Heinrich Fraenkel


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 had 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 little more than a year old. By that time no reliable figures are available on the bracketed figures indicating the respectable population of the Federal Republic.

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 petty 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.

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 respective age group’s percentage in the total population of the Federal Republic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-30</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-45</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-60</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 and older</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 forties were 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’ 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 Zusammenschurh 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 “the unbewaeltigte 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 unbewaeltigte Vergangenheit in, say, a Volkschule. 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 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 now have a point to prove.

Continued on page 2, column 1
"NEO-NAZISM" FACTS AND FANCIES

Continued from page 1

when the question of whether or not to prolong the statute of limitations for war crimes and genocide had to be decided. True enough, wrangling and bickering under considerable pressure of public opinion abroad the Bonn Parliament did prolong, but it is important to remember that there was no change in the minority of public opinion in the Federal Republic.

That's why an 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 German 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 chose him like a Faubriner should, 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 kind of 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, the unemotional climate in which, almost exactly 20 years after the Zusammenbruch, a sort of patriotism or nationalism was re-born. The N.P.D. was certainly not the cause of it. Only the German politicians; he has a copious capacity for hatred, too, and undoubtedly he will do his damnedest to harm the F.D.P. now that the "Grand Coalition" has been vastly overpublicised, and a good 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: con der Etack 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 over-publicised, and a good thing, too. It has roused people with a sense of democracy the average citizen of the "Establishment", and I for one think that this, when balancing good and evil, sense and nonsense, has greater weight than the delinquency of one juvenile crackpot.

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? There is no reason why they should, 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 one worry about the few Jews left? They can use all the venom demagogically useful by lashing out against the foreign workers. After all, there are 13 million of those 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 beating 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 damnedest 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 sort of what is used to be called a Renomierjog.

What matters is to keep a sense of proportion. Unlike so many who moaned about the eight seats in the late sixties 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 last 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: con der Etack 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.

Reactions in London

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 had demonstrated the persistence there of the evil ideology of Nazism. Presenting the resolution, Sir Barnett Janner, M.P., chairman of the board of 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 "everything that stressed that increase of Nazism in West Germany in the recent elections in Hesse and Bavaria" has received wide support. On the Government to seek urgent discussions with France, the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. and 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. He said that the N.P.D. was concerned, it was relevant whether the prosecution of war criminals would be continued and how it would carry out its objective of 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.

Dr. S. Levenberg stressed that the 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 its objective of making joint representations to the West German Government about ways and means of dealing with the Nazi threat. He called for the strengthening of the democratic forces in Germany.

Mr. A. L. Easterner 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-Nazi groups 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 members of the Party had not been disqualified from attaining the highest political office in Germany.

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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 the House of Commons in which he maintained that there had 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. He was a solicist 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, dedicated the 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 in both Church and society far beyond the limits of Catholic 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 declarations 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 inflation may bring racial strife. Mr. M. P. Greenberg, chairman of the Council, said that while there had been a comparably 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 in West Germany of his party the British National Party.

Two members of the Newcastle Jewish Representative Council, who were given a special programme, said that while they were naturally hurt that Jordan should have even been allowed on television, the programme was fair and they would not be taking any further action. A Board of Deputies spokesman said that the question was a matter for the council and 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, the Wombles, 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 Remetz, Mr. Moshe Dayan, who visited Britain, Sir Barnett Janner, M.P., and Lady Janner, Mr. Solomon's Law Schoh and Mr. Matatilau Sharon, press attaché at the Israeli Embassy.

AYUB KHAN BOYCOTTED

When President Ayub Khan of Pakistan visited England 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 Perc, and Mr. Smith referred to Mr. Smith's victory as "a triumph for common-sense."

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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 20 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 £200,000 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 is the brother 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, has denounced the government's failure to act in order to save a large auditorium, a meeting hall, library and youth club, and a special centre comprises large auditorium, a meeting hall, 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 22,000 Jews.

Work goes on to rescue what remains of Florentine Jewry's priceless treasures. Of the 123 scrolls and 13,000 manuscripts, 80 scrolls and several hundred manuscripts were brought to Rome, where better conditions exist for restoration works.—(J.C.)

FRANCE

Jews Unpopular

The French Institute of Public Opinion has published a poll about the Jewish attitude to Jews. This shows that ten per cent of Frenchmen feel "friendly" towards Jews, 49 per cent feel "neutral" 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 strongly criticized 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 reprimand 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 Diploma 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".—(J.C.)

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 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. Foruach, who is also head of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Orthodox Ministers, says in the congregational journal, Dr. Foruach comments on the need for a Chief Rabbi. He states 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 incitement to racial hatred through speech or writing are advocated. Complaints 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 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 was to be established 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 country and was promoted on reaching pensionable age and being transferred to the reserve.

MOROCCO

New Grand Rabbi

Rabbi Mikhail Encova succeeds Rabbi Saul Danan, Morocco's Grand Rabbi, who has just retired, aged 80 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 writer Yuli Daniel and Andrei Sinyavsky. Yisrael Ehrenburg's name appears among the signatories.

Rumours have it two writers were jailed at the beginning of last year for disseminating anti-Soviet propaganda in their books. Sinyavsky was also accused of anti-Semitism and Stalinism. He, a Jew, vigorously defended him against the charge.

According to the Paris Yiddish daily, 13 Vort, a "White Paper" on the trial of the two writers is being clandestinely circulated among Moscow's intelligentsia. The "White Paper" is a collection of writing: protests, typewritten 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 Yiddishist. It states that between eleven and twelve million Jews spoke Yiddish before the Holocaust but that this language is now spoken by various million Jews in the Soviet Union, the United States, Rumania, Poland, Israel and Western Europe.

The monograph on "Tat" by the Mountain Jews of Daghastan and Azerbaijan is by A.G. Grunberg, a well-known Jewish writer. 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"—"Tat" is a dialect.

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" is 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 Vaja, former president of the Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia, has been inaugurated. The new centre stands on March 11, 1943 Street, which was the last headquarters in Skopje. The Macedonian Jews were deported to Treblinka. It was built with the assistance of the Skopje municipality, the United Hebrew Congregations, the American Joint Distribution 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, S. 23). Not a very lucky hit as a title; for this is more or less the story of the Central European she knew 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 second-rate world, vanished for ever, 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 judgments, and rather Hebrus, 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 fathers to those she disliked. It is a highly personal book, not without snap judgments, and rather Hebrus, but a document all the same.

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She became Paul Casirer's secretary, but left him after he had paid too much personal attention to her, and joined the Ullstein team, writing the conducting 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 Lepmann. 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 Roubizoff's publishing firm in Paris, Neue Merkuv, had commissioned her to write a book on the country. She called it Palastina, 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 participating."

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 Reimann 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 in Landshuter Strasse, and 1933, when a "Leistungsschule" 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 Balle" (E.G.L.).

Obituary: Rudolf Oesterreicher, the Austrian librettist of many operettas, died in Vienna aged 77. The 77-year-old actress, Margarete Haagen, who has died in Munich, was 77. The 77-year-old actress, Margarete Haagen, who has died in Munich, was 77. The 77-year-old actress, Margarete Haagen, who has died in Munich, was 77.
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 archaeologist, 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 archaeological 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 discovery, 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 into the fortress they found nothing but ruins. The Romans had transformed Masada into a pile of rubble. Perhaps the most pathetic find was eleven skeletons from the last, gathered their warriors and families to the last, gathered their warriors and families put up a desperate resistance under their leader, Eleazar ben Yair. They held out until the last, gathered their warriors and families — 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 archaeology — 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 carried out by Yadin the archaeologist succeeded by catching the Egyptians unawares.

Yadin, now Professor of Archaeology 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 but a steep pile of bleached sand-stone. Yadin, however, believed that this was the most important archaeological site in all Israel, there for the taking. But the taking required money and more money.

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 Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Times, 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 Plavius 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 siftingers. They were students and factory workers, doctors of medicine and teachers and air hostesses, journalists and farmers, film directors and midwives, waiters and waitresses, geologists and social workers, travel agents and drapers, architects and miners, pilots and painters, company directors and psychologists, lawyers and sculptors; even an elephant trainer and a Welsh choir director among 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. Identification 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 weapons included machetes, axes, spears, clubs; 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'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, grains 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 first of their comrades into their own life and one of them bears the letters "BEN YAIR".

THE REVELATION OF MASADA

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 archaeologist, Yigael Yadin.

Born with the surname of Sukkenik at Jerusalem in 1917, he is the son of an archaeologist, 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 archaeology 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 archaeology — 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 carried out by Yadin the archaeologist, succeeded by catching the Egyptians unawares.

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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 alike, was made under six feet of debris and a heap of coins: a black, creased parchment scroll, one that was 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 so-called apocrypha. At its publication, the Association for Masada research, which had been 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 cases, for example, in which defendants charge ‘durstes’”—false charges.

**German Lawyers’ Warning**

Some courts, Professor Friesenhahn said, referring to the Commission’s report, were showing uncalled for leniency towards Nazi criminals. 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 accused’s cases were tried in the token of mercy. The theory of ‘duress,’ of conscious 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 “durstes;” 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.”

**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 1963. Other court cases have been interrupted temporarily some time ago also for health reasons. For that reason the imprisonment of a fourth Nazi criminal had been postponed.
HERBERT FREEDEN

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. The new education minister, Piffl-Perevitz, received a red carpet treatment on his first day. Malicious gossip has it that such treatment is connected with the death of Professor Herbert Freeden 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 do university until after the Second World War attend special courses on contemporary history.”

A further question concerns the case of Borodajzewicz. Everyone knows that this Viennese professor of economics and social history had been an active fighter in the Nazi underground movement, and was reinstated by order of the Allied authorities. After a peace of mind which 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 Kirchwehr, was mortally wounded. In the meantime Borodajzewicz has been suspended in anticipation of the legal decision. The minister for education does not consider the Borodajzewicz case to be a typical episode. “It was by no means the case that only those groups ranged themselves on the professor who 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 35 of the 165 seats (21 per cent) in the National Council, a gain of 13. The S.P.Oe., on the other hand, lost 6 per cent. So that for the first time in 30 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 (P.P.Oe.), a grouping of nationalist elements. Amongst the students the proportions were, however, entirely different. In their representative body the Oe.V.P. and S.P.Oe. each obtained 55 per cent, the S.P.Oe. only 11 per cent, whereas the Right-wing Association of Freedom Students (R.F.S.) had 26 per cent. In interpreting the results the minister denies that the R.F.S. is entirely composed of nationalist elements. Many students only wanted to express their antipathy against post-war quinquagenarianism; young men, others are national-liberal or anti-clerical without being socialists.

The minister for education sees “no dangerous symptoms in the behaviour of the younger generation.” 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 weighty burden. Today the situation is absolutely different: they accept the Austrian State.” The emergence of a new awareness of Austria, a national sentiment during the war, is reflected in our conversations with Editor-in-Chief Pisa at the headquarters of the Oe.V.P. in the Kaerntnerstrasse next to the State Opera. A writer for the Party publications, 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.P.T.A. and is attempting to become associated with the Common Market. This, however, presents certain problems arising out of the treaty, signed in Paris in 1955, according to which Austria has declared its “perpetual neutrality”. According to the Russians the Common Market is the economic arm of Western anti-socialism and the acceptance of the decisions of the European community would be viewed by the Russians as an abnegation of Austrian sovereignty.

The Austrian professor has made on behalf of his party at last year’s election page 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 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, Cernetz, Waldburner. And in another: “Herr Pittermann, Kreisky, Waldburner, will you be emigrating again, . . . that should be easy for you in view of your connections with international Jews.” (Incidentally, neither Pittermann nor Waldburner are Jews.)

On the other hand Herrn Withalm, general secretary of the S.P.Oe., told in parliament on April 22, 1966, as leader of his parliamentary group: “Every citizen . . . must himself condemn antisemitism as a primitive form of reaction.” In their ranks there must be no form of antisemitism of any kind whatever.” Dr. Josef Klaus, the present Chancellor, declared as leader of the party at the 1964 Oe.V.P. Congress in Klagenfurt: “There has never been a member of the Oe.V.P. who condones 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 who has produced and, although he denies it, he has variously been exposed to the appropriate propaganda.

“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.

Austria was considered by many people in public positions and in the public service, with teachers, doctors and diplomats: Austria cannot afford antisemitism and therefore ignores it. But that is not the case. For instance, an important party position is held by a Jew who has been convicted of anti-Semitism. “In March, 1938, German troops occupied Austria which was then a part of the German Reich. Tens of thousands of Austrians were arrested and put in concentration camps”, is stated in the official publication of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior. 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 representing 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 anti-Semitic and thus could claim that they were “acting under duress.” Recent history has been rewritten by the treaty. Thus a further reason for presenting antisemitism as an insignificant fringe manifestation is the past 20 years of each of the two large parties has received about the same number of votes, 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 yet for a gain of votes for a further miracle, that the favourable climate of the two leading parties will make this 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 forgiven nothing awaits forgiveness; because the past has been “overcome”, whatever damage was done by the Nazis from the past cannot be true; because the existence of antisemitism is denied, nothing is done against it because the antisemites in Nazis are needed, the illusion is fostered that in the meantime they have all become good democrats.

Dr. Kreisky, who left the Jewish community in 1923, 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 Arab inscription—a souvenir of his official visit to Cairo in 1964. He seems not to like my question as to why he did not take a position on 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 Israeli situation had lapsed and he wished to concern himself primarily with home affairs.

To sum up these conversations that were supplemented by informed people in public positions and in the public service, with teachers, doctors and diplomats: Austria cannot afford antisemitism and therefore ignores it. But that is not the case.
Safeguarding Our Rights
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 "Haushalts-Grundgesetz" is a case in point.

The chronological narrative provides the layman with a comprehensive survey of the subject matter. Its chapters deal with the so-called "Dritte Masse" and the payments under the laws of the Länder, the Hague Conference, and the German and international restitution laws. In the course of the narrative the authors describe the development and the establishment of the Council's representatives in 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 Preisdium 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 1629 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 the Syndicus 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 85th 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 £80 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 from privileged homes, and including many immigrants—Greek Cypriots, Indians and West Africans. At a recent reception, held at the invitation of 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 8 p.m., at the Society's 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 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. 43).

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 pre-war refugees from the European Continent, the fact that we, too, had to adjust our lives to the atmosphere of the gathering.

CHANUCAH CELEBRATION AT AJR CLUB

More than 200 members attended the Chanucah Celebration of the AJR Club, held at Hannah Kaminski House on December 11. They were welcomed by Mrs. M. Jacoby, Chairman of the Club. Dr. Adolph Levy of the Leo Baeck Institute, and Mr. and Mrs. Werner Rosenstock. 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 Afternoons.

ZION HOUSE LECTURES

This year's series of Zion House Lectures, held under the auspices of the Theodor Herzl Sociological Fund 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".

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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 2,480,000) and Israel (about 2,600,000). Only four other countries have a Jewish population of more than 200,000: France (320,000), Great Britain (450,000), Argentina (450,000) and Canada (375,000).

MISSING PERSONS

Personal Inquiries

Ruschin.—Amelie Ruschin, born May 17, 1929, in Breslaus. After leaving elementary school in 1937 apprenticed to a dressmaker in Breslaus and continued her training in London. She had to close down in 1938. Witnesses regarding her apprenticeship were: Dr. L. G. T. King, 117 Cricklewood Broadway, London, N.W. 2.

JEWISH POPULATION STATISTICS

ORTHODOX, 42-YEAR-OLD EXPORTER, widely travelled, Continental origin, own home, seeks Orthodox, cultured young lady and matrimony. Box 784.

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Enquiry by AJR

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

Schachne—Relative of the late Miss Helene Schachne, born July 23, 1880 in Bentschen, died August 2, 1944, Empire Court, Wembley Park, Middlesex, especially her half-brother, Mr. R. Demuth.
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FAIRFIELD & FUCHS
(MAL. 8521)

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 the Jewish and Zionist activities from his early youth onwards. During his student days he was a member of the K.V.J.

In Breslau, where he practised as a lawyer, he was a member of the Repräsentantenversammlung, the executive body of the Jewish Community. He went to Israel in 1938 and held a responsible position with the Jewish Organisation of Jews from Central Europe, the Irgun Oseh Merkazus.

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 courage 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.

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 1925. 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 had rented for him. 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 Dusseldorf. This lovable artist has now died in Bad Salzuflen, the last of a generation of "Vor­tragskuenster".

Born in Detmold, Plaut studied singing under Pfitzer and Humperdinck at the Sternische 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 Wuehrer. He toured all over the country and later went 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 also 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.

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 Theological 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 Schulem Aruch, especially in those chapters which dealt with the civil law.

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 "Buergergemeinde" in Poznan which had already become Polish. He had difficulties in obtaining positions because, for the sake of unity, most communities preferred less radical rabbis. Ultimately, he got an appointment with the Berlin Reformgemeinde, 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 age of 80. He died at the age of 83. RABBI DR. S. NEUELD.
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 article said that his dissertation 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 regime. 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 Gaolled

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 Freihlich, 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 Stein (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, and recently unveiled, is a gift of the municipality to the Jewish community and will be displayed in the community's Betsaal. There now live 112 Jews in Krefeld as against 1,481 before 1933.

A few weeks later the Jewish Cemetery was dedicated 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 Judische Wochenzeitung" (Duesseldorf), died on December 15. Tributes to him will be published in the next issue.

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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