Homes.

LONDON PERFORMANCE OF ISRAEL THEATRE

The Israel Cameri Theatre, one of the companies participating in the World Theatre Season 1967, will present "King Solomon and the Cobbler" in Hebrew at the Aldwych Theatre, London.

JEWISH POPULATION STATISTICS

According to the latest issue of the American Jewish Year Book, the world Jewish population is estimated at 13,400,000. The three largest Jewish communities are in the United States (about 5,700,000), Soviet Russia (about 2,480,000) and Israel (about 2,600,000). Only four other countries have a Jewish population of more than 200,000: France (520,000), Great Britain (450,000), Argentina (450,000) and Canada (275,000).

FAMILY EVENTS

Birth

Rosenstock.—A daughter (Ruth Elaine) was born on December 1 to Janet and Michael Rosenstock, 2960 Don Mills Road, Apt. 911, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada. (Second grandchild for Susanne and Werner Rosenstock, 77D Compayne Gardens, London, N.W.6.)

Birthdays

Sussman.—Mrs. Hildegard Sussman, of 29 Yale Court, Honeybourne Road, N.W.6, will celebrate her 70th birthday on January 7, with love and good wishes from all her family.

Deaths

Gumprich.—Mrs. E. Gumprich, of 21 Grosvenor Court, 75 Christchurch Avenue, London, N.W.6, passed away after a short illness on November 29. Deeply mourned by her husband, mother, brothers in Israel and friends.

Kunstmann.—Miss Martha R. Kunstmann, of Otto Hirsch House, 2/4 Priory Road, Kew Gardens, Surrey, passed away on November 28 in Kingston Hospital, Kingston-on-Thames.

Marx.—Our beloved husband, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and cousin, Mr. Karl Marx, editor of the "Allgemeine Unabhangige Juedische Wochenzeitung", passed

away after a long illness bravely borne. Deeply mourned by his wife, Lilli Marx (nee Behrendt), Leonhard and Erna Baer, Ilse Chaudoir, Herbert and Leni Marx. His was a life of love and friendship.

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Inquiries

Ruschin.—Anneliese Ruschin, born May 17, 1923, in Breslau. After leaving elementary school in 1937 apprenticed to a dressmaker in Breslau until that establishment had to close down in 1938. Witnesses regarding her apprenticeship required by Dr. L. G. T. King, 117 Cricklewood Broadway, London, N.W.2.

Enquiry by AJR

Angres.—Heinz Angres (formerly Augustastrasse, Breslau), believed to have emigrated to Paris in 1933 to study and from there to the Far East. May have returned to Europe. Information regarding his present whereabouts required by a group of his former friends.

Schachna.—Relatives of the late Miss Helene Schachna, born July 23, 1880 in Bentschen, died August 15, 1964 at 79 Empire Court, Wembley Park, Middlesex, especially her half-brother, Mr. R. Demuth.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. MANFRED ROSENTHAL

Dr. Manfred Rosenthal, the representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel in Germany, died suddenly in Frankfurt at the age of 62. He was associated with Jewish and especially Zionist activities from his early youth onwards. During his student days he was a member of the K.J.V.

In Breslau, where he practised as a lawyer, he was a member of the Repraesentantenversammlung and later of the executive committee of the Jewish Community. He went to Israel in 1938 and held a responsible position with the organisation of Jews from Central Europe, the Irgun Oley Merkas Europa.

In 1952 Dr. Rosenthal was sent to Germany. He gained a high reputation in all Jewish bodies in whose work he took part. He was a member of the U.R.O. Board and the Boards of the Jewish Successor Organisations, and a member of the Pensions Advisory Board for former Jewish Community Officials.

As he combined energy with sagacity and a conciliatory attitude, he was also highly esteemed by the German civil servants with whom he had to negotiate.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and children. F. GOLDSCHMIDT.

The aftermath of the Nazi régime brought in its wake a novel branch of what one might call the Jewish Civil Service: the experts in restitution and indemnification matters. Lawyers all of them, but none of them representing individual clients, it is their aim and allotted task to serve the entire community of Jews who were victims of Nazism.

Dr. Manfred Rosenthal was an outstanding example of this group of specialists, whose number is steadily and inexorably decreasing. He was a key figure in the superstructure of agencies created to deal with the problem of mass-spoliation by the Third Reich. In connection with his manifold activities he was closely associated with the affairs of the three Successor Organisations—the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (J.R.S.O.), the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany (J.T.C.), and its French branch; he was also a board member of the three Jewish Communal Funds in Hamburg, Frankfurt and Munich, established with means recovered by the J.R.S.O. and the J.T.C. His profound legal knowledge, his prudence and acumen, his mastery of detail, made his counsel sought and respected.

Irreplaceable as this loss is for the bodies with which Dr. Rosenthal was so closely connected, it is Dr. Rosenthal the man and friend whose death so many, and I with them, deeply lament. He was a man of utmost rectitude and devotion to duty. A man without bitterness, full of understanding and true compassion

based on the innate humanism of his feelings. A man captivated by the modesty of his demeanour, the invariable kindness and friendliness of approach, always willing to listen and ready to help where help was needed.

He was a friend. And the memory of that faint and gentle smile on his face will be with those who knew him intimately to the end of their own allotted time.

C. KAPRALIK.

PROFESSOR BERNHARD ZONDEK

Professor Bernhard Zondek, one of the world's leading gynaecologists and Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, died in New York at the age of 75.

Along with Dr. Selmar Aschheim, Zondek was co-discoverer of the so-called Aschheim-Zondek test through which pregnancy can be determined at an early stage.

Professor Zondek was born in Wronke and became lecturer at the Berlin University in 1923. When the Nazis came to power he refused important posts offered to him in several countries, and decided to settle in Palestine. Taking with him much of his own valuable scientific equipment he set up in the three basement rooms of an old Arab house which Hadassah provided for him as a laboratory. Later he became Professor at the university and department head at Hadassah Hospital.

On the occasion of his 75th birthday the British Society for the Study of Fertility presented him with the Marshall Medal which had only been awarded to one other person. At the time of his death Professor Zondek was conducting a research project at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University.

JOSEPH PLAUT

Last June, at the age of 87, Joseph Plaut still played "Raub der Sabinerinnen" in Duesseldorf. This lovable artist has now died in Bad Salzungen, the last of a generation of "Vortragskuenstler".

Born in Detmold, Plaut studied singing under Pfitzner and Humperdinck at the Sternsche Konservatorium and drama under Eduard von Winterstein, becoming an operatic tenor. After serving in the German army during the First World War he started his famous solo performances and achieved rapid success, despite competition with similar artists such as Marcel Salzer, Ludwig Hardt and Wuellner. He toured all over the country and brought poetry, comedy and theatre to the most distant places. In thousands of "Heitere Plaut-Abende" he entertained his audiences

of admirers and followers between the two wars.

In 1936 he left Germany, going via Switzerland to Africa, even there finding a public for his kind of popular humour. At last he arrived in England where, even in internment Joseph Plaut amused his fellow refugees. He could alone conjure up an entire ensemble. He returned to Germany in 1951, continuing where he had left off 15 years before, touring the country with recitation and acting. Age could not harm him.

PEM.

DR. BENNO GOTTSCHALK

We received the following tribute to the memory of Dr. Benno Gottschalk, whose death in Los Angeles was announced in our October issue.—The Ed.

When I matriculated at the Lehranstalt fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums (Berlin) in 1909, Benno Gottschalk had just taken up his studies there as well, though he was considerably older than me. His curriculum had been a difficult one. He first attended the Berlin Jewish Teachers Seminary under Michael Holzmann, but later decided to study at the "Lehranstalt" possibly to become a rabbi. He eventually passed his finals, but only as a preacher and teacher of religion and not as a rabbi because for reasons of conviction he declined to be examined in the Shulchan Aruch, especially in those chapters which deal with the dietary laws.

Nevertheless he took up appointments as a rabbi, first in the small community of Konitz and later in the not much larger community of Hirschberg. In between, he was the last rabbi of the liberal "Bruedergemeinde" in Poznan which had already become Polish. He had difficulties in obtaining adequate positions because, for the sake of unity, most communities preferred less radical rabbis. Ultimately, he got an appointment with the Berlin Reform-gemeinde, the only congregation in Germany which suited his religious approach. There he was most successful, especially due to his eloquence as a preacher. At the same time he was active not only as a religion teacher but also as an author. He wrote a book about the methods of religious tuition, translated into German three volumes of Midrashim and also published a thoughtful popular philosophical work, "Lebensworte".

After his emigration he was appointed rabbi of a Reform congregation in California, where he still officiated at the time of his 80th birthday. He died at the age of 83.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

HESSE OFFICIAL SUSPENDED

The Right-wing Munich *Deutsche National-Zeitung* published a statement about Walter Schubert, the Secretary-of-State in the Hesse Ministry of Internal Affairs in Wiesbaden since 1963. The paper said that Schubert at the age of 22 wrote an antisemitic dissertation in which he described the Jews as the biggest evil among all nations. Schubert has said he will sue the newspaper for libel for quoting alleged excerpts which he had never written. However, he admitted that his dissertation was anti-Jewish to an extent inconceivable for him today, pointing out he was politically immature when he wrote it.

He has been suspended from his post pending the results of an official inquiry.

AUSTRIA

Ensuring Just Sentences

Dr. Josef Klaus, the Austrian Chancellor, told press correspondents in Munich that, to ensure just sentences, the Austrian Government was trying to introduce legal measures to make court decisions the responsibility of professional jurists. Lay jurors were, he said, often incapable of reaching a just decision because of their own record during the Nazi régime. The acquittal of Nazi criminals by Austrian courts had also been criticised in Austria and the judiciary would do its best to call to justice all who had violated the principles of humanity.

The Chancellor conceded that not all remnants of Nazi racial hatred had been removed in Austria and that the prosecution of Nazi criminals had been unsatisfactory.

S.S. Men Gaoled

The brothers Wilhelm and Johann Mauer, who at their first trial in Salzburg last February were acquitted of the mass murder of Jews in Poland during the war, have now been sentenced in Vienna to twelve years and eight years respectively.

MEMORIALS

Leipzig

A monument in memory of the 40,000 Jews of Leipzig who perished under the Nazis was unveiled by Paul Froehlich, member of the central committee of the Socialist Unity Party.

Greetings to the Jews of Eastern Germany were conveyed on behalf of the Central Council of German Jews by Adolf Diamant, a member of the Frankfurt Jewish community, and by Rabbi Lichtigfeld, of the Hesse province.

Opladen

To commemorate the Jewish citizens of Opladen, a plaque on the site of the synagogue which was destroyed in November, 1938, was recently consecrated. The main address was delivered by Buergermeister Bruno Wiefel, and Mr. William Stern (London) spoke on behalf of the former Jewish residents of the town.

Krefeld

A plaque depicting the Krefeld Synagogue, which was destroyed in November, 1938, was recently unveiled. It is a gift of the municipality to the Jewish community and will be displayed in the community's Betsaal. There are now 112 Jews in Krefeld as against 1,481 before 1933.

A few weeks later the Jewish Cemetery was desecrated by unknown vandals who uprooted 23 tombstones. The State Prosecutor's office has announced a reward of 3,000 marks for information leading to the arrest of the culprits.

DEATH OF MR. KARL MARX

It was learned with deep regret as this issue was going to press that Mr. Karl Marx, the editor and publisher of the "Allgemeine Unabhaengige Juedische Wochenzeitung" (Duesseldorf), died on December 15. Tributes to him will be published in the next issue.

ISRAEL

WESTERN IMMIGRATION

Mr. Uri Carin has taken over as director of the Jewish Agency's immigration department in London. At a press conference he stated that the very lack of Western immigration was a cause of Israel's present economic difficulties.

Denying that his department would apply selectiveness in choosing immigrants, he admitted that it would be anxious to give prospective immigrants a "fair warning" of what to expect in Israel. There was unemployment in certain fields but there was also a shortage of personnel in others such as doctors, nurses, librarians, and highly trained tradesmen and fine mechanics. Mr. Carin stated that the Agency's immigration activities were now geared mainly towards the youth.

Dr. S. Levenberg, the Jewish Agency's representative in London, has said that the attitude of Israelis towards immigrants should also be improved. Whilst almost all favoured immigration in principle, many did not like the immigrants.

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

The British First World War cemetery in the Israeli enclave on Mount Scopus has been renovated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The cemetery contains 2,500 graves of soldiers who fell fighting with Allenby in Palestine. Damage to the cemetery was suffered from shellfire during the Israeli War of Independence and a year ago the Commission sought permission to conduct renovations.

BRITISH CITIZENSHIP

Home Office figures reveal that 182 Israelis became British citizens in 1963, 147 in 1964 and another 134 in 1965. Of these over half married British citizens or were minors, but 178 Israelis adopted British citizenship by naturalisation. Among them are businessmen, scientists and professionals. Since dual citizenship is accepted by Britain and Israel, they are still regarded as Israeli citizens as well.—(J.C.)

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