

AJR

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

DE GAULLE AND THE
GERMAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS

The attitude of General de Gaulle during the Six-Day War and his remarks about the Jewish people at his press conference in November last year gave rise to wide discussions among the Jews in France. The general feeling was one of profound agitation based on bitter disappointment, but on the other hand this feeling was to some extent mitigated by the caution which the political situation in France at the time seemed to call for. Against this background, which in the ultimate seemed to make one suspect official authorisation of a hostile attitude towards the Jews, it is perhaps not unnecessary for a Jewish emigrant from pre-war Germany to consider the same problem. This is particularly called for because our long and painful experience in Germany and then in France, especially during the war years, has made us far more sensitive to everything affecting Judaism than the long-established or Sephardi Jews of France, who frequently regard the official anti-Jewish measures of the Hitler occupation as a mere incident in their long history of integration.

We, implying the small group of Jewish immigrants from Germany, in no way assume the right to pronounce judgement on French internal or foreign policies. We do not form an identifiable section of the electorate; we are considering this matter as Jews of a particular origin and experience, although the majority of us have acquired rights of citizenship in our country of asylum and participate in France, its people and its customs. We cannot be denied the right to analyse a historical development which we have personally witnessed.

We heard the name of General de Gaulle for the first time before the Second World War, when he publicly advocated the establishment of an up-to-date French tank army. This was at a time when Hitler's rearmament programme was only just getting under way and the French thought that the Maginot Line would provide protection in any eventuality against German aggression. After the collapse of France in 1940 we, as stateless Jews and refugees from the invaders' homeland, were undoubtedly destined to be the first victims of their brutality. In our despair the voice of General de Gaulle on the B.B.C., the voice of the first resistance to the common enemy, gave us courage and strength to carry on. Our morale in those terrible years was sustained by hearing: "Ici, Londres, les Français parlent aux Français . . ." and we noted with special satisfaction the number of prominent Jews and politicians closely connected with Judaism who had rallied round General de Gaulle in London.

As French territory was gradually liberated it seemed to all of us that the return of

French citizenship to the Algerian Jews was the touchstone for post-war French policy in regard to its attitude to Judaism. After the collapse of the Second Empire in France in 1870, the French Minister, Isaac Moïse Crémieux, had granted French citizenship to the Jews of Algeria, but this was withdrawn in 1940 by the Vichy régime. After the liberation of North Africa by the Allies the Crémieux decree was not immediately reintroduced; Algerian Jews only regained their full rights when General de Gaulle became head of the committee for the liberation of France centred in Algiers.

Our young men made a declaration of loyalty to General de Gaulle when they enlisted in the underground movement. Many of us have often reflected on this obligation since then, when more recent developments have made it difficult to reconcile democratic convictions with the Fifth Republic based on an autocratic head of State. Nevertheless, despite such feelings, the absence of any anti-Jewish discrimination in the General's policy caused many of us to support the Fifth Republic.

Even before General de Gaulle returned to the helm, the long-drawn-out French-Algerian conflict had strengthened the French-Israeli community of interest and, in attempting to settle the conflict, the fate of more than a hundred thousand Algerian Jews became once again, as in 1943, the criterion of de Gaulle's attitude towards the Jews. In fact, de Gaulle permitted no discrimination and the Algerian Jews were admitted to the mother country as Frenchmen and their resettlement among the native population was assisted from public funds without any differentiation whatsoever. How many old Socialists amongst us wavered at the French general elections whether to cast their votes for de Gaulle even if he was a Conservative because, as the saying is, he was "good for the Jews"! The businessmen amongst us voted for him in any case because his régime implied currency stability and prosperity.

Although we all welcomed the reconciliation between the country of our adoption and our original homeland and the signing of the treaty by de Gaulle and Adenauer, nevertheless most of us felt that praise for the German people, and especially for the German army, was laid on rather too thickly, even taking into account the triumphal reception accorded the French head of State during his visit to Germany. Here de Gaulle's pragmatic policies touched upon one of our most tender spots, and this feeling was shared by those others who had suffered political deportation. On the other hand, like most French people, we found that de Gaulle's opposition to a supra-nationally organised European Union robbed the Germans of the chance of achiev-

ing a peaceful ideal and that in the long term it must lead to a resurgence of nationalism—which regrettably did actually occur later.

Apart from these feelings which were not expressed by French Jewry as a whole, nothing happened in France from 1958 until after the settlement of the Algerian conflict which could even give rise to a discussion about Israel or the Jews. This was a period that might be described in history as the "golden age" of French Jewry—not only "golden" because France was governed without any trace of discrimination, but "golden" above all, because of the complete identity of interests between France and Israel, with the consequent result that a Jewish heart could beat as rhythmically for la Patrie as for the "land of the patriarchs."

The golden age was not disturbed by the efforts of the French Government to establish friendly relations with the newly independent Algerian republic. Of course France was strong enough to be bound to Israel on the one side and to the newly independent States of North Africa on the other, and also to re-enter upon its historic role in the other Arab countries. But did not this policy depend upon the maintenance of a "status quo" in those regions? No notice was taken of the fact that when the government was reconstructed at the end of 1965 in connection with the re-entry of Michel Debré, people linked to Judaism such as the Minister of Labour, Grandval, and the Minister of Industry, Michel-Bokanowski, were excluded; with hindsight this political juggling with personalities can hardly appear to have been accidental.

The opening of the east to Europe became a main plank in French foreign policy and France attempted to establish friendly relations with states in which the Jewish population was subjected to authoritarian pressure. At the same time relations became cooler with the United States, where more than five million Jews enjoyed complete equality of rights and were politically watchful for any kind of discrimination outside the U.S. This change in foreign policy came to be known as Gaullist pragmatism, as contrasted with a policy based on friendship and common feelings. Was not all this an omen of ruthless hardness directed along a line that no longer ran parallel with Jewish interests?

In May, 1967, Abba Eban called on the French head of state who uttered a warning. The consequences in the changed attitude of the Fifth Republic to Israel are well known; instead of friendship and alliance it turned into a kind of one-sided neutrality and finally to partisanship for Israel's enemies. This development in the official policy of the Fifth Republic was in striking contrast to the complete identification, engendered during the weeks of danger, of all French Jews with the fate of Israel which had suddenly become part of themselves. French Jews demonstrated their close link with Israel not only through

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Continued from page 1

financial contributions of unparalleled magnitude but also, even amongst those far divorced from Judaism, by supporting Israel without regard to their native French political affiliations.

This unanimous attitude of French Jewry was strengthened by de Gaulle's pronouncement about the Jewish people which he expressed at his press conference in November, 1967: "un peuple d'élite—sur de lui même—et dominateur".

Like all Jews we immediately got hold of de Gaulle's memoirs and read them again, but failed to find any trace of antisemitism. Like all other Jews we tried to comprehend the reasons for the General's new attitude and speculated on what could have led him to this outrageous conclusion. Could it be because his warnings of May, 1967, had not been heeded? Could it be that he never permitted any course in foreign policy other than his own? That he had never been able to suffer the public demonstration of any opposing viewpoint? That a Jewish leading personality, having been asked about the level of individual contributions to the Israel appeal, had replied: "about as much as they paid in taxes"? Taxes? Only the state can levy taxes on its citizens! The false conclusion drawn from misrepresenting a voluntary gift as a graduated contribution was that French citizens were expected to pay "taxes" to a foreign power—and this could have given rise to suspicions that may have very grave consequences.

In any event the golden age of French Jewry is over and la Patrie is no longer on the same side as the "land of the patriarchs". In the place of an identity of interests between French patriots and their allies in Israel, a cleavage has arisen in the political consciousness of French Jews. And even if de Gaulle is not an antisemite, his pronouncement on Israel and the Jewish people—despite an attempt to soften his statement—has not been forgotten, neither by the Jew-haters of yesterday and today, nor by the adherents of latent antisemitism, and not by over-ambitious politicians and administrators who only await the word "go" to prepare much evil in anticipation of a new course.

Perhaps we feel this with the exaggerated sensitivity of the "Wandering Jew" whom de Gaulle also mentioned at his press conference.

From a Paris Correspondent

NEW FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The new French National Assembly has seven deputies of Jewish origin—five Gaullists and two Communists. In the last Assembly there were two Gaullists and one Communist.

M. Pierre Mendès-France, the best known of the Jewish candidates, lost his seat.

LASTENAUSGLEICH UND VERFOLGTE AUS OSTDEUTSCHLAND

In unserer Besprechung der 20. Novelle zum Lastenausgleich (AJR Information, Mai 1968) wurde das "Gesetz ueber die Beweissicherung und Feststellung von Vermoegensschaeden in der sowjetischen Besatzungszone Deutschlands und im Sowjetsektor von Berlin (Beweissicherungs- und Feststellungsgesetz—BFG)" vom 22. Mai 1965 gestreift, dessen Zweck die schrittweise Angleichung von Anspruechen fuer Entziehung im Gebiete der heutigen DDR an die EntschaeDIGungsansprueche gemaess dem Lastenausgleichsgesetz (LAG) fuer Verluste in Vertreibungsgebieten ist. Es wurde betont, dass die im 20. Aenderungsgesetz LAG eingefuehrte Anmeldefrist (30. Juni 1969) keine Geltung fuer Geschaedigte aus der DDR hat und dass die dort Geschaedigten ueberhaupt noch keine Ansprueche auf Lastenausgleichsentschaedigungen haben. Um Ansprueche fuer Schaeden in der DDR ins Leben zu rufen, bedarf es eines eigenen Leistungsgesetzes, und ein solches Gesetz ist in der naechsten Zeit kaum zu erwarten.

Andererseits eroeffnet aber das oben erwaehnte Beweissicherungs- und Feststellungsgesetz (BFG) vom 22. Mai 1965 fuer "Ostzonen" — Geschaedigte die Moeglichkeit, sich auf ein kuenftiges Leistungsgesetz dadurch vorzubereiten, dass sie

- (a) heute noch vorhandene oder erreichbare *Beweismittel* fuer ihr seinerzeitiges Eigentum und dessen Verlust dem zustaeNDigen Ausgleichsamt zur Ueberpruefung und Aufnahme einreichen und/oder das Amt ersuchen, bei der Ermittlung der massgeblichen Tatsachen mitzuwirken, (b) die *Feststellung* derart glaubhaft gemachter Schaeden beantragen, den nach durchgefuehrttem Verfahren ergehenden Feststellungsbescheid entgegennehmen und, sollte er ihnen unzuLaenglich erscheinen, mit Beschwerde anfechten.

Der unter (a) beschriebene Effekt mag insofern bedeutsam sein als seit den Ereignissen, die die anzumeldenden Ansprueche ausloesten, eine erhebliche Zeit verstrichen ist und die Erinnerung an Einzelheiten daher staendig im Schwinden begriffen ist. Wer soll noch etwas davon wissen, wenn unsere Generation weggestorben ist? Ebenso wird es im Laufe der Zeit schwieriger, Unterlagen oder Zeugenbeweise herbeizuschaffen.

Das unter (b) beschriebene Feststellungsverfahren entspricht dem des Feststellungsgesetzes von 1952 fuer Geschaedigte aus den Vertreibungsgebieten. Waehrend aber dem damaligen Feststellungsgesetz innerhalb weniger Monate ein Leistungsgesetz folgte, sind seit dem BFG von 1965 fuer Schaeden in Ostdeutschland bereits drei Jahre vergangen,

ohne dass sich voraussagen laesst, wann ein entsprechendes Leistungsgesetz ergehen wird.

Unter den Schaeden, deren Feststellung das BFG von 1965 vorsieht, befinden sich "Schaeden an WirtschaftsgueterN, die einem Verfolgten im Schadensgebiet (d.h. im Gebiete der jetzigen DDR—Verf.) auf Grund von Massnahmen der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft durch Entziehung entstanden sind". Hierzu gehoeren hauptsaechlich Schaeden an Grundstuecken einschliesslich landwirtschaftlicher, an gewerblichen oder industriellen Betrieben und freiberuflichen Niederlassungen, an Bankkonten, Forderungen, Aktien und sonstigen Anteilsrechten. Hingegen ist Hausrat nicht aufgefuehrt, auch Bargeld (welcher Waehrung auch immer), Gold und Silber, Schmuck und Kunstwerke sind von der Feststellung ausgenommen, ebenso entgangener Gewinn als Folge eines Berufsverbots.

Eine Moeglichkeit zur Anmeldung besteht nur dann, wenn der Geschaedigte zur Zeit der Verfolgung deutscher Staatsangehoeriger oder deutscher Volkszugehoeriger war. Die Anmeldung hat durch den Geschaedigten oder seine Erben zu erfolgen. Fuer Antragsteller mit Wohnsitz in Grossbritannien ist das Ausgleichsamt der Stadt Aachen, 51 Aachen, Postfach 1210, zustaeNDig. Die erforderlichen Formulare sind bei der Botschaft und den Konsulaten der Deutschen Bundesrepublik zu erhalten.

M.P.

KIESINGER AND NAZI CRIMES

Dr. Kurt Kiesinger, the West German Chancellor, was called as a defence witness in the trial of a former Nazi diplomat, Fritz Gebhardt von Hahn, accused of complicity in the deportation and murder of Bulgarian and Greek Jews.

The defence sought to prove that members of the Nazi foreign service were not necessarily aware of the fate awaiting deported Jews. Dr. Kiesinger told the court that he had neither received nor seen any reports about the mass murder of Jews when he was deputy head of the radio department of the Nazi Foreign Ministry's cultural and political section. He knew that Jews were being deported but thought they were being taken for forced labour in an arms factory—it was only towards the end of the war, in 1944, that he had gradually come to realise that "very evil things" were happening to deported Jews. He did not recall that the term "Final Solution" had conveyed anything to him during the war.

Dr. Kiesinger said he joined the Nazi Party in May, 1933, in order to offer "inner resistance" against the régime. By chance and through the initiative of one of his former pupils, he had been given a post in the cultural and political section of the Foreign Ministry in Berlin. In November, 1944, a member of his staff had denounced him to the Gestapo, alleging that he had been "delaying" anti-Jewish measures. No action had been taken against him as the enquiries had not been completed when the war ended. He had often sought to prevent anti-Jewish hate-mongering in Nazi propaganda.

In a cable to the Chancellor, Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the American Jewish Congress commission on international affairs, said it was "inconceivable" that Dr. Kiesinger did not realise until the war was nearly over that "something ugly" was happening to the Jews. Dr. Prinz has described Dr. Kiesinger's testimony as "astonishing and shocking", declaring that he had been "either blind to what was happening" or "deliberately closing his eyes".

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HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

EXPERTS FIGHT PREJUDICE

Under the chairmanship of the Chief Rabbi, a group of experts in the field of race relations and social work and a number of communal leaders met in private. The group decided that there was an urgent need for more effective action, both nationally and on a local level, by the Jewish community to meet the present challenge of racial prejudice and discrimination. A working committee was formed to discuss the matter and to find ways of co-operating with existing Jewish organisations.

Dr. Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, told the *Jewish Chronicle* that he convened the meeting to take counsel on how to direct Jewish response to the growing problem of race relations. He stressed in his invitation that the problem confronting the Jewish community was "a challenge to moral leadership in a society imperilled by racial hatred and public disorder". Jewish students in particular looked for a form of guidance and resolute action, said the Chief Rabbi.

The Jewish Youth Voluntary Service has already urged its 2,000 supporters throughout the country not to wait for the outcome of the Chief Rabbi's working party but "to consider now what part it wishes to play in this great moral campaign".

CARDINAL'S PLEA

Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, in a pastoral letter read at all churches in the diocese, appealed to all Roman Catholics to help stamp out racialism among neighbours, friends and fellow-workers. In Soviet Russia, Poland and China both Jew and Christian suffered for their beliefs. "Never forget that in our own day millions of Jews were done to death for the crime of belonging to the wrong race", stated the Cardinal in his letter.

PROGRESSIVES AND CHIEF RABBI

Speaking at the St. John's Wood Liberal Synagogue annual meeting Sir Louis Gluckstein, the president, said that the controversy between the Progressives and Chief Rabbi Jakobovits was not a quarrel which had been sought. "We cannot permit a situation to develop in which congregations like ours can be treated as second-class Jews", he declared. The harmonious future in the Anglo-Jewish community that had been hoped for with the arrival of the new Chief Rabbi had not been realised. Now, however, in Rabbi Dr. W. Van der Zyl, the Progressive Jews in this country had their own clerical representative to represent them.

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M.P. ATTACKS ARABS

At a meeting of the Anglo-Israel Friendship League held at Manchester, Miss Margaret Herbison, M.P., a former Minister of Social Security, made an attack on the Arab leaders who do not want to help their own people. She described her visit to a refugee camp in Gaza as "the saddest thing I had seen in my life". These people had been purposely kept there by the Arabs to use as political fodder against Israel, she said.

The only time she had seen Israeli troops was in Gaza. She said the Arabs got on well with the Israelis, as though there had never been a war, on the West Bank, in Jerusalem and on the Golan Heights.

RELIEF FOR ARAB REFUGEES

A private working party for Middle East Refugee Problems, under the chairmanship of Lord Lothian, is now engaged on preparing a pilot scheme to assist in rehabilitating Arab women refugees. In a letter to "The Times" Lord Lothian and other members of the working party stated that, since both Arab and Jewish interests were represented on the working party and its sponsoring group, it was hoped that this would encourage the launching of a project with the full backing and support of all sections of the community in this country. Mr. Edmund de Rothschild is a member of the working party.

CAMDEN COUNCILLORS

As a result of the recent elections, the three senior party posts on the Camden Borough Council are held by Jewish Councillors: Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg is the Leader, Mr. Julian Tobin Deputy Leader, and Mr. Harold Gould Chief Whip. Jews have also been elected as chairmen of the Highways, Building, Staff, Libraries and Arts Committees, and to other posts.

HELP FOR JEWS ABROAD

C.B.F. and Ose Reports

More than £110,000 was spent by the Central British Fund for relief abroad during the year 1967. The beneficiaries included Jews from Lybia who found temporary admission in Italy, as well as former residents of Tunisia and Morocco who settled in France. The report for 1967 also states that the C.B.F. spent about £17,000 for Jewish refugees in this country, most of whom came to this country from Hungary and Egypt in 1956/57.

The British Ose report reveals that in 1967 grants were given for medical relief in various Asian and African countries.

SAMMY DAVIS AND ORT

At a London Palladium gala performance of "Golden Boy", starring Sammy Davis Jr., British Ort raised almost £9,000 for Israel's first nautical school for training seamen at Ashdod. The money will be used to purchase British-made naval equipment for the school, and Ort intends raising a further £60,000 for the purpose.

Mr. Davis, in a curtain speech after the performance, expressed his pleasure that the show was able to assist Israeli causes, adding that he would like to visit Israel soon.

YIDDISH BOOKS SAVED

Thousands of Hebrew and Yiddish books have been removed from an East End storehouse by members of B'nai B'rith Young Adults Lodge. The books were abandoned since the death last August of the owner of a Jewish bookshop in Whitechapel. The Chief Rabbi was informed that the books were lying in a building soon to be demolished and the "rescue operation" was organised. The books will be sorted out and a home found for them — several libraries have already made inquiries.

Stepney Population Decline

Mr. S. Rosslyn, headmaster of the Stepney Jewish School, told over 300 parents that half the pupils at the school are non-Jewish. He was speaking at the inaugural meeting of the "Stepney Jewish School in Redbridge", a £100,000 project to erect a Jewish day school in Barkingside, where building is expected to start later this year. The Stepney school, which is being transferred to Ilford, is closing down because of the decline of Stepney's Jewish population.

Synagogues Robbed

After eleven robberies at London synagogues in a matter of ten weeks, synagogue leaders in the London area were advised by the Board of Deputies to take extra measures to safeguard ritual silver. Mr. Victor Mishcon, chairman of the board's defence committee, said that silver should be removed from the scrolls and placed in safes. Mr. Mishcon added that although several valuable items had been stolen, no desecration had taken place and it was likely that antisemitism was not involved.

Help for Unmarried Mothers

A house in South London has been adapted for use as a hostel for unmarried mothers by the Norwood Homes for Jewish Children. Reporting on its progress the president said that although it was still in the experimental stage there was no doubt that a long-felt need was being met. Five young mothers and their babies were in residence there and they would be encouraged eventually to seek independent accommodation. It was also stated that there were now eleven family houses at Norwood, which accommodated 127 children for long- and short-term care during the year under review.

The Queen, a patron of the Norwood Homes, is to make an annual donation to the organisation.

Manchester Homes for Aged

Alderman Sidney C. Hamburger, the president of the Manchester Jewish Homes for the Aged, stated at the annual meeting that the committee had more than kept faith with the community over the decision to introduce pay-beds. The decision, taken at a special meeting last November, would have allowed one in eight of the 167 beds at the Homes to be used by paying patients, but so far only nine of the 20 possible pay-beds were used for the purpose, the others being occupied by patients in need. The need of the applicant and not the ability to pay was still the criterion. The meeting was told that work on Heathlands, the new Home at Prestwich, should begin during the coming year.

President of Oxford Union

Ian Glick, 19, the new president of the Oxford Union, is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Glick, who are members of the Bradford Hebrew Congregation. He is a second-year law student at Balliol. Edwina Cohen was elected librarian whilst Sharon Churcher came second in the ballot for treasurer.

Leeds Gets State-Aided School

A State-aided Jewish primary school is to be established for the first time in the history of the Leeds Jewish community. The Leeds City Council has earmarked a site in Alwoodley and the new school is included in the development plans of the education authority.

Nottingham Minister

The Rev. Philip Greenberg has been appointed minister of the Nottingham Hebrew Congregation. For the past nine years he has been minister of the Highams Park and Chingford Synagogue, London. He succeeds Rabbi Dr. J. Posen, who left Nottingham for Zurich. The new minister, aged 31, was in previous years the leader of the Bnei Akiva movement in Liverpool, where he was born.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

INDIA

Writer's Gesture

Satish Kumar, a young Indian writer and full-time follower of Vinoba Bhave, Gandhi's spiritual successor, intends to hand back to the Russians the Nehru Award they gave him in 1965 for his Hindi best-seller, "Walking Round the World Without a Penny". He is making the gesture in protest against the continued imprisonment of Russian writers. Although he is a friend of the Soviet people and he praised Russian achievements in his book, he feels he cannot keep the award so long as any Russian writer is in prison for something he has written.

Kerala Migration

The 350 Jews who remain in the Indian State of Kerala have petitioned the Government of India to allow them to transfer the community, together with its assets and religious objects, to Israel.

They pointed out how their community had dwindled, stating that the only way of preserving its identity was by transplanting it to Israel.

JEWS IN TURKEY

Turkish Government leaders have assured Chief Rabbi David Asseo that the country's 40,000 Jews will continue to enjoy full equality of rights and liberties as guaranteed to all citizens by the constitution. These assurances were given when the Chief Rabbi and a delegation of communal leaders met Ministers in Ankara to express disquiet over recent manifestations of antisemitism in Turkey. President Sunay also received Chief Rabbi Asseo on the occasion of the presentation of a memorandum on antisemitic activities.

During the talks in Ankara, however, the formation of the antisemitic Turkish Nationalists' Organisation was announced. The organisation, through advertisements, warned "the Turkish nation against Zionism which threatened its historical personality and entity", announcing plans to arrange lectures, seminars and use mass media to alert the public.

JEWS IN DENMARK

The youth of Denmark's small community of 6,000 have evinced a stirring of Jewish consciousness, remarkable in a Jewry where assimilation has made steady progress. In 1965 students established a Jewish students' club. The Hakoah sports organisation set up a Maccabi holiday farm for stays in a Jewish atmosphere. A growing number of Copenhagen's young marrieds send their children to Copenhagen's Jewish day school and the school now has 180 pupils with a further ten starting next term. As soon as funds can be collected a new school is to be built.

Young Danish Jews are determined to play a part in communal affairs. Today more young married couples in Denmark keep kosher homes than was the case with their parents, and young people increasingly conduct the Sabbath services in synagogues.—(J.C.)

DUTCH HONOURS

The Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Holland, Rabbi A. Schuster, has been appointed a Knight of the Order of the Netherlands Lion by Queen Juliana in her Birthday Honours. Dr. M. Goudekot, the chairman of the Amsterdam Liberal congregation and principal of the city's Spinoza Grammar School, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau, and Mrs. "Heintje" Pinkhof Davids was created a Knight of the same order.

APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR SCHOLEM

Professor Gershom Scholem was appointed head of Israel's Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He was invested in his new office by the President of State, Zalman Shazar. Professor Scholem succeeds Professor Aharon Katzir, who was Academy President for six years.

MOSCOW CHIEF RABBI IN AMERICA

Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, gave an exclusive interview to the "Jewish Chronicle" correspondent during his visit to America. "Here in America 50 years ago", he said, "there was no Judaism, no Torah, and now there is Judaism and Torah and yeshivot. I cannot rule out the possibility that in 50 years it will be this way in Russia". He said there were young Jews in the Soviet Union who "have the Jewish spark in them" despite the fact that they were not religious. But there were many who had forgotten their Jewishness too. Very few young Jews spoke Yiddish any more, and most of those attending synagogue were old. He repeated the statement made at his first public interview in New York, that there is no interference with the practice of Judaism in the Soviet Union.

Asked about antisemitic articles in the Soviet press, Rabbi Levin cited the case of Trofim Kytchko, author of the infamous "Judaism Unmasked". Several years ago, he said, "Kruschev himself, when they showed him Kytchko's book, took it and tore it up, and ordered that he be dismissed from his job." He was not aware, he said, that Kytchko was writing articles in the Soviet press again, nor did he know of the antisemitic cartoons which had appeared. The rabbi said that the Jews must fight antisemitism in the West, but he did not know if explaining about the Jews and Judaism would work to eradicate the scourge.

Chief Rabbi Levin made his first public appearance at Hunter College in New York, where he was hissed and booed when he stated that Jews were well treated in the Soviet Union. Since then he has been better received. He was given a tumultuous welcome by several thousand people in a Brooklyn synagogue, and attended an informal tea in the hotel suite of Mr. Arthur Goldberg, the former American representative at the U.N., where the guests included leading Christian churchmen and representatives of all streams of American Jewish life. The Chief Rabbi visited a number of synagogues during a walk up Broadway one evening, when he was enthusiastically greeted by New Yorkers from every walk of life. At a meeting attended by 800 people in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Rabbi Levin was warmly applauded when he pleaded for "understanding" from American Jews.

AWARD FOR RAHEL WISCHNITZER

On the occasion of her retirement as Professor at the Yeshiva University (New York), the art historian Rahel Wischnitzer-Bernstein was awarded a honorary doctorate. Mrs. Wischnitzer is the widow of the former General Secretary of the "Hilfsverein der deutschen Juden" (Berlin). Prior to her emigration, she was Director of the Berlin Jewish Museum.—(E.G.L.)

OTTAWA ELECTIONS

In the recent Canadian General election seven Jewish candidates were returned as Members of Parliament, four with the victorious Liberal Party and three with the New Democratic Party. Six of the candidates were elected in Ontario districts with a negligible Jewish vote.

IMMIGRATION TO MONTREAL

According to Mr. Manuel Batshaw, the new director of Montreal's Allied Jewish Services, the city's Jewish population will rise from its present total of just over 112,000 to 123,000 by 1971. Speaking at the third annual meeting of the organisation he said that most of the newcomers would be North African immigrants who would soon represent nearly ten per cent of the city's Jewish population.

SHOOTING IN BRAZIL

Señor Moshe Getstein, the shochet in the Brazilian town of Curitiba, has been shot in the head. A 26-year-old Lebanese immigrant was charged with the shooting.

JEWRY IN THE EAST

POLISH PURGES

The man regarded as Poland's leading sociologist, Professor Zygmunt Bauman, of Warsaw University, has been expelled from the country. He came under attack after the March student riots in Warsaw and was accused of being the principal "Zionist" instigator of the disturbances. The professor arrived in Vienna with his wife and children.

Mr. Marian Naszkowski, the Jewish Deputy Foreign Minister who was dismissed, was not pensioned off but was appointed editor-in-chief of the main party ideological monthly, "Nowe Drogi". Two Jews remain in high-level posts, Mr. Eugeniusz Szyr, Deputy Premier, and Mr. Artur Starewicz, one of the secretaries of the Polish Communist Party.

A group of students and lecturers, Jews with one exception, are being held for trial accused of having been the leaders of the March student riots. Most of them are the children of veteran Jewish Communists dismissed in the anti-Jewish purges which followed the riots.

"Folks-Sztyme", the Warsaw Yiddish paper, has now been allowed to react to some of the antisemitic articles appearing in the general press. An anti-Jewish campaign is being carried on by General Mieczyslaw Moczar, the Minister of the Interior and head of the security police, whose faction instituted Poland's anti-Jewish campaign and purges. Another faction headed by Mr. Wladyslaw Gomulka, general secretary of the party, is asserting that the "danger" posed to Communists in Poland by the "Zionists" is over.

THREAT TO CZECH LEADER

Professor Eduard Goldstuecker, the Jewish head of the Czechoslovak Writers' Association, has received an anonymous, abusive letter threatening his life. Writing in the Communist Party newspaper, "Rude Pravo", Professor Goldstuecker asked for the protection of his fellow-citizens "in the full confidence that it is the best protection I can seek". Professor Goldstuecker was Czechoslovakia's first Minister to Israel and was later a victim of the 1952 Slansky purge. He recently visited London.

Several anonymous letters have also been received by the Prague trade union newspaper, complaining that there were Jews among its editorial personnel.

RELIGIOUS PROTEST MOVEMENT

Documents which have just become available reveal that the religious protest movement in Russia is aligning itself with the movement in support of jailed writers. An outspoken champion has been found in Boris Talantov, a former mathematics teacher in his sixties.

Talantov supports the appeals of Pavel Litvinov and Larissa Daniel on behalf of the imprisoned writers, Ginzburg, Galanskov and their associates. He condemns the practice of holding closed trials, as a result of which people are sent to prison camps because of their personal convictions. It is believed that common ground has now been established between supporters of the imprisoned writers, the Baptists and the Orthodox reformers.

NEW YIDDISH POETESS

A recent issue of "Sovietish Heimland", the Soviet Yiddish periodical, contains eight short poems written in colourful Yiddish by Lillie Ash, a 22-year-old Russian Jewish girl, from the small town of Monino near Moscow. In two letters appearing in the same issue, Lillie Ash explains how she came to write Yiddish poetry.

Her parents, born in Minsk, read, write and speak Yiddish, and she herself was taught the language at home, becoming familiar with Yiddish literature through extensive reading. In 1948, when Lillie Ash was only two years old, the last Yiddish school in the Soviet Union was closed.

Egon Larsen

THE LOST BATTLE

German Jewry's Resistance

Is it true what we heard in some recent arguments, that the German Jews as a whole did not put up much of a fight against their Nazi enemies, and that those who remained in Germany went to their extermination without resisting? Many of us feel that this is slander, born from ignorance of the facts, and especially of the situation of the German Jews in the years before the Second World War. A Hamburg publisher, the Leibniz-Verlag, has now furnished us with a well-documented book in its series *Beiträge zur Zeitgeschichte*. Compiled by Arnold Paucker, director of the Leo Baeck Institute in London, the volume—entitled *Der jüdische Abwehrkampf gegen Antisemitismus und Nationalsozialismus in den letzten Jahren der Weimarer Republik*—fills not only a gap in contemporary historical documentation; it also shows that German Jewry's battle against the powers of darkness was, at the same time, a fight for Germany's better self, for decency and democracy, for the soul of a country in the face of encroaching insanity and inhumanity. That the battle was lost does not make it less important nor less heroic.

Paucker's book is the extended version of an historical study published in *Entscheidungsjahr 1932*, a symposium edited by Professor Werner E. Mosse for the Leo Baeck Institute three years ago, and it is dedicated to Hans Reichmann, one of the last two directors of the *Central-Verein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens*, the "C.V." which played the leading part in German-Jewish defence against antisemitism (see E. G. Lowenthal's article in *AJR Information* in May, 1968, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the C.V.). There were, of course, many other political and humanitarian organisations which fought antisemitism, nationalism and militarism—that peculiarly German mixture which is probably just the reverse side of an old national inferiority complex; but the bulk of organised Jewish resistance work was done by the C.V. with its membership of 60,000 or 70,000, and backed by the overwhelming majority of Germany's half-million Jews. Some propaganda work was also done by the *Kartell-Convent deutscher Studenten jüdischen Glaubens* and the *Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten*; and much of it was undone by the unfortunate *Verband Nationaldeutscher Juden*, led by Max Naumann, which presented

to the German public the pitiful spectacle of a group of Jewish "patriots" panting after the nationalist bandwagon.

Even the moderate patriotism of the C.V., its insistence that the German Jews were just as "gute Deutsche" as the Gentiles, met with criticism, especially among Zionists. On the other hand, the comparative calm of the period from 1924 to 1928 deceived many Jews, and some of their Gentile friends, who felt that the C.V.'s constant watchfulness was due to an almost neurotic fear of antisemitism. When Dr. Alfred Wiener spoke, in 1928, of the increasing Nazi propaganda in the provinces he was derided as a Jeremiah, and as late as 1932 no other than Theodor Heuss wrote: "That the Jews defend themselves is understandable, but one can't say that their representatives do it always well; some of them stoop unnecessarily to their opponents' level when coolness or silence would be more effective than argumentative touchiness."

There were numerous arguments within the C.V., whose members reflected attitudes and opinions of many shades and varieties. For instance: should one launch an attack by mass propaganda on antisemitism, or rather address an influential élite of intellectuals and professional men? Should the C.V. squander its slender means on election propaganda, or aim at long-term enlightenment? In the end, the C.V. leaders had to arrive at some kind of compromise between the "mass propagandists", Alfred Wiener and Hans Reichmann, and the "selective influence" line of Ludwig Holländer—an all-out offensive against antisemitism, "fought with the crudest and most refined weapons at the same time", as Paucker puts it. The Nazis, of course, called the C.V. the great Jewish General Staff. The C.V. countered the absurd forgery of the "Protocols" with a splendid pamphlet by Benjamin Segel, and Goebbels' *Angriff* with the *Alarm*, which was started as an election broadsheet in 1929 and turned into a weekly two years later under the editorship of Arthur Schweriner. Other media of mass propaganda were anti-Nazi posters, leaflets, folders and brochures, some deliberately aimed at the same layers of the population as Hitler's propaganda, others arguing and explaining on a more intellectual level.

What, then, were the arguments in this fight? The most important one was that throughout German history, the Jews had been used as scapegoats for the blunders, failures and misdeeds of rulers and governments. Rather controversial was the argument that it was unfair to blame German Jewry collectively for the acts and opinions of some of its revolutionary members. The antisemitic argument of Jewish "inferiority" was countered with the enumeration of Jews who had contributed, and were still contributing, to German culture, art and science despite the short span since emancipation began. The alleged Jewish inefficiency in physical achievements was shown up as a myth by publishing impressive lists of Jewish sportsmen. Theodor Heuss, however, did not think much of this kind of argumentation in the minds of the uneducated, he said, the mere fact that someone is a Jew robs him of his kudos. Even the reminder that 12,000 Jews had died for Germany in the Great War did not seem to cut much ice among those who preferred to believe that the Jew was, by nature, a *Druckeberger*.

Extremely difficult was the fight against the age-old conviction that the Jews were of a

different race, and therefore did not belong to the German nation. Here, the pathological character of antisemitism as a mass neurosis, as the symptom of an inferiority complex in the individual as well as in large social groups, required explanations which the Man in the Street could not grasp. Still, the C.V. tried to make people understand. Perhaps the myths of ritual murder, of the rape of Christian virgins and so on was never as widespread in Germany as in more primitive countries, but the intricacies of sexual pathology from which such fantasies spring were unintelligible to those liable to be affected by them. Arguments on that level had to be restricted to a small group of intellectuals.

Probably the most effective arguments against the Jew-baiters were those in which that famous German term "*das Ausland*" played the decisive part: Antisemitism was unworthy of the Nation of Poets and Thinkers, and a *Kulturschande* in the eyes of the world; the spreading of the Nazi creed was doing harm to Germany's reputation abroad, and so on. We know that right into the war years Hitler was sensitive to the image of the Nazi State in the *Ausland*.

"Regarded as a whole," says Paucker, "the success of the defence effort was certainly modest. The attacks of an antisemitic mass party forced the Jewish-bourgeois society into battle against the looming fascist dictatorship, which was being welcomed by the non-Jewish bourgeois society. The gradual political dissolution of the humanist, liberal middle classes, to whom Jewish defence tried to appeal until the last, was bound to turn it into failure in the long run." Paucker also points out that at the stage of development of Jewish assimilation in that period there were still social problems—the contrast between Jewish and non-Jewish groups was still greater than the resistance propagandists wanted to believe: "The Jews were still a clearly recognisable group and had no real idea of their image in non-Jewish eyes."

There are many things which we can learn from the history of German-Jewish defence in the Weimar Republic. The argument continues, and here is a wealth of food for thought for today. "Germany's historical situation," says Paucker, "obliged the German Jews to fight against the totalitarian fascist dictatorship, trying to defend their own rights and secure their own survival. Their significant contribution to the struggle for German democracy, which is still going on, was one of the last acts done in the name of that free Jewish community."

* Obtainable in Great Britain at the Leo Baeck Institute, 4 Devonshire Street, London, W.1. £2 12s. 6d. For members of the Society of Friends of the L.B.I., 37s. 6d.

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DR. FREDERICK GOLDSCHMIDT

The news of the death of Dr. F. Goldschmidt on June 28 as the result of a traffic accident came as a great shock to his numerous friends and fellow-workers. Their feelings of loss are reflected in the tributes published in these columns. Dr. Goldschmidt was born on November 13, 1893. He spent his youth in Breslau and after the completion of his studies became a judge in Berlin. From 1933-1938 he was a senior legal adviser at the Central-Verein. In this country, he first worked with the Jewish Refugees Committee until, in 1948, he took charge of the newly established United Restitution Office, to which he rendered his invaluable services up to his death. We feel united in our sorrow with his widow, Dr. Erna Goldschmidt, an active Jewish communal worker in her own right, and his children and grandchildren.

SPOKESMAN OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

Among the manifold activities of our friend, Dr. Fritz Goldschmidt, his work on behalf of the Council of Jews from Germany was one of the most important.

After the promulgation of restitution laws by the Allied Governments in 1947-49 and the enactment of the first indemnification laws by some of the German Lander, the newly established Federal German Government indicated its readiness to enter into negotiations with the Jewish organisations about a comprehensive settlement of the indemnification problem. To represent the interests of the Nazi victims the Jewish organisations joined forces by founding the "Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany" (Claims Conference). The Council was one of the organisations represented at the Claims Conference, and when we were asked to nominate an expert for the forthcoming discussions with representatives of the German Government at The Hague, nobody could be a more suitable nominee than Goldschmidt. At that time he was not yet a member of the Council's Executive—though he joined it later—but he already had vast experience in the matters under discussion as one of the two joint managers of U.R.O.

The Hague negotiations lasted from March until September 1952; Goldschmidt played a very important role in them. At the end an agreement was reached which formed the basis for the Federal Indemnification Law of 1953 and also for the Federal Restitution Act of 1957.

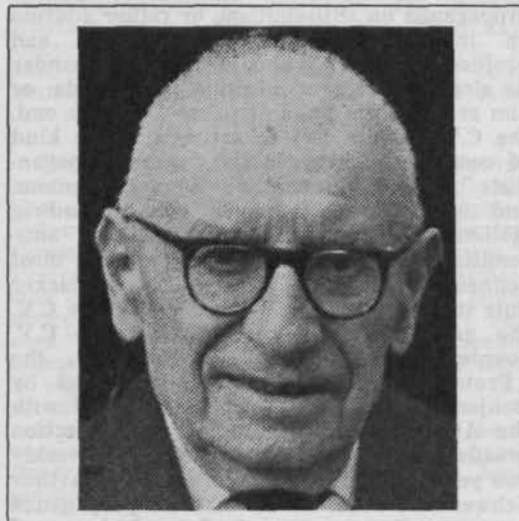
After the Hague Conference the case of the refugees from Germany had to be promoted by constant further discussions with the German Ministry of Finance and other authorities of the Federal Republic and the Lander. For this reason Goldschmidt frequently had to go over to Germany. According to the printed report jointly given by both of us to the Council in 1966, until then not less than 33 such visits had taken place, urging and advising on the implementation of the laws and on further legislative measures.

For various reasons Goldschmidt was ideally suited for this job. The representatives of the German Authorities, being mostly officials and lawyers themselves, respected him as a former judge who already in his younger years had worked as an assistant judge of the Kammergericht. Many of them knew of his reputation as an excellent lawyer and a judge of high moral and intellectual standing. It may also have come to their notice that the authorities of post-war Germany had promoted him to the title of a retired Kammergerichts-Senatspraesident; in his modesty he never used this title, but described himself as plain Dr. Goldschmidt.

His position and rank would, however, never have prevailed by themselves, had they not been accompanied by the personal qualifications necessary for the job. He was firm and decisive, and he never lost sight of the object to be achieved, namely the best possible results in the interests of the Jews from Ger-

many. At the same time he always had a polite and pleasant manner. It was one of his principles never to put forward demands which would not be considered as fair—never "to cry for the moon". His qualities had already enabled him at The Hague Conference to help in smoothing out dissensions between the two parties. Having taken part in about half of these German journeys I can, from first-hand experience, testify to the effective way in which he conducted the negotiations and to the high esteem in which he was held by his partners.

His personal qualities—in this context more than the position in the Prussian legal hierarchy—also made it possible for him to establish a good relationship with the representa-



tives of other groups of persecutees, and to ensure that a unified front vis-à-vis the German officials was preserved by all who acted responsibly. I distinctly remember an instance when a man, who meanwhile has acquired a certain notoriety, acting for a probably non-existent organisation, dared to attack our Council by alleging that we had neglected the interests of other persecutees for the sake of the claims of the Jews from Germany. This happened at a full official meeting presided over by the official in charge of the Federal Ministry of Finance. Thereupon something happened that was rarely to be seen: Goldschmidt rose in a temper and scored off the attack; the man was never again invited to any of these official meetings.

During the periods between these journeys much further work had to be done on behalf of the Council. Goldschmidt was a member of a small legal committee consisting of our late friend, Dr. Hans Reichmann, our friend Mr. A. S. Dresel, now chairman of the AJR, Goldschmidt and the undersigned. As a rule, the decisions of the committee were unanimous. The applications and letters to be formulated subsequently were mostly drafted by Goldschmidt who could always be relied upon to deal with matters most promptly and competently.

Those who were not associated with the day-

to-day work can hardly realise what they owe to Goldschmidt's unstinting labours.

May I conclude with a personal word. I have to be grateful for his friendliness which made our joint journeys to Germany a pleasure and, at the same time, an example of an ideal co-operation. On these occasions I also learnt to admire him for the width of his erudition. His knowledge was not confined to legal matters nor to his life-long intensive Jewish activities and interests. It also comprised many other subjects such as literature—German, English and Latin. I used to call him teasingly the most complete edition of Buechmann's "Gefluegelte Worte". Whenever I could not find a quotation in Buechmann I enquired with him, and he would ring me up—as he did only recently—to tell me the source, e.g., Goethe's Sprueche Number so-and-so.

Goldschmidt's unexpected death leaves a great gap in the work of the Council and very sad feelings among all his many friends and especially with those of us who had the privilege of working with him.

W. BRESLAUER.

Vice-President, Council of Jews from Germany.

MOURNED BY THE K.C.

The ranks of those who in their youth were members of the K.C.—an organisation of Jewish students—and were thus united by a bond of friendship which survived the times of crises after the First World War, the horrors of the Nazi period, and the enforced emigration into alien lands, are sadly thinning due to the passing of time. Every gap in these ranks causes grievous feelings, but the sudden and unexpected death of Fritz Goldschmidt is one of those blows which seem inconceivable.

From early childhood Fritz Goldschmidt was steeped in the aims of the K.C., his father being one of the co-founders of the first K.C. Students' Union established in Breslau in 1886. Its proud avowal of Judaism, its summons to fight antisemitism and base assimilation and its hopeful expectation of a possible symbiosis between Germans and Jews, though at first causing amazement in Jewish and non-Jewish circles alike, soon led to the establishment of further students' associations at other universities.

Fritz Goldschmidt joined the K.C. as a young undergraduate, and in the company of his friends with their wide range of interests he found ample opportunity to further his own urge for knowledge, to discuss topical problems and to debate the aims of the K.C., or at least ways and means which were held right and proper for their implementation.

Even at this early phase of his life his outstanding knowledge was admired, his keen perception recognised and, above all, his conciliatory personality was greatly respected by everybody. His noble character searched unflinchingly for mutual understanding and harmony; optimism was the keynote of his nature; his strength the power to overcome resistance by persuasion and without harshness. Throughout his life he remained faithful to the ideals of his youth. His interest in, and sympathy for, the fate of his friends in the K.C. never failed. His work, which from the very first to the last, served the interests and welfare of his fellow-men, his valuable achievements in this sphere which have set him a monument "more lasting than ore", will find their deserving appreciation in other obituary notes.

The friends of his youth, his "Bundesbrueder", bid him a last farewell. They will miss him and will keep his memory alive.

RICHARD SCHNEIDER.

FOUNDER-PRESIDENT OF LEO BAECK LODGE

Fritz Goldschmidt's father, originally a doctor by profession, became Secretary of the German District Grand Lodge—an activity which brought him into contact with all the many lodges over the whole of Germany. No wonder that his son, Fritz Goldschmidt, had B'nai B'rith in his blood. He was twice President of the Spinoza Lodge in Berlin—a Lodge famous for the high intellectual level of its activities. When he came to this country he was only one of several hundred former brethren of the German district, only one of those who, like him, had been presidents or had held other high offices in their lodges.

Soon a group of former brethren of the German, Austrian, Czech and Yugoslav districts was formed in London with the idea of establishing a lodge in the Continental tradition. There never was the slightest doubt that Fritz Goldschmidt would be the President, although he never asked to have this office conferred on him. Some brethren wanted the whole group to join the First Lodge of England, but that would have burst it at the seams, as the refugees outnumbered the local brethren many times. There was a question what sort of a lodge this new one was to be. Some were thinking of strict adherence to Continental tradition ("bei uns in Merseburg"). Others wanted to make it a new lodge in the English style. Fritz Goldschmidt settled all these problems as if they were not there at all. His idea was to carry on in the Continental tradition but to take account of the consequences of the events that had taken place and of the different atmosphere in which this new lodge would have to live—in short, to take regard of the laws of time and space.

He soon settled the question of a special charter with the First Lodge by making the new group a section of the First Lodge of England. On the Continent we were always proud to emphasise: "Alles fuer die Anderen, nichts fuer uns selber" (we work for the benefit of others, not for our own). This had to be given up. Too many of the brethren here in London and in other parts of the country needed help and, of course, the brethren, who had already taken root in this country, were the first whose duty it was to assist them.

But Fritz Goldschmidt was never "lodge-minded", he was always "B'nai B'rith minded". When the war ended he established contacts with the brethren on the Continent and saw to it that help was given to them and their families. He frequently visited them and brought new life to their lodges, whose activities had been interrupted owing to war circumstances.

Within the Leo Baeck Lodge he organised various committees, e.g., an Employment Advisory Committee, a Welfare Committee and a Widows' Care Committee. He also helped to found a Youth Group (Otto Hirsch Chapter)—something unknown on the Continent. He saw to it that the lectures given by brothers and guests were not only of a very high standard, but in a way also served as an introduction into the life of this country. He remained President until 1946. From 1947 until 1956 he was Grand Vice-President of District Grand Lodge and also its foreign correspondent.

When, in 1952, the Grand President of District Grand Lodge, Gordon Liverman, died suddenly as the result of an accident, he was the senior Grand Vice-President and, therefore, entitled to be acting Grand President.

He knew that he was not the right man for such duties and stepped aside. He was the most humble of men.

In all his work Fritz Goldschmidt showed a sixth sense, grasping the atmosphere and understanding the minds of those with whom he had to deal. This proved to be a decisive asset not only in his negotiations with Germany, but also enabled him to secure harmony in the Leo Baeck Lodge which comprised brethren of very different backgrounds. His method was basically very simple: he gave jobs to as many brethren as possible and none of them argued with him about their duties. Whether it concerned the care of children or the organisation of talks where brother got to know brother by relating about his life, whether it meant building up the financial basis for future work or assisting in the foundation of a Women's Lodge—it was he who made the Lodge a living organisation.

MEMORIAL MEETING

A Memorial Meeting for the late Dr. F. Goldschmidt will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 1968, at 8 p.m., at 51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3. The function has been jointly arranged by the United Restitution Organisation, the Council of Jews from Germany, the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodge, the K.C. Fraternity and the Association of Jewish Refugees. The speakers will be Mr. Adolph G. Brotman, Mr. Arthur E. Kaufmann, Mr. Henry Minden and Mr. Werner Rosenstock. Professor Norman Bentwich will be in the chair.

On July 3 we bade him farewell. On the following day we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck London Lodge at Guildhall. On that occasion the achievements of the Lodge were enumerated and praised, but this praise was due to Fritz Goldschmidt.

His successors in the office of President could only carry on what he had put into motion, and our brethren, and with us Anglo-Jewry, will always owe a debt of gratitude to Fritz Goldschmidt, a debt which can never be fully repaid.

HENRY MINDEN.

A MAN OF JUSTICE

I link in my memory Dr. Hans Reichmann and Dr. Frederick Goldschmidt, who were the heads of the London office of the United Restitution Office and were respectively the General Secretary and the principal legal adviser of the vast operation. Each of them represented for me what was best in the great tradition of German Jewish culture. They were men of the highest sense of duty and worked together in perfect harmony.

Goldschmidt chose a judicial career in Germany from his university days in Berlin, and had become at a young age an Assistant Judge of the Berlin Court of Appeal (Kammergericht). In the Hitler régime he was immediately deprived of his office. From a sense of responsibility for the community which he could help by wise counsel, he stayed in Germany till a short period before the outbreak of the Second World War, and suffered the grim conditions of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp for some months. Then he came to England: and when war broke out did

valuable, if humble, service in Bloomsbury House, London, the clearing centre for the refugee problems.

It was not till the war ended that he had the opportunity of using fully his legal knowledge to help his people. He was one of the first to work out the principles of restitution and compensation for the victims of Nazi spoliation and oppression. When the Legal Aid Society, which was known as U.R.O., was formed in 1948, he was designated as its legal counsellor. For the next twenty years he gave devoted service to the Organisation, and he was the chosen negotiator with the German Ministers and high officials. Besides his mastery of the law, he had many helpful contacts with former colleagues of the Bench. He was a man of justice and a just man, free from all prejudice and rancour, bringing a judicial mind to all problems, and able to see the other side of the question. By his transparent integrity he commanded the confidence not only of all the Jewish bodies, but also of the German Ministers and civil servants with whom he had to contend.

An endearing characteristic was his phenomenal memory. He could remember a conversation and recall an association of many years past, and always accurately. His family, friends and colleagues mourn the loss of a gentle, wise companion who has left to them a sweet memory.

NORMAN BENTWICH.

THE MOST LOYAL OF FRIENDS

To the chorus of general reverence to the memory of Dr. Fritz Goldschmidt I would like to add a quiet note of profound personal gratitude. Gratitude for the unswerving companionship in thought and work which united him with my husband during the time of their co-operation for U.R.O. And gratitude for the way in which he let me share this rare relationship, and indeed re-created and upheld it after I had become its sole beneficiary. He was the most loyal of friends, always intent on giving advice and help when it was needed. Knowing how deep had been my interest in the great tasks of U.R.O. and their background, their progress and occasional setbacks, their problems and associates, he saw to it that I never felt severed from the changing scene. After every return from his eventful trips to Germany I had the good fortune of hearing his latest news, pleasant or not so pleasant as the case might be.

Nor was this common interest the only one we shared with each other. Our friend Goldschmidt was a conscious and conscientious bearer of German-Jewish tradition which, for him, was an integral part of the wider orbit of European-humanist tradition. He felt the heritage of both as sacred obligations: his righteousness was unflinching, his reliability unshakeable, his integrity impregnable.

He was fond of poetry and its timeless wisdoms. It may therefore be appropriate if, to pay him homage, we invoke the three worlds which had shaped him. "Hoch klingt das Lied vom braven Mann" is a German word that comes to mind. "There sits a judge that no king can corrupt" might have been written by the English Bard in his honour. But what rings to most moving echo in our hearts are the words of the Bible: "There are three crowns: the crown of the Thora, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of kingship. But the crown of the good name rises above them all."

EVA G. REICHMANN.

Fritz Friedlaender (Melbourne)

THEODOR WOLFF

Centenary of his Birth

"I still see with my mind's eye the editorials signed T.W. which appeared in the "Berliner Tageblatt" every Monday morning, eagerly expected by all of us," said the late Federal Chancellor Adenauer to Wolfgang Bretholz on the occasion of an interview.

As Editor-in-Chief of the "Berliner Tageblatt" from 1906-1933, Theodor Wolff exercised an influence comparable with that of Walter Lippmann in our day. He was born on August 2, 1868. His rise to his position was favoured by the fact that he was related to the Jewish press tycoon, Rudolf Mosse, as well by the general climate during the period in which he grew up and which offered the best chances ever enjoyed by Jews in Germany. Yet the man destined to become one of the greatest political journalists did not discover his virtual call at once. When he joined the staff of the "Berliner Tageblatt", he did not deal with politics, but with literature and theatre: together with Maximilian Harden he founded the cultural association "Freie Buehne" in 1889, which paved the road to Ibsen's and Hauptmann's fame.

He turned to politics when the "Berliner Tageblatt" sent him as its correspondent to Paris in 1893. He fell in love with that city, about which he wrote, in Heine's wake, colourful reports (collected in "Pariser Tagebuch"). Having met leading Frenchmen like Clemenceau and Anatole France, he decided to work for a French-German understanding. It was during his stay in France that he found in a French girl his life's companion.

In 1906, Rudolf Mosse wisely decided to appoint him editor of the "Berliner Tageblatt" which, under his guidance, became one of the most respected newspapers. He surrounded himself with an excellent staff, and the information service organised by him was so outstanding that, to quote only one example, the German Government learnt only from some of his articles that a British-Russian Naval Agreement was imminent. Above all, however, Wolff's editorials, proving his acumen, fine breeding and masterly style, gave the "Berliner Tageblatt" a world-wide reputation. It was his *credo* that Imperial Germany had to be changed into a democratic-parliamentary monarchy; and he also warned of the danger inherent in Wilhelm's II blundering foreign policy.

After the outbreak of war in 1914, Wolff was not deluded by Germany's initial military successes, for he was convinced that the best she could hope for was a *status quo*. Therefore he fought the unscrupulous German nationalist propaganda so determinedly that the military censorship, condoning this propaganda, for some time prevented him from writing. Alongside with Walther Rathenau, he warned of the unlimited submarine warfare which, as he foresaw, brought the U.S.A. into the war and ended up with Germany's defeat in November 1918.

After Imperial Germany's downfall he favoured a Western-style democratic monarchy, for he had misgivings about the

maturity of the Germans to govern themselves. Yet when the Weimar Republic was established, he joined the ranks of the German-Democratic Party. He left the Party, bitterly disappointed, in 1926. In opposition to Hugo Haase, he advocated a refusal of the Versailles Peace Treaty; but when the treaty was accepted, he supported Wirth's and Rathenau's "policy of fulfilment" and also used his mighty pen to strengthen the Weimar Republic in its struggle for existence. This earned him the fierce hatred of Germany's extreme nationalists who planned to assassinate him. As reason never prevails over mass emotion, Wolff fought a losing battle against the Nazi menace, and when Hitler took over in 1933, Wolff, together with his family, had to leave Germany immediately.

After settling down in Nice, he looked back and summed up his experiences. At that time he had already published "Vollendete Tatsachen" (1919), a selection of his editorials, and "Vorspiel" (1925), an account of the events leading to the 1914-18 war. He now continued this account in "Der Krieg des Pontius Pilatus" (1934; Engl. trans. "The Eve of 1914"). Essays on prominent figures of contemporary history were collected in "Der Marsch durch zwei Jahrzehnte" (1936; Eng. trans. "Through Two Decades").

These books are not works of an historian striving for objectivity, but of a keen observer studying momentous history and interpreting it in a peculiar way. The fact that Theodor Wolff personally knew many men making that history gives his presentation colour and authenticity, which were acclaimed by eminent historians like Hans Delbrueck, Johannes Haller and others.

Having considered himself hitherto first of all a German, he felt impelled by circumstances to meditate on the Jewish problem. This he did in his thoughtful essay "Die

Juden", in which, with some tinge of a sneer, he also referred to his acquaintance with Herzl and Nordau during his time in Paris. But Jewish fate, on which he reflected, was dreadfully in store for himself; arrested by the Gestapo, the old man was taken back from France to Germany and thrown into the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. In the end he was transferred to the Berlin Jewish Hospital where he died on November 15, 1943.

Theodor Wolff predicted the fatal developments but was not able to prevent them. This failure is entwined with the tragedy of German Left-wing liberalism which could not check the situation, neither in Imperial Germany nor in the Weimar Republic. However, Theodor Wolff lives on as a foremost champion of the lofty ideals of democracy, and for this reason the big Hamburg daily "Die Welt" in 1961 endowed the "Theodor Wolff-Preis", which is used for awards to talented journalists.

IN MEMORIAM—EDUARD SAENGER

Eduard Saenger, writer and poet, born in Berlin in 1880, was best known in pre-Nazi Germany for his German rendering of Shakespeare's Sonnets (Insel Verlag). He also was a contributor to the "Weltbühne," "Vossische Zeitung," "Berliner Tageblatt," "Hamburger Nachrichten," etc. and a broadcaster on the Berliner Rundfunk. In 1935 he emigrated to this country, where he died in 1948.

Saenger translated Greek and Latin poetry for Reclam, Leipzig, published a book of philosophical essays "Nichts und Alles" (Kurt Bock, Berlin), and several volumes of verse, "Der Pfad" (Alfred Richard Meyer, Berlin), "Weg und Wesen" (Kurt Bock, Berlin) and "Die fremden Jahre," Gedichte aus der Emigration (Lambert Schneider, Heidelberg), which appeared posthumously.

While in England he lived as a teacher of languages, wrote for "Die Zeitung," London, and for other publications of the Nazi Refugees. He also published verse and prose in Swiss newspapers and periodicals, e.g. "Mass und Wert" (Oprecht, Zürich), "Hortulus" (Tschudi Verlag, St. Gallen), "Neue Züricher Zeitung," "Die Tat", "St. Galler Tagblatt." One of his short stories "Mira" was included in "German Short Stories of Today" (Harrap, London).

His last days were darkened by the terrible news of the exterminations which poured in after the war, especially by the news of the death of his friend Arno Nadel and his wife at Auschwitz.

After his death poems were printed in "Neue Literarische Welt" (Darmstadt). Werner Kraft, in his beautiful book "Augenblicke der Dichtung" (Kösel-Verlag, München), devoted an essay to him. "An den Wind geschrieben" (Agora, Darmstadt) contains some of his poems. "Verbannung," Aufzeichnungen deutscher Schriftsteller im Exil (Christian Wegner Verlag, Hamburg) included extracts from his diaries.

He leaves short stories, aphorisms and diaries hitherto unpublished. Remembered in Germany, he should not be forgotten by the refugees in this country, where he died twenty years ago.

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CULTURAL NEWS

HEINRICH HEINE UNIVERSITY IN DUESSELDORF ?

In an interview with the "Duesseldorfer Nachrichten" Professor Manfred Windfuhr, the 37-year-old editor of a new historical and critical edition of Heine's works and Professor of "neuere Germanistik" at the new University of Duesseldorf, has supported the suggestion that Duesseldorf University be named Heinrich Heine University.

In the interview Professor Windfuhr described Heinrich Heine as one of the most universal German poets and pointed out that today Heine had a much higher reputation abroad than in Germany, a fact which he had noticed during a recent visit to England. Windfuhr also stated that among the young people in the Federal Republic there was a growing interest in Heine and that an increasing number of candidates for the Doctor's Degree chose subjects connected with Heine as the theme of their doctor's dissertation.

For a long time Duesseldorf has failed to honour her great son in a dignified manner. While cities as far apart as New York and East Berlin have erected statues in honour of the poet, the forces of antisemitism and reaction have prevented Heine from being honoured in a similar way in his native town since the days of Wilhelm II.

The idea to honour the prophet of "a new and a better song" by naming Duesseldorf's new university after him deserves full support. May we also hope that once this idea is accepted a dignified statue of the poet for which Duesseldorf's best citizens have fought for nearly a century will at last be erected at or around the Heinrich Heine University?

F. HELLENDALL.

MARBURG COMMEMORATES HERMANN COHEN

To mark the 50th anniversary of Hermann Cohen's death, a memorial lecture was held at Marburg University, where the philosopher taught from 1876 to 1912. The speaker was Professor Dr. Karl Loewith (Heidelberg), who had started his academic career in Marburg, before he was forced to emigrate in 1935. His subject was "Philosophie der Vernunft und Religion der Offenbarung—Dem deutschen Juden H. Cohen zum Gedenken". The audience included many members of the academic teaching staff, who thus paid tribute to the memory of the founder of a philosophy which became known as the "Marburger Schule". The lecture was preceded by the unveiling ceremony of a memorial plaque to Hermann Cohen outside the old university building.—(E.G.L.)

PAINTINGS BY FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY

Throughout his life Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy enjoyed drawing and painting as his favourite hobby. He kept sketch books during his travels, and liked to enliven his personal letters with illustrations. His proficiency was decidedly above average. It is, therefore, gratifying that reproductions of 13 aquarelles, the originals of which are in the care of the Mendelssohn Archives of the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin-Dahlem, were published in a special album (printed by Morf & Co., Basel, in 700 numbered copies). They were designed by Mendelssohn during his stay in Switzerland in the summer of 1847 and vividly depict the composer's impressions of the Swiss scenery. The album is prefaced by an introduction, jointly written by the first director of the Mendelssohn Archives, Max I. Schneider (1905-67), and Dr. Cécile Hensel.—(E.G.L.)

BAEDEKER FOR SCHOENEBERG

The German tourist studying his "Baedeker" and relying faithfully on the recommendations of this stern and reliable guide was a slightly comic stereotype in the "good old days". The firm of Karl Baedeker, now in Freiburg, has tried to adapt itself to new requirements. Former Berliners may be interested in a new guide book "Berlin-Schöneberg. Kurzer Führer von Karl Baedeker" (36 pages, 5 maps and 12 sketches; 1967). It was prepared at the suggestion of the present District Mayor, Dr. Josef Grunner who, though hailing from Austria, has done much to put and keep Schöneberg "on the map". Because of his experience as a journalist—he worked for some time as an editor and commentator for various newspapers published by the "Telegraf" chain—he has a keen eye for publicity. In this position and as an active Social Democrat he showed an inclination to non-conformism which has sometimes caused amusement and occasionally annoyance. In the Nazi period he stood by his non-conformist convictions—and paid for it by serving a long term in a forced labour camp. Dr. Grunner is one of the devoted friends and supporters of the cause of Israel, especially of the work for Youth Aliyah.

In the introduction to the little guide book, the district mayor points out that the governing mayor and the City Parliament of West Berlin are actually "tenants" of the Town Hall of Schöneberg. Many great personalities who worked and lived in this attractive and active part of the city are listed in the booklet, including the Social Democratic leader Eduard Bernstein, Theodor Heuss, the painter Lesser Ury, Albert Einstein and Nelly Sachs. The Georg-Hermann-Garten (Stubenrauchstr.) commemorates the author of Jettchen Gebert, who lived a few houses away in the Bundesallee. F.L.B.



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THE GERMAN SCENE

NEW AMBASSADOR FOR ISRAEL

West Germany's new Ambassador to Israel is Herr Karl Knoke, formerly West German Ambassador to Holland. As a law student Herr Knoke was refused admission to his graduate examinations and a doctorate by the Nazi régime because of his anti-Nazi views. He succeeds Dr. Rolf Pauls, West Germany's first Ambassador to the Jewish State after the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Dr. Pauls will be promoted a ministerial director in the Bonn Foreign Ministry and will be assigned to special political missions as an ambassador. This is regarded as the Government's acknowledgement of his successful efforts to improve relations between West Germany and Israel.

BONN'S AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA

The West German Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Bonn's new Ambassador to South Africa, Gustav Sonnenhol, is a former member of the Nazi Party and of the S.S., stating however that he had been cleared of any criminal activities.

He was a member of the Hitler Youth, the Nazi party and the S.S. from 1939, with the honorary rank of first lieutenant. A denazification tribunal established after the Second World War found him innocent of any criminal acts.

CLEMENCY APPEAL FROM SURVIVORS

Willi Friedrichs, a former official of the Nazi civilian administration in Brest-Litovsk, was convicted in 1950 of robbery and complicity in murder in Germany after the war, and sentenced to hard labour for life, the sentence later being commuted to 20 years' imprisonment. Two years ago Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution appealed for clemency for Friedrichs in view of his wartime rescue of Jews. Friedrichs had been known as the "Guardian Angel" of the Soviet town of Brest-Litovsk. Lower Saxony's Minister of Justice has now ordered Friedrichs' release in November.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Engagement

Cohen : Walters.—David, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cohen, of Banstead (Surrey), to Janet Anne, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Walters (formerly Warschauer), of Bramley (Surrey).

Birthdays

Callman.—Mrs. Hanna Callman, of 69 Greencroft Gardens, London, N.W.6 (formerly Berlin), recently celebrated her 75th birthday. The AJR, of which she has been an interested member since she came to this country after the liberation of the Theresienstadt Camp, extends its heartiest congratulations to her.

Deaths

Ehrenberger.—Mrs. Lisl Schuler announces with regret the death of her father, Mr. Siegfried Ehrenberger, died suddenly on June 21 at Heinrich Stahl House, London, in his 86th year.

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NAZIS FREED

Edgar Enge, a former S.S. corporal found guilty of complicity in the mass murder of 5,780 Yugoslav Jews, walked out of a Frankfurt court a free man, after the judge declared he could not be sentenced since he was acting under orders and his personal guilt was small.

Ten former Nazi policemen were in Bochum acquitted of charges of complicity in the murder of nearly 9,000 Jews in Eastern Europe. They were freed because of insufficient evidence and because it was said they would have risked their lives had they disobeyed orders.

At the trial in Cologne of two men for the mass murder of Jews at Grodno in Poland between 1941 and 1943, former S.S. Sergeant Kurt Wiese received seven sentences of hard labour for life for the murder of seven Jews and complicity in the murder of at least ten ghetto inmates. The indictment claimed he was responsible for the murder of over 100 Jews when in charge of the Nazi ghetto administration. His co-defendant, Heinz Errelis, who had headed the Grodno Gestapo, was acquitted on the ground of insufficient evidence.

DEATH OF HESSE CHIEF PROSECUTOR

Dr. Fritz Bauer, Chief Prosecutor for the State of Hesse, suddenly died in Frankfurt as the result of a heart attack at the age of 64. He was one of the leading investigators of Nazi crimes and took a decisive part in the preparation and subsequent hearings of the Auschwitz trial in 1964. Dr. Bauer was born in Stuttgart as the son of a Jewish businessman and, after the completion of his studies, became a Judge at a Wurttemberg Law Court. In 1933, he was thrown into a concentration camp. He emigrated three years later, but returned to Germany in 1949 to resume his legal career, first as a High Court Judge and later as a public prosecutor. He was widely respected for his righteousness, courage and human approach.

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Letter to the Editor

"THE FEUCHTWANGERS"

AJR Information June, 1968

Sir,—The birthplace of the fascinating Feuchtwanger-Saga was the little place of Feuchtwangen, located on the peaceful Sulzach rivulet in the district called Mittelfranken, now on the Dinkelsbuehl-Dombuehl railway line, somewhat remote from the noise of world events. Once upon a time it was an independent "Reichsstadt", and in 1376 it came under the rule of the Burggraf of Nuremberg. It was from this corner that the Feuchtwangers carried their name away with them, when in 1555—caused by a special edict—they were compelled to start their "emigration." Some of them moved to Schwabach in the vicinity of Nuremberg, some preferred the idyllic Sulzburg (Oberpfalz), others settled in Pappenheim and in the thriving town of Fuerth, which later became the cradle of Feuchtwanger banking business. But all of them remained faithful to their historic family name.

In this context, the curious fact will be remembered that a famous descendant of the family, the author Lion Feuchtwanger, occasionally wrote under the pseudonym "Wet-Cheek" which, after all, was nothing but the simple English "translation" of Feuchtwanger (in German: feuchte Wange).

Finally: exactly 300 years after the departure from old Feuchtwangen in 1555, in the year 1855 beautiful young Elise, daughter of Seligmann Feuchtwanger, fell in love and married "back" again to Feuchtwangen, the place of her family's origin.

Yours, etc.,

J. RAPHAEL.

Ramat Gan, Israel.

OLD ACQUAINTANCES

Our friend PEM is on holiday. He will resume his column next month.

Personal

MY FRIENDS, Continental background, two charming widows, living in easy reach of London, would like to meet Jewish gentlemen between 55-65 for companionship, possibly matrimony. Box 957.

PROFESSIONAL MAN, 70, good financial circumstances, would like to meet lady in similar position; object matrimony. Box 958.

EDUCATED JEWISH GIRL, 20, in good profession, born and living in Western Germany, wishes to meet young man of similar background; object matrimony. Box 959.

LADY (50), divorcee, wishes to meet gentleman of similar age. Object matrimony. Box 960.

ATTRACTIVE WIDOW, early 50, financially independent, wishes to meet suitable gentleman, object matrimony. Box 963.

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ROUND AND ABOUT

A MEMORABLE OCCASION

Leo Baeck Lodge Banquet at Guildhall

More than 600 people filled the historic Guildhall to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the B'nai B'rith (London) Lodge on July 4. The venue at which the function was held as well as the prominent guests who were present symbolised the status which, from humble beginnings, the Leo Baeck Lodge has achieved in the course of its 25 years' activities. A quarter of a century ago, most of the founder members had to struggle hard under the conditions of a new environment. Meanwhile, quite a few of them have made the grade, and after the war those who had served with H.M. Forces joined in. A steady influx of younger people has secured the continuity of the work.

It was a feeling of humility and gratitude which prevailed in the addresses delivered by the Lodge's Hon. Officers. They referred to the threefold forces by which the lives of the Lodge members had been moulded: the German-Jewish culture of the past, the spiritual values of their country of adoption and the eternal postulates of Judaism. While these thoughts were expressed by the Continental speakers, Mr. Arnold R. Horwell (president), Mr. Herbert Garfield and Mr. Fred S. Worms, tributes to the contributions by the former refugees to this country were paid by the illustrious guest speakers, Mr. James Callaghan, M.P., Home Secretary, Mr. Quintin Hogg, M.P., Shadow Home Secretary, and Alderman Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen, a former Lord Mayor of London. The unifying factor of both sets of speeches was the demand for a fair treatment of those racial minorities whose position is now under public discussion.

Messages of greeting included one from the Queen.

The close links between the Leo Baeck Lodge and the AJR are reflected in the fact that quite a few of their hon. officers, past and present, also serve on the Executive or Board of the AJR. Yet, the impact of the function went beyond the occasion by which it was warranted: the dignified and impressive proceedings also added lustre to the position of the Jews from the Continent at large.

W.R.

READER THANKS "AJR INFORMATION"

A few weeks ago the AJR received the following letter from one of its members:

"I have pleasure in enclosing a special donation. I successfully applied for a 'Rente aus der Deutschen Sozialversicherung', as you suggested in *AJR Information* February, 1967. I am grateful to you for having published this article."

ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL ON HEINRICH STAHL HOUSE

As reported in our March issue, Heinrich Stahl House, designed by Mr. H. J. Reifenberg in collaboration with Building Design Partnership, was included in the recent Civic Trust Awards as one of the best architectural works done in Greater London between 1964 and 1967.

It is learned only now that a detailed description of the Home was published in the December, 1965, issue of the periodical "Official Architecture and Planning" ("OAP"). The article deals with the manifold problems involved in converting the old building and linking it with the new block to be erected. "The design", the article states, "has integrated the new accommodation closely with the old house and the resultant compact plan makes for easy and efficient running of the old people's home". The article is illustrated by photographs and layout plans.

"BOURNEMOUTH CONTINENTAL CIRCLE"

During the past five years a "Bournemouth Continental Circle" has been in existence which meets at monthly intervals from October to May. Its objects are to sponsor friendship and to assist newcomers to that town. Any readers who wish to obtain particulars should get in touch with the Chairman, Mrs. C. Schreiber, Flat 7, Pelham Court, Lindsay Road, Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset (Tel.: Westbourne 64704).

MRS. JEANETTE WOLFF 80

Mrs. Jeanette Wolff, former member of the Federal German Parliament, recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She was born in Bocholt (Westphalia), where she joined the Social Democratic Party at an early age. Before the Nazis came to power, she was a member of the Bocholt Municipal Council and also took an active part in the work of the Jewish Women's Association. She lost most members of her family during the war and was herself imprisoned in several concentration camps. After her liberation, she resumed her activities both in the political and in the Jewish sphere. In recognition of her services, she was made an Honorary Citizen of Berlin in December, 1967. Mrs. Wolff is a Deputy Chairman of the Direktorium of the "Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland" and Chairman of the "Repraesentantenversammlung" of the Berlin Jewish community.

GERMAN CONCERT TOUR BY FORMER REFUGEE

To further a new relationship between Germans and Jewish survivors of the holocaust, the violinist, Mrs. Ilse Joseph (Heswall, Cheshire), last year made a concert tour through Western Germany. This year she paid another visit to Germany and, for the first time, also rendered performances in her birthplace Berlin, which she had left before the outbreak of war.

Obituary

MR. GEORGE GOETZ

All too soon after paying our affectionate tributes to George Goetz, the champion of Liberal Judaism, on his 75th birthday, we are mourning his sudden death. It felled him unexpectedly and therefore—we hope—painlessly out of the fulness of his work which, up to the last, he had carried on with eagerness and devotion.

Only a few days before the end, the writer of this obituary note received a letter from him in which he lamented the state of our contemporary world, so full of strife and violence. However, true to his sanguine temperament, he added: "If I had not the good fortune to do mainly work of my own choosing, I am afraid I would find life in this time intolerable."

Happily, we may be comforted by the thought that he did not find it so. His ample resources of soul and mind helped him to retain cheerfulness and serenity. He was blessed with a married life of loving harmony. Our deep sympathy goes to his wife, his sons and daughters-in-law in their great sorrow.

EVA G. REICHMANN.

DR. HANS J. MEYER

Dr. Hans J. Meyer died in New York at the age of 77. He was Chairman of the banking firm of E. M. Warburg & Co. Inc. and took a leading part in Jewish philanthropic activities, especially for the benefit of former German Jews. Dr. Meyer was born in Berlin and, after the completion of his studies, took up a position with the German Foreign Office. In this capacity he was Secretary of the German armistice delegation after the First World War. In 1925, he joined the Warburg firm in Hamburg. He first emigrated to Holland and from there to the U.S.A. Dr. Meyer was a Vice-President of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, a Director of United Help and President of the Jewish Philanthropic Fund of 1933.

DR. FRIEDRICH EDUARD SCHREIBER

On June 11, Dr. Friedrich E. Schreiber passed away in London in his 89th year. Before he was forced to leave Vienna in 1938, he was a doctor to the Wiener Volksoper for more than 30 years. His friends included many well-known personalities, such as Felix Weingartner, Maria Jeritzka, Dr. Karl Schoenherr and Dr. Karl Rankl, who later became Director of Covent Garden Opera House. His charming and amiable personality also endeared him to those whom he met after his immigration to this country. Many of them enjoyed the happy atmosphere of his and his wife's hospitable home.

W. ST.

ANTI-FASCIST RALLY

A European rally against neo-Nazism and fascism was held in Dachau, attended by about 3,000 people, mostly victims of Nazism, from all over Germany and European countries including Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

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AJR GENERAL MEETING

The hall of Hannah Karminski House was filled to capacity for the AJR's General Meeting on June 13. In his opening address the chairman, Mr. A. S. Dresel, paid tribute to the memory of two Board Members who had passed away, Dr. Leo Engel and Dr. Leon Zeitlin, and to the senior member of the Management Committee for the Homes, Mr. Myer Stephany.

The activities of the AJR during the past year were reviewed by the general secretary, Dr. W. Rosenstock. He stated that the facilities offered at Hannah Karminski House, which had been erected by the AJR out of the financial resources of the AJR Charitable Trust, had proved even more beneficial than during the preceding year. The AJR Club was steadily expanding, and there was a constantly growing demand for the use of the hall. Referring to the four Homes for the Aged, the speaker reported that there had been no major changes but that, as in most Homes of this kind, it had often been difficult to find suitable domestic staff. Financially the major part of the current expenses (with the exception of administration costs and substantial repairs) were covered by maintenance payments. However, at Osmond House, where the costs at present amounted to £28 per week for each of the 37 residents, the annual deficit for maintenance amounted to about £20,000. In spite of this, it had been felt necessary to extend the capacity of Osmond House to 51 residents with the erection of a new wing. The AJR Social Services Department was being approached by an increasing number of callers wanting to sublet part of their houses or flats, whereas, for various reasons, the number of those wishing to change their accommodation appears to have decreased. A recent membership drive resulted in the acquisition of 300 new members and donors. This was not only a great help in strengthening the foundations of the AJR, but also indicated a recognition of the importance of our work by people who so far had not been associated with our efforts. As before, there had been a most happy co-operation with a number of other organisations, especially with the C.B.F., Self-Aid, the Jewish Welfare Board and the Leo Baeck Lodge, which during the past two years had made a most generous grant of 800 gns. per annum for needy residents of the Homes, and had decided to renew the grant this year. The AJR is also represented at the Camden Council

for Social Service, the Camden Committee for Communal Relations and the Hampstead Committee of the Council of Christians and Jews.

A progress report on the erection of a Flatlet Home at Avenue Road, Crouch End, was given by Mr. A. S. Dresel. Referring to the manifold difficulties which had to be overcome after the acquisition of the site in 1962, he was now able to announce for the first time at a General Meeting that the actual building work was in progress. The Flatlet Home will comprise 48 one-room flats in a tower block, four two-room flats and a three-room flat as well as communal rooms in a two-floor section of the building. The Home will be the joint property of the Central British Fund and the AJR Charitable Trust at an equity of two-thirds (C.B.F.) and one-third (AJR Charitable Trust). The total costs (including site and architects' fees) will amount to about £340,000, of which £120,000 will be defrayed out of the funds of the two sponsoring organisations and £220,000 by a mortgage. It was not yet possible to indicate the rents to be charged, and the date of completion could not be foretold, though everything possible was being done to expedite matters. Details about the terms of admission and the acceptance of applications would be announced when the date of completion draws nearer. After the erection of the Flatlet Home a comprehensive housing scheme offering three types of accommodation for people of our background will have been implemented: the flatlets for those who can still manage their own households but who need the security of a communal home, the ordinary Old Age Homes for those in need of care and attention and Osmond House for the more infirm. At the same time the Flatlet Home will relieve the pressure on the Old Age Homes.

Dr. F. E. Falk, hon. treasurer of the AJR, in his detailed Financial Report stated that in 1967 the income from subscriptions and donations had amounted to £10,500 as in 1966, and the expenditure to about £18,000. The major part of the deficit was covered by an allocation of £7,000 made by the Allocations Committee of the C.B.F. derived from the heirless Jewish property in Germany. He stressed that it would become increasingly necessary for the AJR to rely on its own resources. Therefore, whenever possible more members should voluntarily increase their subscriptions or supplement them by donations and also help

in obtaining new members. The deficit arising from the production of *AJR Information* could be reduced by a greater income from advertisements.

In his report on restitution and compensation, Dr. W. Breslauer, vice-president of the Council of Jews from Germany, stated that broadly speaking the legislative work had now come to an end. However, it was still necessary for the Council to ensure that the laws were implemented in a proper way. The speaker also dealt with two special laws affecting former German Jews, the Sozialversicherungsgesetz and the Lastenausgleichsgesetz. Turning to political trends in Germany he stated that the successes of the N.P.D. should by no means be underestimated, but in his view it was unlikely that, as least in the foreseeable future, they might impair the claims of the Nazi victims.

The reports were followed by a discussion which provided the opportunity of raising several questions on matters dealt with by the speakers. In the ensuing elections the proposals of the Executive, as published in the June edition of *AJR Information*, were unanimously adopted: the previous Executive and Board members were re-elected, and Mr. L. Spiro and Mr. G. Leon were co-opted to the Executive and Board respectively.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Leo Baeck House and Otto Hirsch House

To mark the tenth anniversaries of the opening of Leo Baeck House and Otto Hirsch House, both Homes held most enjoyable garden parties on June 30 and July 14, respectively. Against expectations, the two Sunday afternoons were blessed by glorious sunshine and provided the opportunity for a happy reunion of the residents and their relatives with the members of the House Committees and a number of interested guests. At Otto Hirsch House, the informal part was followed by an entertaining concert, given by Hilde Lergens and Stephen Bukowitz. The gathering was welcomed by the House Committee Chairman, Dr. W. Dux, and addressed by the guests of honour, the Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Cllr. G. H. Needs, and Lady Henriques, as well as by Mrs. F. Schuster on behalf of the B'nai B'rith Surrey Lodge.

The congenial atmosphere by which the Homes excel is in the first place due to the devoted services of the staff under the guidance of their Matrons, Mrs. G. Dick and Mrs. E. Rosenthal, and of the House Committees under their Chairmen, Mr. F. W. Ury and Dr. W. Dux. We extend our sincerest birthday congratulations to them.

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