

AJR

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Heinrich Fraenkel

CHANCE OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

Assessment of the New Bonn Parliament

Biting off one's nose is the proverbial way to spite one's face, but the German language has a popular cliché even more fitting for the electioneering that led to the present parliamentary situation: "Serves my father jolly well right if my fingers freeze! Why doesn't he buy me some gloves?"

When trying to understand the background of A.P.O. (*Ausserparlamentarische Opposition*) in the universities and of other more or less intellectual young oppositionists, one cannot help thinking of yet another German cliché, one of the most significant ones: *Mit dem Kopf durch die Wand gehen*. While others occasionally may feel like ramming their heads against the wall, the repeated attempt to go right through the wall is an old German custom. It was exactly what those exhilarating and yet exasperating youngsters tried to do: and it is relevant to some belated poll-arithmetics we will now have to indulge in. It may be argued that to ponder over the might-have-been is a fruitless and unrealistic pastime, but it is quite realistic in a situation that may well repeat itself before very long. So let's tot up the figures and see what those youngsters had to do with it.

Fortunately, now there seems to be reasonable ground for cautious optimism, but even at best an S.P.D.-F.D.P. administration might be fragile and vulnerable after a shaky start; and that could have been avoided if those youngsters had shown a bit of wisdom to match their physical courage.

"Believe me", some of them told me in Munich, Hamburg and elsewhere, two or three weeks before election day, "it's no fun to be drenched by water cannons and to feel the rubber truncheons of brutalised policemen. But noisy rowing is the only way to stop the Thadden menace in the bud".

I agreed and then asked why they did not give a show of brains as well as discipline. Why not stop the din at a given moment and have one of their leaders shout up to the inaudible man in his glass cage: "Very well, Thadden, we've shown you what we think of you. Now you'll have twenty minutes of absolute silence to state your case. Then we'll put you some questions".

Had they done this, the Thadden vote would have been reduced to its proper size of somewhere between 3 and 3½ per cent rather than coming dangerously near the gates of the *Bundshaus*. No doubt, scores of thousands voted N.P.D. (or C.D.U.-C.S.U.) out of annoyance or spite or because they felt that "law and order" would be safeguarded by those parties.

But there is another point to be considered for our belated poll-arithmetics: the deplor-

able fact that a great many of the APO-students and other young intellectuals either refrained from voting or wasted their votes on hopelessly ineffectual splinter-parties. When in Hamburg just over a fortnight before election day, I was astounded to hear from very intelligent and influential student leaders that, after endless debates with hundreds of their friends, they had come to the conclusion that the one thing "decently" to be done was "demonstratively" to refrain from voting. None of my arguments seemed to sway them, least of all a reference to the Nixon-Humphrey contest and the fact that a few scores of thousands of American highbrows, by whimsically wasting their votes on a Negro pop singer, may well have swung the decision in favour of what, to them, must have been the worse rather than the lesser evil.

Anyway, if those German youngsters could have been persuaded to behave rationally rather than emotionally it would have made just that little, but vital, difference of giving the C.D.U.-C.S.U. a point or two less and the S.P.D.-F.D.P. a point or two more; just enough to lift the existing meagre and precarious majority of 12 up to a perfectly safe margin somewhere between 20 and 30.

But what about that existing majority? And how will it stand up to parliamentary trials and tribulations? When trying to answer this question I can't help thinking of an instructive conversation just a week or two after the "Grand Coalition" had been formed. I was booked for a Cologne television programme and it so happened that one of the journalists on that panel was a most knowledgeable S.P.D. man, who, for years, had been the Party's press representative. I quizzed him about the indecent haste of his Party bosses to get into office. After all, they had never been in so strong, nor the C.D.U. in so weak, a position. Why not let them stew in their own juice for a bit? Why the hurry? And why, indeed, not go into coalition with the F.D.P.? True, it would have been a majority of a mere half-dozen, but, then, didn't our Harold soldier on for quite some time with half that majority and even less?

"It would not have been realistic", the man answered. "That majority would have withered within a day or two by the simple means of wooing away six of the F.D.P. deputies". (He used the term "*abwerben*".) I was sceptical and checked the argument with quite a few well-informed friends. Most of them agreed that in the circumstances of that time it would have probably happened that way and that Wehner and Brandt had no alternative to the "Grand Coalition".

But what about the present position? The

first answer is that twelve, however modest a figure, is twice as much as six. As for the "wooing," there is plenty of evidence that quite a lot of it has been tried within the first week after polling day; but there is evidence, too, that, so far, the C.D.U. "woosers" have not been very successful, nor even their C.S.U. colleagues in Bavaria. True enough, the F.D.P. is, basically, a "right wing" Party, but there is no doubt either that the "leftist" swing under Scheel is genuine and that many of the middle-of-the-road men in the Party are well aware of the trend, particularly among the younger members. They should have no doubts that their Party must sink or swim with the S.P.D.

As for Mende, the former Party chief, he was, of course, much in favour of the old C.D.U. alliance rather than the Social Democrats. But since he took a full-time job managing Mr. Cornfeld's world-wide investment trust, he has been more or less a backbencher in his own party. Yet let's face the fact that on the first hectic day or two after the election there were some very massive attempts at wooing F.D.P. members away from the S.P.D., particularly those who inclined that way anyway.

According to *Der Spiegel* and quite a few other well informed sources very substantial financial inducements were offered to certain industrialists, and the man who organised such back-stage intrigues was said to be none other than Herr Globke who first gained notoriety by drafting the antisemitic *Nuernberger Gesetze* soon after Hitler's advent to power. He gained even more notoriety when Adenauer, despite a good deal of justified "gunning" against it (and by no means from Communist and D.D.R. quarters only), insisted on keeping Globke as his chief administrative aide. He did it, partly because Globke, undoubtedly, was a very efficient official and because *Der Alte* d'd not like to have to get used to new facts; besides the very gunning against Globke made Adenauer even more stubborn than he was anyway.

It was only after the old man's demise that Globke could vanish into obscurity. His niche in history was dismal enough even without the addition of that post-election intrigue. Anyway, it certainly backfired and, according to *Der Spiegel*, at least one right-wing F.D.P. man, Hansheinrich Schmidt, was so disgusted with the attempted bribery and corruption that he wanted to have nothing to do with it. "Only yesterday", he said, "I was all in favour of a C.D.U. alliance. But I no longer am".

Generally speaking, it should be borne in mind that the F.D.P., despite its bad show at the polls, has sort of shrunk into significance and possibly greater significance than ever. Under its new Left-wing leader the party may well have a new lease of life.

If Brandt, with Scheel's help, succeeds in establishing and stabilising his administration he will probably seek the earliest opportunity

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CHANCE OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

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of increasing his small majority. This could be done by providing full voting rights (which, so far, they have not had) for the Berlin deputies in the Bonn Parliament. This would, of course, require legislation which would be plausible in that the East Berlin deputies in the D.D.R. *Volkskammer* have recently claimed full voting rights, too (and objections on account of the city's "four-power status" seem most unlikely). If and when the requisite legislation is accomplished, it would add a useful half-dozen to Brandt's meagre majority of a dozen, which certainly would include a few F.D.P. members not exactly enthusiastic about being junior partners of the S.P.D. Among the Berlin deputies in Bonn there is, anyway, only one member of the FDP, but there are as many as 13 S.P.D. members against a mere eight Christian Democrats.

Now what about the N.P.D.? Having failed to achieve the coveted 5 per cent of the votes, can they be written off for good and all? Will they dissolve or be banned, like the two or three "neo-Nazi" parties before them? Will Thadden fall into well-deserved oblivion? I don't think so. Of course, he has offered to stand down as Party leader, but they will stick to him, if only because of their dismal lack of personalities. And, after all, they can proudly claim to have more than doubled their percentage on the stony climb towards the magic five. In 1967, when first trying for the *Bundeshaus*, they only got 2.1 per cent. This time they got 4.3, largely, as we have seen, thanks to the A.P.O. demonstrations and to the ludicrously disproportionate world-wide publicity given to this rather ridiculous little party.

Of course, they got similarly disproportionate attention and world-wide TV coverage, when they had modest local successes in *Länder* elections some three or four years ago. At that time, I said in these columns (and elsewhere) that, while it was wise to take the N.P.D. seriously (even a good deal more seriously than they deserved), one should not exaggerate their very slim chances of a political future in Bonn. True enough, unlike their predecessors, none of whom ever got beyond a 10,000 party membership and all of whom had been banned, the N.P.D. very soon reached a membership of some 20,000 and then got on to round about 30,000. But they never got any further than that, and to keep a proper perspective let us remember that 30,000 is less than one-tenth per cent of an electorate of some 30 millions. Moreover, a few N.P.D. members in one or two *Länder* Parliaments have now had a few years to throw their (very modest) weight about. Not one of them has made his mark as a serious politician, and some of them never ceased to make fools of themselves. So I feel entitled to what I said years ago, when Thadden was first boosted as a major menace: the real menace was not in that ridiculous little party, it was (and still is) right up in the establishment. No doubt that Strauss and Springer—both of them quite untainted with a Nazi past and one of them with a veritable gimmick of (undoubtedly genuine) philosemitism—are a hundred times more dangerous than a score of "neo-Nazi" crackpots rolled into one.

It is, of course, an unmitigated blessing that the N.P.D. failed to qualify for the Bonn Parliament; but had they reached, say, 5.1 per cent the C.D.U.-C.S.U. would have soon forgotten their previous proud boast that never, and under no conceivable circumstances would they consider taking Thadden into a coalition.

After all, to be choosy about one's bed-fellows is a luxury which not everybody can afford at all times. And let us not forget that those two parties—the huge and very "respectable" one and the tiny and rather disreputable one—not so long ago, in fact, ganged up trying to stop Heinemann, and a very narrow squeak it was.

I would not consider it an exaggeration to say that Heinemann's election as Federal President earlier this year was an event of world-historical importance and that, so far as German post-war history is concerned, it was the first really good news in 20 years; and if Brandt succeeds in establishing and consolidating his administration we will be entitled to feel that the two events at the beginning and near the end of 1969 mark the beginnings of a truly fundamental change for the better; which, inevitably, would have world-wide beneficial repercussions.

It would mark the end of the stubbornly illusionist policies which the reigning party has carried through all that time and would continue with a vengeance if given half a chance. It might mean a switch from emotionalism to rationalism and the beginnings of a genuine *détente* in East-West relations; and since such a show of good common sense would spread beyond the borders of the two Germanies it might make us hopeful for a more sensible world in the 'seventies.

'ZENTRALRAT' ON ELECTION RESULTS

The Board of the Central Council of Jews in Germany expressed satisfaction that 90 per cent of the West German electorate cast their votes for the democratic parties. At the same time, the Board pointed out that the Right-wing extremist group had polled many more votes than in the 1965 elections and called on the authorities to give adequate consideration to this.

TRIALS

Sachsenhausen Guards

The trial opened in Munich early in October of Franz Ettlinter, aged 57, Kurt Eccarius, 64, and Karl Drexler, 69, all of them former S.S. guards in Sachsenhausen concentration camp. They are charged with complicity in mass murder and individual murder of prisoners in the camp.

Eichmann Aide

Franz Novak, a former close associate of Adolf Eichmann, will be tried in Vienna in November for the third time on charges of complicity in the 1944 deportation of 437,402 Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz concentration camp where most of them were murdered.

COMPENSATION NEWS

FUTURE CLAIMS UNDER THE GERMAN SOCIAL SECURITY LAWS

Many refugees were insured in Germany for only very short periods. They were perhaps very young and took a job just for a few months before their emigration. Or they went for a short time in Germany in domestic service as it was so much easier to get an immigration and work-permit in the U.K. for domestics. But if they were insured in Germany even for one week only, their insurance period is quite considerable because the time from their emigration until December 31, 1949, counts. This would be sufficient in any case to claim a disability pension, even if such disability occurs only at the age of 75. But for a German old age pension an insurance period of 180 months (= 15 years) is required. If this period is not covered a new German law, now in preparation, will most probably give the opportunity to all concerned to pay the missing contributions voluntarily.

Many refugees when emigrating have lost the German documents relating to the German Social Security. In most cases it is possible to get replacements. But the longer the person concerned waits, the more difficult it gets.

Persons born in 1922 will qualify for German Social Security pensions in 1982 or 1987. Witnesses now available may not be alive at such a late date.

DEUTSCHE SOZIALVERSICHERUNGSRENTEN

Ab 1. Januar 1970 werden Renten von Personen, die vor dem 1. Januar 1969 rentenberechtigt geworden sind, in der Unfallversicherung um 6.1% und alle uebrigen Renten um 6.35% erhoeht.

UNCLAIMED PICTURES IN VIENNA

The Bundesdenkmalamt in Vienna holds in custody pictures and other objects of art, whose rightful owners are not known. A full list of the items was published by the Austrian authorities together with the text of the "Bundesgesetz vom 27. Juni 1969 ueber die Bereinigung der Eigentumsverhaeltnisse des im Gewahrsam des Bundesdenkmalamtes befindlichen Kunst- und Kulturgutes". The list comprises pictures, drawings, etchings, sculptures, antique furniture, tapestries, porcelain, ceramics, silver pieces, carpets, coins, autographs, books, etc. Enquiries may be made with the United Restitution Organisation (Austrian Desk), 183/189 Finchley Road, London, N.W.3.

Claims by the rightful owners have to be submitted to the Finanzlandesdirektion, Vienna 1, Kleeblattgasse 4, before December 31, 1970.

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HOME NEWS

MACLEOD JOINS ANGLO-ISRAEL LEAGUE

Mr. Iain Macleod, member of the Conservative shadow Cabinet, has joined the new Anglo-Israel Friendship League in Southgate. He is the second "shadow" Minister to join one of the local leagues; the other is Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P. Three other M.P.s have joined the Southgate league. They are Mr. Austen Albu, Mr. Anthony Berry and Mr. John Mackie.

RUISLIP LIBERAL CANDIDATE ADOPTED

Ruislip and Northwood Liberal Association has adopted Miss Joyce Arram, a solicitors' managing clerk, as its prospective Parliamentary candidate.

WATCH ON ARAB CENTRE

Police will investigate the activities of the Arab Centre in Chelsea bought by Mrs. Margaret McKay, M.P., for £40,000, "if there is evidence that the law is being broken". This was stated by a Home Office spokesman early in October when he was asked to comment on Mrs. McKay's assertion in Beirut a few days before to the effect that the "centre for cultural affairs" would serve also as a commando post, which would help "to forward the liberation of Palestine." Mrs. McKay bought the premises in Pont Street with money given to her as chairman of the Anglo-Jordanian Alliance by the ruler of Abu Dhabi.

M.P.'S PLEA TO FOREIGN SECRETARY

Speaking at a dinner in the House of Commons arranged by the Brent Women's Zionist Society Sir Ian Orr-Ewing, M.P. for Hendon North, announced that he had written to the Foreign Secretary asking him to press the Iraqi Government to allow Jews to leave the country and to release those now in prison. He had drawn his attention to the ghastly happenings in Iraq and the sufferings of the Jews there. Sir Ian urged Britain to use her power in the diplomatic sphere to bring about a conference of Western and Middle East Nations in an effort to solve the Middle East problem.

The other guest speaker was Mr. Moshe Shamir, author and playwright, who is now head of the aliya department of the Jewish Agency in London. Mrs. Michael Singer, chairman of Brent Wizo, also spoke.

LIBERAL FRIENDS

Mr. Richard Lamb, editor of "New Outlook", a magazine which last April published a vicious attack on Israel, has joined the newly established Liberal Friends of Israel Association. Mr. John Baker, chairman of the Liberal Party executive, and the Rev. Albert McElroy, president of the Northern Ireland Liberal Party, have also joined. The association was inaugurated during the Party's annual conference in Brighton last month. It has about 100 members including Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, leader of the Party and Lord Beaumont, Party president.

BOARD CALLS ON GERMAN EMBASSY

Sir Barnett Janner, M.P., chairman of the Board of Deputies' foreign affairs committee, and Mr. Abraham Marks, secretary of the Board, had a meeting a short while ago with Mr. Blankenhorn, West German Ambassador. They discussed the lenient sentences passed recently on former Nazi war criminals and the need to hasten the trials of others charged with war crimes. Sir Barnett and Mr. Marks also expressed their concern about the circulation in West German schools and libraries of an anthology, "Der Ewige Brunnen." (Readers may find references to this publication in this issue of AJR Information and several previous editions.—The Ed.)

DEPUTIES' REPORT ON RACE RELATIONS

A report and recommendations on race relations was released by the Board of Deputies at its meeting on October 12. The report recommends, *inter alia*, close co-operation with race relations organisations. It also suggests that Jewish students and youth organisations should contact immigrant bodies and offer their help in various ways including teaching of English, care of children, and education in citizenship. Jewish employers and organisations in industrial relations, it is stated, are making an essential contribution to improve race relations by the employment of coloured immigrants; an effort should be made to extend this contribution. The Trades Advisory Council encourages Jewish employers to provide work for immigrants and particularly industrial training opportunities for coloured school-leavers.

MRS. DAYAN AT SPEAKERS' CORNER

During her stay in London recently Mrs. Ruth Dayan, wife of the Israeli Minister of Defence, strongly criticised British Jews for shouting down Arab speakers in Hyde Park. However wrong and exaggerated their arguments were, those young Arabs had the right to say what they wanted. Screaming at them would only harm the Israeli case. In Israel, Mrs. Dayan said, they were trying to live with the Arabs—not to shout them down. Screaming at some Arab students and singing "Hava Nagila" in front of them was undignified. What did those few young Arabs have to do with, for instance, the hangings in Iraq. "I was shocked and felt ashamed for my people", she said. Scenes like those she had seen at Speakers' Corner would achieve exactly the opposite result of what was intended. They would make British onlookers feel sympathetic to the Arabs who had not been given a fair chance to explain their case. The Arabs, she said, were good-natured people at heart. This was why, despite the tension in the Middle East, Israelis did not feel the same hatred for the Arabs which the Jews had felt towards the Nazis.

Mrs. Dayan also disapproved of any Jewish measures to counteract Arab terrorist acts in Britain. That should be left to Scotland Yard. Jews should not behave like some of the Arabs.

CONTROVERSY IN TRADES PAPER

The September issue of "Sogat", the monthly journal of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, contained an allegation that Israelis were using "fascist methods and tactics" against Arabs "struggling for their freedom."

Among the people who protested to Mr. Richard Briginshaw, editor of the journal and joint general-secretary of the union, was Mr. G. Silverman, head of the union's branch in the *Jewish Chronicle*. "How you can put such a biased view in your otherwise esteemed journal is beyond us", Mr. Silverman wrote. In his reply Mr. Briginshaw assured him that he was "making arrangements for a very comprehensive review of matters that have arisen" as a result of the comment published.

In the October issue, two pages were set aside to accommodate the strong reaction by the anti-Israeli allegation.

PRO-ARAB AT ISRAEL TALK

Mr. Michael Adams, director of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, was a guest speaker at a seminar on "Jewish-Arab Co-existence" organised by Young Mapam at the David Eder Farm near Horsham. Speaking in a private capacity Mr. Adams gave an account of the current Middle East situation and stressed the need for more communication between both sides. Other speakers at the seminar were Dr. Meir Michaelis, a visiting Israeli lecturer at the London School of Economics and Mr. Yair Evron, an Israeli research student at the L.S.E.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Duke Ignores Arab Plea

The Duke of Edinburgh is ignoring Arab pressure not to attend a dinner in November at which one of the organisers and beneficiaries will be the Jewish National Fund. The dinner which will be followed by a boxing show, is in aid of the J.N.F. and the National Playing Fields Association, of which the Duke is president. "Free Palestine", an Arab monthly, has deplored the fact that the Duke will be supporting a Jewish function. It described it as "an open affront to the whole Arab world."

New Communal Link with Israel

On the initiative of the Chief Rabbi the United Synagogue is to set up an Israel department as its instrument of identification with, and commitment to the Jewish State. The department—to be known as Israel Committee of the US—will not be a fund-raising body.

Christians in Succah

A reception for Christian clergy and churchwardens was held in the Hampstead succah early in October. About 60 people attended representing churches throughout Camden. The guests of honour were Dame Florence Cayford, Mayor of Camden and her husband. The hosts were the Rev. Raymond Apple, minister of the synagogue and Mr. Robert Brodtman, chairman of the Hampstead Council of Christians and Jews.

Britain Lagging in Aid for Refugees

Mr. Victor Waddington, joint treasurer of the Central British Fund, speaking at the annual appeal dinner of the C.B.F. and Ose at the Dorchester Hotel in London, said people had lost sight of the tremendous size of the Jewish refugee problem. This was one of the reasons why not enough money was being raised in Britain. At present there were between three-and-a-half to four million Jewish refugees, yet last year world Jewry contributed only £11 million for this problem—less than half of what was required. To pay her proportional share Britain needed to raise £1 million; in the past, the total was only about £200,000.

New Home at Hemel Hempstead

The new £74,000 Ike Morris Home for elderly, mentally frail people which was consecrated and opened recently, is named in memory of a former president of the Sportsman's Aid Society. It stands alongside the Jewish Welfare Board's existing home and flatlets. The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Stephen McAdden, M.P. The 130 guests at the opening were welcomed by Lord Nathan, J.W.B. president and included the Mayor and Mayoress of Hemel Hempstead, Councillor and Mrs. J. Doyle. The home is designed to meet the needs of people in a state of advanced senility. The matron is Mrs. Geraldine Jackson, formerly assistant matron at the board's home in Ballards Lane, Finchley.

Manchester Rabbinical Research Academy

Mr. Arthur Hubert and his son Walter have donated £5,000 to the Manchester Kolel (Academy of Rabbinical Research). Wall plaques commemorating the election of Mr. Arthur Hubert as the Kolel's first life-governor and his son as a life-president were unveiled at the Kolel.

Torah College for Females

Britain's first Torah seminary for girls opened in Golders Green early in October. Five girls have enrolled for full-time studies and 15 (all married) as part-time students. The principal of the seminary is Rabbi O. Schonthal who has one other full-time teacher and a part-time teacher working for him.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Appointment for Cecil Roth

Dr. Cecil Roth, the Jewish historian and president of the Jewish Historical Society of England has been appointed visiting professor of Jewish history at the Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University (Orthodox) in New York.

SOUTH AFRICA

Jewish Studies at University

A degree in modern Jewish studies has been established at Rhodes University in Grahamstown and the courses officially designated "Post-Biblical Studies (Judaica)" will open next year.

Dr. Bernard Steinberg is mainly responsible for this development. Formerly headmaster of Kerem School in London, he left for South Africa in July, 1968, to work with Jewish students.

AUSTRALIANS TO COMBAT ARAB PROPAGANDA

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry at a special meeting in Sydney chaired by Mr. Gerald Y. Falk, decided to organise a nationwide public relations network "in order to advance in the Australian general community the adequate presentation of the position and rights of Israel and the Jewish people, particularly in relation to countering Arab propaganda within the Commonwealth, and mobilising Australian and world public opinion for the cause of securing the early release of Jews from Arab countries". Representatives of all Jewish communities, B'nai B'rith, Zionist organisations and some special advisers attended the meeting.

According to official statistics, immigration from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan has increased in the past few years and the number of Moslems now living in Australia is put at nearly 20,000. There are 69,000 Jews in the country.

DUTCH RABBIS JOIN PROTEST ON WAR CRIMINALS' RELEASE

The Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Liberal Jewish communities in Holland have written to Dr. Carel H. F. Polak, Minister of Justice, protesting against his proposed legislation to free on licence the last three German war criminals serving life sentences in Holland. An open letter in support of the protest has been addressed to the Ministers, Members of Parliament and the Dutch public by the Auschwitz Committee.

There is public controversy on the issue. Chief Rabbi Leon Vorst, of Rotterdam, and Rabbi Dr. Jacob Soetendorp, Liberal minister in Amsterdam, opposed the release on television, while Chief Rabbi Eliezer Berlinger has done so in a newspaper article. However, Mr. Abel J. Herzberg, a former prisoner in Bergen-Belsen and author of the "Chronicle of the Persecution of the Jews" has publicly supported the release. Professor Jacob Presser, author of "Ashes in the Wind", the definitive account of the wartime destruction of Dutch Jewry, has said that "he is 51 per cent for release and 49 per cent against". Some Catholic clergy and most newspapers favour release.

The three men—F. Fischer, 68; Ferdinand aus der Fuenten, 59; and J. J. Kotaella, 61—were sentenced to death for war crimes by a Dutch court. Their sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment. Willy Lages, another war criminal serving a life sentence, was freed in 1966 by Dr. I. Samkalden, the then Minister of Justice, because it was believed he had only a short time to live. After a number of operations he is now living quietly in West Germany.

Both Dr. Samkalden and Dr. Polak are Jews.

POLISH JEWS LEAVING 'IN THOUSANDS'

Mr. Louis D. Horwitz, director-general of the American Joint Distribution Committee, told members of the United Jewish Appeal study mission that Jews have been pouring through Vienna from Poland at the rate of 250 a week since early September and, if this flow continues, nearly 4,000 Jews will have left Poland by the end of the year. The J.D.C. expenditure on these and other refugees from Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa will probably exceed \$1,000,000.

It is reported from Haifa that Mr. Jerzy Ros, a 50-year-old Polish journalist, diplomat and one-time aide to the former Polish Foreign Minister, Rapacki, said on his arrival here that the Polish intellectuals were silent about the persecution of Jews in Poland because they feared repercussions on themselves. Ros had been preparing to leave Poland for two years with his family, after having been refused permission to take up three separate assignments at Polish embassies abroad because he was Jewish. According to him, the purpose of the Polish announcement that registration of Jews for emigration would be made more difficult after September was to hasten their departure. Only a few thousand elderly Jews and some who felt themselves to be more Polish than Jewish would remain in the country. He said the price that Poland had paid for the persecution of Jews was a high one. It had lost its image as a small, courageous and idealistic country; instead the world saw a Socialist Poland which was also antisemitic. This could not be without effect on Communist and Socialist Parties throughout the world. Their many Jewish adherents must now realise that Communism and antisemitism were not as contradictory as he—Ros—had believed them to be until only two years ago.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Assurance to Jewish Communities

Mr. Karel Hruza, newly appointed Director of the State Secretariat for Church Affairs and Religious Societies, told a delegation of the Czechoslovak Council of Jewish Communities that the Czechoslovak Government did not intend to change its liberal attitude towards churches and "religious societies" because it wanted all citizens, whatever their faith, to feel "happy and at home" in the country. The delegation included Mr. Frantisek Fuchs, Council president; Pavel Kollmann, chairman of the Prague community; Dr. Rudolf Iltis, chairman of the Prague community's cultural committee. A Jewish documentation centre is to be opened at the State Jewish Museum in Prague as an independent research institute. It will be concerned mainly with records of Terezin concentration camp.

Monument in Freud's Birth Town

A monument paying tribute to Professor Sigmund Freud who was born at Pribor (Freiberg), was unveiled by the Town Council on October 4.

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SOVIET UNION

New Year Greetings to Israel

After a two-year break, Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, Chief Rabbi of Moscow, has again sent festival greetings to Rabbi Itzhak Nissim, Sephardi Chief Rabbi in Israel. A type-written letter was received in Jerusalem from Rabbi Levin with the traditional Orthodox good wishes. In his reply Rabbi Nissim expressed the hope that "our brothers in the U.S.S.R. will be privileged to come to Zion in joy and take part in the building of undivided Jerusalem".

Rabbi I. J. Unterman, Israel's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, circulated to all synagogues a prayer he had composed for the Jews in the Soviet Union and in Arab countries.

Jewish-born Priest Detained

Anatoly Emmanuilovich Levitin-Krasnov, 54-year-old theologian of the Russian Orthodox Church and leading member of the dissident group of Soviet intellectuals, who is of Jewish origin, was arrested in Moscow early in September. Although no official reason was given for the arrest, it coincides with a new wave of Soviet attacks on religion and follows an article in "Nauka i Religia", a Soviet atheist monthly, on religious reformers in the Russian Church. Levitin-Krasnov was the only individual singled out in the article as an enemy of the State.

Anti-Zionist Article

The June issue of "Kommunist Moldavi", the official Russian language ideological monthly of the Moldavian Communist Party, carried an article by I. Feldman containing a particularly vicious attack on Zionism and Judaism. (Moldavia is the Soviet republic with the highest percentage of Jews among the population; they amount to about one-fifth of the inhabitants of Kishinev, the capital.) Feldman accused the Zionists of Nazi racialism noting that they "conduct raging propaganda about the 'purity' of the Jewish race and the 'inferiority' of the Arab peoples surrounding Israel".

"Decrepit Biblical dogmas and myths have become one of the corner-stones of official Israeli policy". The U.S.S.R., Feldmann declares, "will continue to come out firmly against any attempts by the Israeli militarists to alter the Middle East map by force, to substitute fantastic 'Biblical Law' for international law, and to use . . . the fig-leaf of Yahveh's covenant with the 'Chosen People' to camouflage senseless military adventures".

Bokharan Jews Keep on Writing

Although small in numbers the 21,000 Bokharan Jews of the Soviet Union, most of whom live in the Uzbek Republic, have produced a rich and varied literature in religious as well as secular fields. Their language, Jewish-Tadzhik, is an ancient Persian-Jewish dialect written in Hebrew characters. In the 1920s the Bokharan Jews had a number of schools in which Jewish-Tadzhik was the language of instruction, and three periodicals in their own language. Since then the schools have been closed down and the periodicals suppressed one by one. Bokharan Jewish writers were among the participants at the founding congress of the Soviet Writers' Association in 1934. Some of them, like Yakub Chaimov, are still writing, though their works do not appear in their native tongue.

RUMANIAN MUFTI ON EL AKSA ARSON

King Feisal has received a message from the head of Rumania's Moslem community condemning "the deplorable crime" of the burning of the El Aksa Mosque. Unlike his counterparts in other Communist territories the Rumanian Mufti made no reference to Israel, but voiced the hope of Rumanian Moslems that "further efforts will be made to settle the problems of the area in the interest of world peace and security and the prosperity of the peoples of this part of the world".

A. Rosenberg

TOLLER: A PLAY AND AN ANNIVERSARY

Fifty years have passed since the short interlude of the "Raeterepublik Bayern". Is it of any interest or concern to us in 1969? Until I had read Ernst Toller's "Eine Jugend in Deutschland",* I thought it would be best forgotten. His description of the revolutionary episode suddenly makes us aware of a host of problems and questions just as topical and burning today as they were then. The dramatic potentialities are astonishing and numerous. The tragedy of a few stands for the tragedy, the eternal tragedy, of mankind and contributes towards an understanding of the still incomprehensible fate of German Jewry. But why?

We remember the names of the protagonists of the events in Munich in April, 1919: Muehsam, Landauer, Leviné and not least Ernst Toller. There was a clash between abstract political philosophy and idealism and hard and brutal reality. For Landauer, so completely naive and totally lacking guile, to be involved in a rebellion would have been funny, had it not been so movingly tragic. There was Toller, burning with the will to save the world and with youthful courage (he was 26 at the time), never quite sure whether he was in a play or in rude reality. He hated ruthlessness and violence and tried to make a revolution inspired by love and humanity. We watch the complete confusion of all these would-be politicians and rebels, this mixture of leaders of Jewish high-powered intellectuals and well intentioned but simple non-Jewish enthusiasts. There is not one real political talent among them, with one exception: the Russian Communist Leviné. But his "realism" which he had acquired in long years of revolutionary activity in Russia and during the Bolshevik revolution, was hopelessly at loggerheads with German idealism.

Tankred Dorst, born in 1925, is a German playwright who was apparently fascinated by the wealth of dramatic raw material described before. In 1968 he published his "Toller".† The play consists of a series of loosely connected scenes of a realistic and surrealist character. The author suggests that no stage décor should be used. This places the play in an atmosphere of timelessness and symbolism. We see in these scenes the leaders discussing and squabbling, making high-sounding speeches, we see demonstrations, a music-hall act, Toller in bed with Olga, the headquarters of the Reichswehr, the court that sent Toller to prison for five years.

What sort of picture do we get of the revolutionaries of Jewish origin? Muehsam, dedicated, but slightly ironical and distant. Landauer, completely enveloped in his anarcho-socialist utopia, not understanding at all what it was all about. Leviné, party doctrinaire, clear, ruthless if necessary, without any illusions. And Toller, the hero of the play.

He is fully committed, mentally and physically. Elated when the workers give him an ovation, always ready to fight and to die for his cause. He refuses to co-operate with the Communists because they spurn his ideal of peaceful and humane means to the end he so earnestly desired. A brave man who does not retract a word or disown a single deed when facing his judges.

In one scene students indulge in an orgy of brutish and vulgar antisemitism.

Ein Student: Und der kleine Toller-Cohn
fühlt sich als Messias schon!
Der Student strampelnd auf dem Boden:
O Moses! O Moses!
Ich mach mich in die Hoses!

The contrast between these thugs and the selfless idealism of the revolutionaries is deeply impressive.

The play was first performed in Stuttgart with great success and later in other West German theatres, but not in Munich because the Bavarian authorities did not think it opportune.

The play dissipates all the legends, distortions and slanders the National Socialists and other antisemites had spread about the Jews in the Raeterepublik.

It does not answer the question why Jews played a role in this adventure which was quite out of proportion to their numbers. The author might reply that this was not his intention. He probably wanted to demonstrate how not to make a revolution, as a lesson for future rebels.

We cannot help wondering whether it was right for Toller and his friends to forget their Jewish origins and to ignore that their actions might provide grist to the mill of antisemitism.

In his autobiography Toller mentioned how as a soldier on the Western Front he wrote to a court asking to be removed from the "Listen der juedischen Gemeinschaft". He wanted to be a German and nothing else. His love for Germany made him volunteer for the German army in 1914. But later he had second thoughts. In "Eine Jugend in Deutschland", published in 1933, he wrote: "Fragte mich einer, sage mir wo sind deine deutschen Wurzeln, und wo deine juedischen, ich bliebe stumm. . . . eine juedische Mutter hat mich geboren, Deutschland hat mich genaeht, Europa mich gebildet, meine Heimat ist die Erde, die Welt mein Vaterland."

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Old Acquaintances

News from Everywhere: Robert Gilbert, who lives in Locarno, is adapting the musical show "Mame" for the German stage.—The son of Max Reinhardt's "lector", Arthur Kahane, Dr. P. Kahane, has gone to America from Jerusalem to lecture on archaeology at the Missouri University.—The Israeli star, Topol, who achieved fame in London in "Fiddler on the Roof", will play the role of Sancho Panza and co-star with Danny Kaye in the forthcoming film version of "Don Quixote".

Austria: Zarah Leander is starring in "Wodka fuer eine Koenigin" at Vienna's Raimund-Theater.—Johannes Heesters appeared in Peter Loos' production at the Kammerspiele of "Gastspiele" by R. Hornery and W. Firner.—This year's "Josef Kainz" Medal was awarded to Helmut Qualtinger, Elfriede Ott and Hans Hollmann.—An underground train system is to be built in Vienna.

Milestones: The art historian and former "Reichskunstwart", Dr. Edwin Redslob, has attained the age of 85. He was a co-publisher of Berlin's daily paper "Tagesspiegel".—The Dresden-born painter Gert Wollheim, who now lives in the United States, is 75.—Film producer Josef Somlo, who before 1933 made many films in Berlin and also in London until his retirement to Locarno a few years ago, is 85 years of age.—Berlin's Tribuene opened exactly 50 years ago with Toller's "Wandlung" which was produced by Karl Heinz Martin and starred Fritz Kortner. Its opening was the birth of the "theatre of expressionism".

Germany: The role of "Frau Alving" will be played by Paula Wessely in "Ghosts", which will also star Mathias Wiemann and Rene Deltgen at Hamburg's Thalia-Theater.—Curt Bois will appear as Tartuffe in Hortense Raky's "Dorine", produced by Karl Paryla at Hamburg's Schauspielhaus.—Fritz Kortner is to direct "Clavigo" in Hamburg.—Grete Mosheim and Therese Giehse appeared at Berlin's Renaissance Theater in Albee's "Mao-Tse-Tung".—Sonja Ziemann, Alice Treff and Hilde Volk star in "Vierzig Karat" at Munich's Kleine Komodie.—In Munich Peter Zadek directed Bond's "Schmaler Weg in den tiefen Norden".

Too Late: The City of Hanover is to pay DM 900,000 for a collection of 15 paintings by the inventor of "Merz" art, Kurt Schwitters, who died, whilst in exile in London, of starvation.

Berlin: The Berlin Jewish community has just celebrated the tenth anniversary of the establishment of their Community Centre in the Fasanenstrasse. The function was attended by the Lord Mayor of Berlin, and the entertainers, who mostly came from London, and included the pop singers, Helen Shapiro and Julie Felix, as well as virtuoso, Larry Adler.

Obituary: Eric Godal, the 69-year-old cartoonist, has died in Hamburg. He survived the war in New York and returned to Germany, where he worked for *Welt am Sonntag*. His autobiography was published recently.—The 71-year-old actor, director and co-founder, with Werner Finck, of "Katakomba", Hans Deppe, has died in Berlin.—The composer, Rudolf Wagner Regeny, has passed away in East Berlin at the age of 66. He was a member of the Academy of Arts and had worked with Rudolf von Laban and Caspar Neher.—Arno Paulsen, who began his career as a tenor in Stettin, and who was also a member of Barlog's Berlin ensemble has died at the age of 69 in Baden-Baden.

PEM

* Taschenbuch-Ausgabe No. 583.

† Tankred Dorst: Toller. Edition Suhrkamp. Taschenbuch 294.

Erich Gottgetreu (Jerusalem)

IN MEMORY OF ERIKA MANN

In the early 'thirties all German bookshops and many children's libraries displayed a book entitled "Stoffel fliegt ueber das Meer", which was inspired by one of the Zeppelin trips to America—a technological sensation that greatly fascinated the public at the time. Stoffel was a little boy who had stowed away in one of the mailbags in the airship's cargo in order to travel from the Lake of Constance to New York where he intended to look for his lost uncle whom his mother longed to see. Stoffel's experiences, his courageous deed which saved the airship when in grave danger and finally his adventures in the U.S.A. are described by Erika Mann, the authoress, with much imagination, humour, without false sentimentality and with loving understanding for the young hero of her children's novel—and for its young readers.

A short while ago when the press reported that Erika Mann had died at the age of 64 after a grave illness in hospital in Zurich, I read the book a second time. Although our imagination has since been fed on moon landings and other astronomical miracles, it must be said that the "Stoffel" book has retained its charm and even its specific literary merit.

Fate did not make it easy for Erika, the eldest of Thomas and Katja Mann's children, and her brothers and sisters to grow up in the shadow of greatness. It might be assumed therefore that the writing of books for young people—Erika published seven in all—was perhaps a kind of escape into the dreamland of childhood. But this explanation is not consistent with the rest of her life in which she ably coped with all the responsibilities which the changing times imposed on her.

Probably it was simply that her early inclination to write children's books sprang from the dual gift inherited from her father in whom the joy of artistic make-believe blended strangely with pedagogical intention. He, like Goethe, was conscious even in the happiest periods of creative work of an educative task tending towards humanism, and Erika herself was also guided by a desire to educate when she addressed herself to the young generation.

Hence it was quite consistent that, when faced in the first years of emigration with the moral rubble heap of the Third Reich, she

should write "Ten Million Children", a book of great documentary importance on youth education under the Nazis. It was published in Amsterdam by Querido in 1938 with a foreword by her father which culminated in the exhortation addressed to the "tyrants", namely "—that power must have content and meaning, an inner authority in order to be a genuine, humanly recognised and therefore lasting force, and that this justification can stem only from the spirit. Is it not hopeless and foolish to strive for something good with means which in themselves completely corrode and invalidate the desired objective?"

In her early youth when Erika searched for the best form to express her artistic temperament, she wanted to become an actress. Even during her schooldays she showed acting talent and the special atmosphere of the Mann household together with the artistic climate of Munich encouraged her to choose this career. She learned her craft at the Max Reinhardt School in Berlin and gave successful performances at the Kammerspiele in Hamburg and other leading German theatres. For a time she was married to Gustav Gruendgens and this probably intensified her stage fever and her faith in the theatre. It is likely that she began to write through the example of her brother, Klaus, with whom she was linked by close bonds of friendship and unanimity of tastes. Together with him she published a "Riviera" travel book (in the "Was nicht im Baedeker steht" series) and "Rundherum", a description of a joint journey around the world. Despite all its cheerfulness this report contains a touch of the disquiet and anxiety in which so sensitive European intellectuals as the Mann children were living when future events began to cast their shadows on the delusive landscape of "The Golden Twenties".

After the outbreak of the Hitler catastrophe Erika Mann showed her mettle as did only few women among the German intellectuals. She opened the Cabaret "Die Pfeffermuehle" in January, 1933, in Munich, and after her emigration in the same year continued to direct it from Zurich. She wrote and recited

many of the scripts herself and the cabaret gave birth to some of the loaded jokes which later on made the round in the Third Reich to the annoyance of Goebbels. This was a political service, not least for the psychological merit of demonstrating to the Swiss and other non-Germans the reverse side of Nazi propaganda and of giving the emigrés a bit of encouragement in their loneliness. From Switzerland "Die Pfeffermuehle" toured various other countries of "free" Europe and finally reached the U.S.A. Thomas Mann himself later found a temporary home in the States, introduced the small group to the public in a short programme note stressing proudly that paternal feelings "determined his relationship with this amiable spectacle" as "it was the creation of a beloved child". He said further: "I admit gladly to the paternal character of my emotion, for I feel that these sketches are something which, though very indirectly, stems from me—a prolongation and continuation of myself into a filial successor world".

Then came the day when Erika decided to work as a U.S. war correspondent which she regarded as a more effective way of combating Hitler. In 1943 one of her journeys took her to the Middle East, *inter alia* to Cairo and to Jerusalem where she gave a lecture to the local association of journalists. As she was fully conscious of her Jewish side in view of her mother, Katja's, descent from the Dohm-Pringsheim families, it must be assumed that the encounters in Palestine meant more to her than just a fleeting episode. Katja Mann herself in her old age paid a visit to Israel only a few years ago.

In the years after the war, particularly after the return to Switzerland, Erika decided to leave the public scene in order to help her father. She was to him a stimulating conversationalist, an intelligent critic and a creative secretary. The story is told how Thomas Mann asked her to shorten his great speech on Schiller, a task which he regarded as being well-nigh impossible. Erika was more optimistic. "I can deal with your work", she said, and tackled the task successfully.

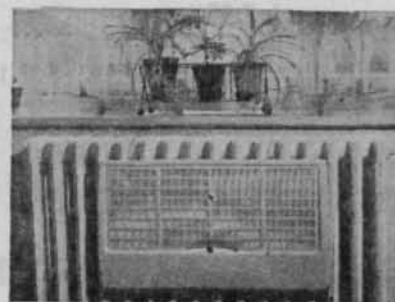
We have to thank her for the beautiful and rich account of "The Last Year" of the author, and for the three-volume edition of his letters which she selected, introduced and annotated, from a profusion of material. In this collection of letters she presented us with a magnificent memorial to Thomas Mann in anticipation, as it were, of the celebration marking his 100th birthday in 1975.

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PRESENTING SOVIET JEWRY'S CASE

An Important New Publication

At a time when the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union is worsening and the gravity of their problem has become only second to that of Israel's safety, a book by Joel Cang, "The Silent Millions",* is not only welcome but filling a long-standing gap. Knowledge of the facts which shape the living conditions of Russian Jews and interpretation of policy and principles which might or might not motivate the Soviet Government in their treatment of the Jewish minority are regrettably confined to the so-called "experts on Russian affairs", a few academics and some professional politicians. Wide Jewish circles, perhaps made more conscious by recent protest-demonstrations against Soviet policy (in London participation is always smaller than in other countries!) still do not appear to be involved. A book of this nature, written by a journalist of stature who spent the crucial years as correspondent of Russian and East-European affairs of *The Times* and *Guardian*, and in addition made the Jewish issue his special concern, is bound to fill the blanks in our awareness.

The writing of contemporary history, if it is not done as a result of personal experience, is a precarious venture even where the free world is concerned. How much more so in regard to any subject relating to the Soviet Union.

"For those attempting to write a documented history of the Jewish people in Soviet Russia there are many problems", Mr. Cang says. "Very little of their history has been recorded. What has been published is the work of historians outside the U.S.S.R. As access to official documents is rigidly barred, these works are of necessity based on gleanings from the press and on information gathered during visits to the Soviet Union. . . . The position is quite different for students of the life and history of other national minorities in the U.S.S.R. On them there is plenty of documentation. They each have their own newspapers, their own schools, theatres, clubs, libraries and other cultural institutions in their native languages—all facilities which are rigidly denied to the Jewish minority".

In spite of obvious handicaps, the author has succeeded, on most counts, to produce a documented chronicle of events spanning the half-century from the October Revolution to the present days of Brezhnev and Kosygin. Thorough exploitation of detailed material, collected over years, coupled with intuitive interpretation has resulted in recording the bitter struggle for survival of what used to be one of the strongest branches of the Jewish people.

Introducing his theme by an impressive account of his own visit to the ravine of Babi-Yar, Mr. Cang begins with a flashback to the "dark Tsarist days" showing, that in spite of suppression and pogroms, the Jews managed to exist as a community practising their own cultural and religious activities and "above all, could protest openly against discrimination and restrictions . . . and demand justice". The next chapter, "Early Attitudes", examines Lenin's and Stalin's approach to the Jewish minority, in fact the very principles which form the background of Soviet policy and are therefore responsible for the persecution of Jews in Soviet Russia.

* Joel Cang : *The Silent Millions—A History of the Jews in the Soviet Union.* Rapp & Whiting. 42s.

The author goes on to discuss the role played by the Jewish sections in the process of assimilation in post-Revolution years, with the hopes for a freer future—hopes soon to be crushed during the period of systematic liquidation under Stalin. Krushchev's "liberalising" era, and what "the thaw" actually meant to the Jewish minority is taken under close scrutiny; this was the period of the famous "economic trials". The master key, however, to a realistic assessment of past and present conditions for Jews in Russia, deteriorating as they are from year to year, is supplied by Joel Cang's painstaking study of minorities in the Soviet Union. His detailed comparison of the Jewish situation with that of other national minorities indicates all too clearly what can be expected regarding any hopes for a survival of Jewish identity.

Cang's study, as a "History of Soviet Jewry" is bound to provoke controversy, criticism, agreement and disagreement with many aspects. But there is more to it. In writing "The Silent Millions", Joel Cang has, above all, presented the case for Soviet Jewry. It is for us to take it up.

Herbert Freeden (Jerusalem)

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES

The employment situation in the territories, administered for the past two years by the Israel Defence Army, was far from satisfactory even before the Six-Day War. The Kingdom of Jordan put its resources into developing the East Bank of the Jordan and encouraged thousands of inhabitants of Judea and Samaria to emigrate there. The Egyptian Government made no attempt to ease the hardship of the refugees of 1948.

The employment crisis became acute after the Six-Day War, when one quarter of the labour force was out of work. Defence expenditure by the various Arab armies (the Trans-Jordanian Army, the Egyptian Army, Ahmed Shukeiry's forces and the United Nations Emergency Force) ceased; construction was at a standstill, and trade and marketing procedures were disrupted.

The Israeli administration's policy immediately after the war was to promote the return of normal life and bring employment and economic activity back to their pre-war state. Efforts were also made to raise the standard of living of the local population at least to pre-war level.

Since then, there has been an additional development. A large number of inhabitants of the territories have been absorbed into the Israeli economy. It is estimated that there are at present about 18,000 inhabitants of the territories working in Israel, of whom about half (over 7,000) are labour organised via the Israel Government Employment

Bureaux in the territories themselves, the rest being unorganised labour.

The number of persons employed today in Judea and Samaria as well as in Israel amounts to 95,000. The registers of the employment bureaux on August 1, 1969, showed that there are 2,000 employment-seekers in the area. However, it can be assumed that the true number is much higher. White-collar and even other types of workers are not yet registered at labour exchanges, and the number of unemployed in Judea and Samaria may actually stand at 10,000. The cessation of banking operations and of part of the administration of government offices caused unemployment among white-collar workers; this unemployment is worsening as the market is swelled by successive groups of secondary school graduates.

Unemployment in the Gaza Strip is due mainly to the disappearance of employment opportunities created by outside organisations, such as the Palestinian Army, the Egyptian Army and the United Nations Force. A statistical survey of employment needs in the Gaza Strip, in comparison to the pre-war situation, shows that an additional 15,000 jobs should be created. The number of employees in the Strip and in Israel is at present 49,000; according to the percentage of employed persons before the war 64,000 persons should be placed in work. This last figure is based on the assumption that the percentage of employed persons in the labour force is as low as its pre-war level, i.e. only 36 per cent out of a population of about 186,000 aged 14 and over.

At the beginning of the third year of Israeli administration, the Ministerial Committee for the Administered Territories held a series of thorough discussions on the employment situation, and a number of practical and policy resolutions were passed on the principle that a reasonable standard of living and full employment will have a moderating effect on the population and will counter hostile incitement and influence. Under existing conditions, the Israel Government will have to provide assistance in all matters of organisation, know-how and finance.

The lines of activity are: increased relief work in the territories; development and investment in the economies of the territories, creating employment; the provision of employment in the Israeli economy to the amount of 20,000 jobs next spring. Undertakings established in the territories by Israelis and others will be treated as "approved enterprises" and will be eligible for loans, export incentives, tax concession, etc. Parallel with this, a loan fund has been authorised for local Arab entrepreneurs interested in establishing enterprises in the territories or for the purposes of renewing equipment. Furthermore, agriculture for export will be developed in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria.

Vocational training for young people over school age will continue. About 1,000 trainees are at present attending the various vocational training centres. Vocational training as such is entirely new in Judea and Samaria.

A STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL

A 14-day study tour of Israel organised by the Council of Christians and Jews began on October 6. The 24-persons strong party intended to spend some time in Jerusalem and the remainder in two kibbutzim. The purpose of the tour is to study aspects of Jewish-Moslem relations. The party is led by the Rev. W. W. Simpson, general secretary of the Council, and includes Liberal and Orthodox Jews as well as Anglicans, Catholics, Baptists and Methodists.

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H. W. Freyhan

A NEW ASSESSMENT OF MAHLER

After decades of neglect, Mahler has gained a highly prominent place on British concert programmes and shows no signs of any decline in his appeal to the musical public. Recognition, though belated, has struck home with a vengeance, and its diehard opponents, once so influential, are now a small minority.

Not surprisingly, this development runs parallel with a corresponding growth in English Mahler literature. Mahler scholarship in this country has achieved a climax in Deryck Cooke's completion of the Tenth Symphony from the sketches left by the composer.

Meanwhile, research has not been dormant either in the Central European countries in which Mahler spent most of his life. In a new Mahler biography by Kurt Blaukopf (*Gustav Mahler oder Der Zeitgenosse der Zukunft*; Molden Verlag; 26DM), the author acquaints us not only with his own findings but also draws attention to recent publications in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, which throw some more light on the early stages of Mahler's career.

Blaukopf is a lecturer at the Vienna Academy of Music. His special field is the sociology of music, and consequently his narrative includes many thorough and relevant observations on the historical background in the widest sense, as well as significant details of the conditions which confronted Mahler in his various conducting jobs.

As the book is the result of some thirty years' research it is only natural that it adopts a critical attitude towards much that has been written on the subject. It also offers a good deal of new material. Of special interest is the evidence of Mahler's temporary engagement to the singer, Anna von Mildenburg, who worked under him at the Hamburg Opera. She later followed him to Vienna, but an estrangement ensued, and Mahler married Alma Schindler, while Anna von Mildenburg became the wife of Hermann Bahr.

Blaukopf's study is undoubtedly a contribution of considerable value. It does not attempt to cover the ground completely, and it omits much that is familiar from other sources. His prime inspiration has been the music itself, to which he allocates a reasonable amount of space. Unfortunately, his presentation of the various aspects—biography, historical background, discussion of the works—is somewhat lacking in systematical approach; furthermore, his style is apt to reflect a few of the obsolete conventions one meets in some German biographical writing. To mention one example: "Die Welt Wagners, vorher nur Traumwelt eines ungestuemen Fleischverächters (vegetarian), wurde zum inneren Besitz des Zweiten Kappellmeisters, der jetzt unlegbar den ersten Taktstock führte."

On the other hand, the author's self-confessed intention to steer free of hero worship causes him to underline emphatically the realistic trends in Mahler's character and to prove that the idealistic dreamer could be a calculating tactician in mundane matters, especially in the management of his conducting career.

In a recent article on Wagner (*AJR Information*, September, 1969), I pointed out that many great musicians of Jewish origin did not allow their attitude to Wagner's music to be affected by his antisemitism. Here is the evidence in Mahler's case: "Als ihn die Nachricht vom Tode Wagner's erreichte, schlich er weinend durch die Gassen von Olmuetz". Even more revealing is Mahler's reaction to his first experience of the Bayreuth "Parsifal": "Als ich, keines Wortes faehig, aus dem Festspielhaus hinaustrat, da wusste ich, dass mir das Groesste, Schmerzliche aufgegangen war, und dass ich es unentweicht mit mir durch mein Leben tragen werde". Later, he said about Wagner's extra-musical writings: "Man muss sie geradezu erst vergessen, um das Genie Wagners gebuehrend zu lieben".

Mahler's conversion to Roman Catholicism was primarily initiated by his ambitions as a conductor. "Mein Judentum verwehrt mir, wie die Sachen jetzt in der Welt stehen, den Eintritt in jedes Hoftheater. Nicht Wien, nicht Berlin, nicht Dresden, nicht Muenchen stehen mir offen. Ueberall blaest derselbe Wind".

It was a strange coincidence that Mahler, having left the Jewish community, took up his Vienna appointment in the year of the first Zionist Congress.

Blaukopf rightly includes the rise of Zionism and the reactions to it among the Austrian Jewish intelligentsia in his assessment of the historical background and of Mahler's own position. He refutes Max Brod's one-sided claim for the Jewishness of Mahler's art by drawing attention to the multi-racial character of the Habsburg Empire. "Mahlers Zuordnung zur 'juedischen Musik' schlechthin ist falsch—nicht etwa nur, weil sie von der dummdreisten Muskrassentheorie des Hitler-Reiches vertreten wurde. Sie ist wissenschaftlich unhaltbar, denn sie vermag nichts von dem zu erklaren, was an Mahlers geistiger

Physiognomie und in Mahlers Schaffen zutiefst oesterreichisch ist. Mahlers Verhaeltnis zum Judentum ist allerdings so komplex, dass es nicht auf eine einfache Formel gebracht werden kann. Die Religion seiner Vorfahren machte er nicht zu seiner eigenen. Er fuehlte sich zum Christentum hingezogen, doch verleugnete er seine Abstammung keineswegs. . . . Sein Christentum war tief empfunden, doch gelangte es nie zu dogmatischer Manifestation, die ihm erlaubt haette, eine Messe zu komponieren. Christliches Denken amalgamierte sich bei ihm mit einem Pantheismus. . . . Das religioese Moment war fuer ihn Teil eines Gesamtbekennnisses zur europaeischen Kultur, zur 'Assimilation' an die dem Kuenstler vorbestimmte Heimat. . . . Auch vom Schaffen und nicht etwa bloss von der Karriere her ist also Mahlers Entscheidung zu begreifen. Der Uebertritt . . . war das auessere Zeichen dieser Entscheidung".

This is a loaded subject, liable to provoke much comment, but I think Blaukopf's view is basically correct. He adds substantial weight to his argument by outlining certain musical features which demonstrate Mahler's place in an Austrian musical tradition which extends from Haydn to Schoenberg, Berg and Webern.

In one of the final chapters, Blaukopf surveys the fate of Mahler's music in various countries up to the present time. Britain is included, but no mention is made of Deryck Cooke's remarkable attempt of completing the Tenth; in a short paragraph on Mahler's fragment, he dismisses any enterprise of this kind as undesirable. Yet Alma Mahler had been persuaded to lift her original veto against Cooke's undertaking!

A strong point is Blaukopf's assertion that Mahler's scores, which sometimes call for a "Fernorchester" or for the distant placing of certain instruments, are likely to benefit decisively from stereophonic recordings.

Like any serious study on the subject, Blaukopf's book stimulates fresh thinking about a composer whose personality left a profound impact on some of his great contemporaries and whose music occupies a fascinating borderline position between the 19th and 20th century.

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THE MIDDLE EAST

U THANT PLEADS FOR JEWS IN ARAB LANDS

For the first time U Thant, United Nations Secretary-General, has publicly expressed concern at the plight of Jews in Arab countries and asked that they should be allowed to leave as they "would be better off elsewhere". His views were contained in the introduction to his annual report to the General Assembly which assesses the problems facing the organisation, including the situation in the Middle East. The statement on the Middle East was about the most balanced he has made in recent years, certainly since the Six-Day War.

SAPIR OPPOSES NEW DEVALUATION

Addressing a monthly meeting of insurance agents in Tel Aviv, Mr. Pinhas Sapir, Minister without Portfolio and secretary-general of the Israel Labour Party, expressed his opposition to any new devaluation of the Israeli pound. Sapir, a former Minister of Finance, said he had opposed the devaluation in February, 1962, and this opposition had caused differences between him and the late Levi Eshkol, who was Minister of Finance at that time.

Sapir declared that economic problems could not be solved by financial manipulations pointing out that the 1962 devaluation not only failed to bring about an increase in exports but also caused a sharp rise in imports. Israel's industrial production had grown by 50 per cent in the past two years and defence production had made a special contribution to this growth. The value of industrial production had reached £10,000 million (£1,190 million). Israel's payments deficit was due principally to defence expenditure which had risen by five to six hundred per cent since 1963 and was still rising.

CHURCHMEN'S FEARS

The World Council of Churches' Committee on the Church and the Jewish People, in a majority statement issued after a meeting at Wingspread in Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.A., said that many people's refusal to accept Israel's right to exist created a "very real fear" that the continued conflict in the Middle East was a struggle for survival. This fear was heightened by memories of the Holocaust, whose traumatic effects could not be ignored. The statement pointed out that part of the difficulty in understanding Israel's right to exist was the failure to grasp the significance of the historical link and the continuing presence of Jews in "Palestine". If it was right to take seriously the plight of Arab refugees, "then the reality of Jewish refugees from Middle Eastern countries, the plight of Jews who are not permitted to leave them and the Israeli civilian victims of the present conflict could not be ignored".

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Sinai Play-spot

Israel's determination to hold on to Sharm el Sheikh was underlined in an announcement made early in September that a recreation centre for Israeli soldiers is to be established there. The announcement said that the centre would take 18 months to build and cost about £200,000. The decision was contained in a memorandum signed by the Defence Ministry and the National Committee for the Welfare of Soldiers.

Arab Holiday Visitors

More than 22,000 Arab visitors from twelve countries visited Israeli-occupied territories this summer making use of the system of special permits introduced by the Israeli authorities.

IRAQI PRESSURE ON JEWS

Iraq's 93-year-old Chief Rabbi, whose son has been held in prison since the beginning of the year on espionage charges and who is himself virtually a hostage of the Iraqi regime, is to call a conference of Jewish leaders in Arab lands to denounce Zionism and Israel. This was reported by "Al Usbu al Arabi", a leading Lebanese magazine which said that its correspondent had interviewed Rabbi Sasson Khadouri in Baghdad. It quoted the aged rabbi as saying that, since its creation Israel had been the source of all troubles of Eastern Jewry and was responsible for depriving the Iraqi Jews of the right to practise in the professions. Asked about the execution of 54 people, including eleven Jews, on charges of spying against Iraq, Rabbi Khadouri was quoted as saying: "A traitor must be executed". Of his own son he said: "I am confident that he is innocent. His name was just mentioned in passing."

Among those countries whose Jewish leaders would be invited to attend an anti-Zionist conference, Rabbi Khadouri was said to have listed Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. There are an estimated 77,000 Jews still living inside the Arab world.

LIBYA JOINS ANTI-ISRAEL FRONT

Libya, whose new régime openly indicated its intention to establish close relations with Egypt and Algeria, has now joined its voice to those of other Arab States pledged "to regain Arab rights in Palestine".

The pledge was contained for the first time in a broadcast of slogans approved by the revolutionary command council. This was followed up by a Libyan News Agency report of a greetings message from the Head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Soviet bloc also expects the Libyan Republic to be a staunch supporter of Arab actions against Israel.



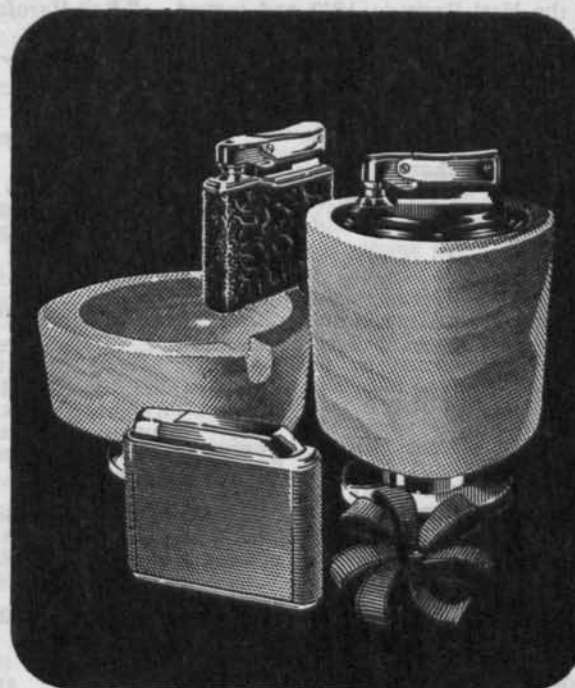
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ROUND AND ABOUT

OBITUARY

HUNGARIAN GRANTED REFUGE IN BRITAIN

Mr. Geza Partos, a leading Hungarian-Jewish stage director, has been given permission to stay in Britain with his wife and teenage son. He has been a prominent figure in the Hungarian theatre for the last 20 years and has won several awards. He is turning his back on his native country, mainly because of the Hungarian attitude towards the Six-Day War. "Although my disillusionment with the Hungarian regime has been gradual", he told a *Jewish Chronicle* reporter, "it was the 1967 war which gave me the final impetus to leave the country". Although not religious he found it unbearable to listen to official Hungarian propaganda describing the Jews as aggressors and the Arabs as peace-loving people.

THE JEWISH GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN CZERNOVITZ

Addresses of Former Pupils Required

After the breakdown of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy in 1918, all five nationalities in the Bukovina—Germans, Poles, Jews, Roumanians and Ukrainians—strove for national autonomy of their respective groups. Each group also demanded the establishment of a special school for itself. Accordingly, a Jewish school was brought into being, called "Deutsches Gymnasium—Juedische Abteilung", and Professor Dr. G. Spitzer became its headmaster. The first examinations for higher school certificates (Matura) were held in summer 1919. To mark the 50th anniversary of this event, all former pupils are asked to send their addresses to: Ing. Zvi Kraemer, P.O. Box 1480, Tel Aviv, Israel. It is intended to arrange a reunion.

EAST GERMAN ENVOY EX-NAZI

Hans-Juergen Weitz, 45, East Germany's first ambassador to Iraq, was a former S.S. officer, according to informed sources in West Berlin. He joined the Nazi Party in 1942 and served in a training unit of the Waffen-S.S.

VIENNA'S AMENDS TO FREUD

The Viennese have formed a Freud Society to perpetuate the memory of the "father of psychoanalysis" whose death in exile in London on September 23, 1939, was not even recorded by the Nazi occupiers of Vienna.

At 19 Berggasse, Sigmund Freud's residence for nearly half a century, Professor Friedrich Hacker, the society's president, outlined at a press conference plans to open the premises as a museum and library. The society, with the help of the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna, is willing to buy back at least part of the very small amount of possessions which Freud could take with him into exile after the Nazi invasion of Austria.

Among the property in London is the famous couch on which Freud's patients lay while relating their dreams and the shabby little armchair in which he listened to them. Freud's daughter, Anna, is still reluctant to let his furniture return to Vienna, but Professor Hacker is confident that steps taken recently by the Vienna City Council will make her change her mind. The City Council has bought Freud's residence and voted the equivalent of £6,250 to convert it into a museum. The society also received a grant to hold the largest Freud Congress ever in the house in 1970.

WORLD JEWISH MEDICAL CONGRESS

The Israel Medical Association invites members of the medical profession to its Eighth World Congress to be opened in Jerusalem on May 18, 1970. The main subjects of the programme are: "The Jewish Contribution to Medicine throughout the Ages" and "The Achievements of Medicine in Israel and Medical Services during the Israeli-Arab Wars". A special team of doctors and scientists chosen from amongst the leaders of Israeli and International Science will cover various fields of research. Particulars may be obtained from: Israel Medical Association, "Beit-Harofeh," 1 Heftman Str., Tel Aviv, Israel.

DR. EUGEN FELIX

Dr. Eugen Felix died on the second day of Rosh Hashana in London. He was 77.

Dr. Felix was associated with the Zionist Movement since his early youth. In Vienna, where he lived prior to his emigration, he was a co-founder of the Jewish Academic Club "Robur" and an executive member of "Hakoah". He was also one of the founders of the organisation of academic Zionists, "Igul", which still exists in London, Tel Aviv and New York.

In this country, where he arrived in 1935, Dr. Felix helped to found the "Unity Group", headed by the late Dr. Ignaz Zollschan. He was also a member of the executive of the Jewish State Party, and after the party's amalgamation with the New Zionist Organisation, of the United Zionist Revisionist executive. He was a delegate to the conference of the Zionist Federation and the British Section of the World Jewish Congress, and a member of the Board of Deputies.

Dr. Felix leaves a widow, a daughter and a son, Dr. Peter Felix, the well-known sportsman.

DR. SIEGFRIED BRAUN

The educationist and historian, Dr. Siegfried Braun, died in Israel in his 84th year. He was born in Brauneberg, a small village on the Moselle, studied at the Jewish Teachers' Seminary in Munster and completed his university studies with a thesis on the philosopher of art, Konrad Fiedler. In 1910 he became a teacher at the Staedtsche Israelitische Volksschule in Cologne. He held this post until, after his release from Dachau concentration camp in 1938, he emigrated to Palestine. He took an active part in the work of the Reichsverband der juedischen Lehrervereine and, for some time, also edited the Federation's paper, "Juedische Schulzeitung." In Israel Dr. Braun worked in the field of adult education. At the same time, he did historical research work and published many treatises and essays relating to the past of German Jewry, as well as to the beginning of the resettlement of Jews in Palestine.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Deaths

Hahn.—Rosy Hahn (former concert singer from Frankfurt/Main) died suddenly on September 18th, aged 81. Deeply mourned by all her friends.—E. Braun, 3 Woodchurch Road, London, N.W.6.

Hirschmann.—Mr. Ernst Hirschmann of Sunny Hill Court, Hendon, London, N.W.4, passed away on 29th September. Mourned by his brother, Franz Hirschmann, relatives and friends. 93, High View Road, Ealing, London, W.13.

Oppenheim.—Mrs. Margot Oppenheim, née Lang, beloved wife of the late Dr. jur. Bruno Oppenheim and very dear mother of Marion Bienheim, passed away on October 9th at her daughter's residence in Yorkshire.

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Miscellaneous

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries

Gruenhut.—Dr. Gertrude Gruenhut, née Weiss, until 1938 Vienna XIII, Paracelsusgasse 9/9, since 1938 in London. Sought by Dr. S. Jindra, Vienna VIII, Hernalserguertel 6-12.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

PROF. WALTER A. BERENDSOHN 85

Professor Walter A. Berendsohn recently celebrated his 85th birthday. Born in Hamburg, he was a Professor of Literature at the University of his city of birth until 1933. He first emigrated to Denmark and fled to Sweden in 1943, where he resumed his academic career and continued his research work on Scandinavian authors such as Selma Lagerloef, Knut Hamsun and Strindberg. At the same time, he did spade work for the evaluation of literature produced by German-language authors after their emigration. The result was the book "Die humanistische Front, Einfuehrung in die deutsche Emigrantenliteratur". The first part covered the period from 1933 to 1939 and was published in 1946 in Zuerich (Europa-Verlag). The second part, the manuscript of which is completed, has so far not been published. Professor Berendsohn also initiated the creation of a special research section of the German Institute at Stockholm University, which is devoted to the collection and analysis of books and periodicals by emigrated authors and organisations of emigrants. His last contribution to this important work prior to his retirement was the organisation of an international gathering of experts, held in Stockholm a short while ago.

ALBERT REIMANN 95

Since celebrating his 90th birthday, Albert Reimann, who on November 9, will attain the age of 95, has seen the publication of his work on his famous art school, "Die Reimann-Schule in Berlin" (Bruno Hessling, Berlin). It is typical of the man who helped in shaping the tastes of a generation, that his book carries photographs of works by his pupils.

At an early age, Reimann, together with his parents, moved to Berlin, and as a young man started his career as a furniture designer in Kiel. This was at the beginning of the century when the name of Sigmund Freud was being whispered, poets were creating a new language, and the classic ballet was being replaced by a new dance. "Jugendstil" and "Reformkleider" were in fashion. Reflecting on the first 25 years of his life, Reimann thought of men of the age of 40 as fat and old. Landshuterstrasse 38 became the headquarters of both the new period and the new good taste—home of the "Reimann-Schule". Max Osborn, Fritz Stahl and Regine Deutsch assisted in paving the way for Albert Reimann and his ideas.

In this country, Reimann has always taken a great interest in the work of the AJR, first in Leeds and later in London, and it is a particular honour for the organisation that he is associated with it as a member of the Board.

His numerous pupils and also the numerous visitors to the famous annual Reimann Balls in Berlin remember the man in Golders Green, and wish him all the very best on this his 95th birthday. PEM

MAX MACK 85

Though Max Mack, the senior of German film directors, emigrated from Berlin as early as 1933, the motion picture industry has not forgotten his past achievements, and a few years ago he was awarded the golden "Film-band".

Mack started his career as an actor. Alfred Kerr wrote of him: "He looks like Josef Kainz, but acts like Max Mack". Later he turned to directing, and made a short film with Ernst Lubitsch during the First World War. He was the first to induce Albert Bassermann and Paul Lindau to star in and script "Der Andere". This was at a time when both serious actors and authors were refusing to do screen work. His name will forever be linked with the first "Autorenfilm". He was also a pioneer of filming street scenes in Berlin, and he directed the first German sound film, "Ein Tag im Tonfilm Atelier". Best remembered is his "Kampf der Tertie", which was based on one of Wilhelm Speyer's books, and also his film about a Berlin autobus, which he made shortly before leaving the country.

Before the outbreak of the Second World War he attempted to remake "Zwei Waisen im Sturm der Zeit" with Dolly Haas. After this he abandoned the film industry. Perhaps the curtain came down too early on Max Mack, however, he knew when to retire. He can regularly be seen in the Reading Room of the British Museum where he is well known. We wish him a very happy 85th birthday. PEM

REUHLIN PRIZE FOR PROF. SCHOLEM

Professor Gershom Scholem (Jerusalem) was awarded the Reuchlin Prize of the City of Pforzheim. He is the eighth recipient of the award, which was endowed by the municipality in memory of the humanist Johannes Reuchlin, who was born in Pforzheim.

It has always been the good fortune of the AJR that it has had in its midst personalities who, solely guided by the desire to help and without personal ambitions, devote their time, experience and compassion to the benefit of our community. One of the outstanding examples of these voluntary public servants is Mrs. Rose Berlin, who will celebrate her 70th birthday on November 27.

Like her husband, the late Dr. Walter Berlin, she has been associated with the AJR since its inception. Yet her continuous contacts with our work commenced when Otto Schiff House, the first of the Old Age Homes, was established 14 years ago. She became a member of the House Committee and, since the resignation of Mr. H. Blumenau, has been its chairman. The work for the Home has become a vocation for her. Without losing sight of the general problems involved, she is concerned with all the details, whether they refer to the wishes of the individual residents, the managerial difficulties arising from the constant shortage of staff, or the maintenance of the building and the expenditure accounts. These tasks should suffice for keeping her busy. Yet she not only regularly visits the Home but is also available at short notice if any unexpected complications have to be tackled, and she also lends a hand when shortage of employed staff creates emergency situations. It is only natural that in the course of her unflinching services she has become the trusted friend of all those who work under her guidance.

In her unsurpassable conscientiousness, she has the well-being of the Home on her mind, whether she is "on" or "off" duty. However, her interests are not confined to this work. It is equally possible to discuss with her the wider issues of our troublesome world as well as the impact of new works in the field of literature or theatre.

If we try to define the core of Rose Berlin's personality, it may be said that her outstanding quality is sincerity—a sincerity which she herself practises without any compromises and which she, therefore, rightly also expects of others. It is with this sincerity that, on behalf of the AJR Executive and of the House Committee members, staff and residents of Otto Schiff House, we thank her for all she has done for our cause and extend our very best birthday wishes to her.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DER EWIGE BRUNNEN

Sir,—Permit me to comment on Egon Larsen's article, "German Youth at the Poisoned Well", in your August issue.

In his scathing review of Ludwig Reiners' anthology "Der ewige Brunnen", Mr. Larsen really reveals that he is quite uncomfortable with the German tradition in literature. For that is just what this anthology—intended, for better or for worse, to be "Ein Volksbuch deutscher Dichtung"—presents. One sympathises with Mr. Larsen in his implied wish that German poetry were all sweetness and light, humanitarianism, tolerance, right-mindedness, uplift and wholesomeness, but unfortunately that is not the case. As Theodor Herzl ruefully remarked at the turn of the century, German folklore—fairy tales, student songs, and the like—is antisemitic.

One can find things to criticise in any collection and often is tempted to second-guess the anthologist, but given the fact that Ludwig Reiners was of a conservative bent and had some rather old-fashioned tastes, his book ought to be accepted for what it is. Incidentally, Mr. Larsen conveniently forgot to tell your readers that Reiners died several years ago and never revised the selection he made in 1955. The basic question raised by Larsen is this: Should Germans suppress the bad aspects of their past or should they learn from them? The Reiners anthology could still "educate the taste" of young readers,—albeit not exactly in the manner envisaged by Ina Seidel—for a skilful teacher could use it to point to past events, attitudes and flaws in the German national character which no longer have a place in German life.

I have little use for the likes of Ina Seidel, Agnes Miegel, Lulu von Strauss und Torney, and Boerries Freiherr von Muenchhausen (although it should be remembered that the last-named once wrote a cycle of Jewish ballads published as "Juda", with illustrations by Ephraim Moses Lilien). But it was indeed proper to include Josef Weinheber, despite his sometime Nazi sympathies, for he was an important poet. Mr. Larsen has every right to dislike Conrad Ferdinand Meyer's "rather gruesome piece" "Die Fuesse im Feuer", a poem that appears in numerous other anthologies, including the respected "Oxford Book of German Verse". But when he seems to object to the inclusion of 44 poems by Meyer, one of the greatest poets in the German language, it only indicates that, whatever his other accomplishments may be, Egon Larsen's judgments as a literary historian need not be trusted. My admiration of Kurt Tucholsky is well documented, but I would certainly not expect to find him in a book of this kind. As for Nelly Sachs, the evidence indicates that she was not widely known in 1955. (If Mr. Larsen or anyone else in England wrote or lectured about her then, there is no documentation of it.) The contemporary poets Eich, Krolow, Piontek, and Enzensberger hardly belong in a "Volks-

buch". Again, one should remember that Reiners represented rather old-fashioned tastes and that there are a great many anthologies of "modern" poetry on the market.

The above should not necessarily be construed as an endorsement of "Der ewige Brunnen", a book which I have not felt impelled to use with my students, but which is quite useful for the wealth of material it contains. Mr. Larsen is obviously a well-meaning person, but I find his boy-scoutism just a bit too naive. To suggest that "Der ewige Brunnen" is a "poisoned well" is, to my mind, nonsense.

Yours, etc.

(Dr.) HARRY ZOHN,
Professor of German.

Brandeis University,
Waltham, Massachusetts.

MR. EGON LARSEN writes:

Without being aware of it, Dr. Zohn shows up the fundamental difference between the two main attitudes towards Germany among refugees. Perhaps it is a matter of different generations; at any rate, I admire his scholarly detachment in a question which he seems to regard as a mere diversity of opinion among literary historians. I never claimed to be one: I wrote out of deep concern for the spiritual diet on which Germany's youngsters are brought up. I'm not worried that everything isn't lovely in the German poetical garden; I'm worried—like Herzl, whom Dr. Zohn quotes—that the German national character still tends to respond to a kind of literature which, in other western countries, is now largely regarded as morbid or chauvinistic, as ridiculous flag-waving or downright dangerous because of its racial bias. I just cannot accept Dr. Zohn's attenuating argument that poor old Ludwig Reiners couldn't help picking his contributors and contributions the way he did because he "was of a conservative bent and had some rather old-fashioned tastes". Perhaps the publishers could have found another editor for an anthology primarily aimed at the second post-Nazi generation? And if Dr. Zohn seriously believes that a "skilful teacher" would use Reiners' anthology to demonstrate "flaws in the German national character which no longer have a place in German life", he must be living in a fool's paradise. Is it only my "naïve boy-scoutism" that makes me care about the literary bill of fare in the schoolrooms of a country where, only 25 years after the unspeakable horrors of the Third Reich, nearly 1½ million votes have now been cast for a party that, to judge by the utterances of its leaders, aims at reviving the good old days glorified by Herr Reiners' cohorts of poets?

EGON LARSEN.

Sir,—May I refer to Mrs. O. R. Eberstadt's letter to the Editor in your October issue, page 12?

Who are—may I be allowed to ask—the

"many people" who, in 1969, still dare to say that young Germans, nearly all born when the beast Hitler died, "should feel responsible for the sins of their fathers"? That is inhumane and hardly believable! For many years—since 1945—I was and still am talking to young Germans, and I always held the opinion that the German youth is the most European-minded and international-minded youth of Europe! I spoke to well over 15,000 over the years.

Was I not right if you look at the elections of September 28, 1969? Did your readers not watch on TV how German youth rejected Thadden and then—2 million of them—made it clear by their votes that "it never will happen again"? It is as the leader in the "Daily Mail's" issue of September 30, 1969, said: "We should do all we can to encourage . . .", meaning encourage the new and democratic Germany.

Yours, etc.,

H. SULZBACH.

54 Aberdare Gardens,
London, N.W.6.

CLUB IN HEREFORD

Sir,—In the near future I hope to form a German-language club in Hereford, providing I find enough persons who are interested. Should any of your members in this area be interested they would be most welcome to join.

JAMES ROBERT SHELLEY.

"Innisfree," Bishopstone, Hereford.

AJR CLUB

Meeting in Memory of Gertrud Schachne

On October 12, the AJR Club held a meeting to honour the memory of its late co-chairman, Mrs. Gertrud Schachne. The deep attachment felt by members and friends for this outstanding personality was reflected in the large attendance at the function. The club rooms were filled to capacity and the proceedings had to be transmitted to an overflow gathering in the other meeting hall. Tributes were paid by Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, the chairman of the club, Mrs. Dora Segall, the club's hon. secretary, Dr. Adelheid Levy, Dr. L. G. T. King and Dr. Eva Reichmann. Based on personal recollections, each of the speakers recalled the human approach and unflinching helpfulness which shaped Gertrud Schachne's activities. The ceremony was enhanced by musical recitals, rendered by the Trio M. Streat, P. Blumenfeld and K. Passer.

It was also announced at the meeting that the "Gertrud Schachne Fund", created four years ago on the occasion of Mrs Schachne's 75th birthday and used by her for discretionary charitable work, should be revived. Any donations should be made payable to the "Gertrud Schachne Fund" and sent to: The Chairman, AJR Club, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3, marked "Gertrud Schachne Fund".

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