

AJR

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

STEADY EXPANSION

AJR Board Meeting

Two new schemes were launched during the year 1971, a Meals-on-Wheels Service and a block of flats for people with independent means. Reports on these achievements and other activities of the AJR were given at the AJR Board Meeting on January 30, held at Hannah Karminski House and attended by more than 60 London and Provincial Board members. The meeting was presided over by Mr. W. M. Behr, O.B.E. (Vice-Chairman of the AJR), deputising for the Chairman, Mr. A. S. Dresel, who, due to a slight indisposition, was unable to attend. When opening the meeting Mr. Behr paid tribute to the memory of the following deceased Board members: Dr. Paul Abel, Dr. Siegfried Auerbach, Mr. Z. M. Reid and Mr. Fritz Schonbeck.

In his General Report, Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary of the AJR) first dealt with *AJR Information*, which, especially in its feature articles, tried to reflect the interests we have in common due to our past. Certain limitations, he stated, arise, however, from the fact that as a neutral organisation, the AJR usually cannot take sides in controversial issues. Apart from its significance as a widely recognised journal, *AJR Information* also fulfils an important organisational function, being the regular link between headquarters and members.

Homes: Waiting List and Finances

Turning to the position in the *Homes* the speaker reported that there was still a waiting-list for admission to the four ordinary homes (as distinct from Osmond House), though proceedings could be speeded up for prospective residents of Otto Hirsch House, Kew. On the whole, the applications are not of the same degree of urgency as they were until several years ago. One of the reasons for this change is that, due to the improvement of their financial situation, especially by compensation payments, many elderly people now enjoy better living accommodation and want to retain their independence as long as possible. This, in turn, has the effect that most residents are already rather old and comparatively frail at the time of their admission.

As far as Osmond House, the home for people in need of more care, is concerned, it is not possible to build up a waiting-list, because most applications are cases of acute urgency. On the other hand, due to the type of residents, vacancies arise more frequently than in the other four homes. With its recently opened new wing Osmond House can now accommodate 57 residents.

Like all enterprises of this kind the homes are affected by the general difficulties of obtaining staff.

With regard to finances, the speaker re-

minded the audience that the funds for the erection of the buildings and for covering the current deficits derived from restituted Jewish communal and heirless property in Germany. During the past years the situation had, however, changed in so far as these restitution payments had come to an end. Therefore, the current deficits now have to be covered out of the reserves. While these reserves will still last for a number of years, it is essential to secure the running of the Homes for the longest possible period. The deficit for the six months July-December, 1971, amounted to £23,000 (£7,000 for the four ordinary Homes and £16,000 for Osmond House); this would correspond to an annual deficit of £46,000. As it is not possible to reduce expenditure substantially without lowering the standard of the Homes, the only way of decreasing the deficit is an increase of income. Accordingly, from January 1, 1972, onwards the maintenance rates to be paid by the residents had to be increased. This is the first increase since 1970, and during these two years the financial position of many residents has improved, especially by the increase of compensation payments. In assessing the payments, both the residents' current income and, to a certain extent, their capital assets, as well as the financial situation of close relatives, are taken into account. On the other hand, any kind of hardship is avoided, and residents will, in any case, always be left with sufficient means for their personal expenses.

There has been constant amicable co-operation with other organisations, especially the C.B.F., Self-Aid, Jewish Welfare Board and the Camden local welfare authorities.

Successful Communal Ventures

With the help of its members the AJR had been instrumental in several ventures indirectly connected with its work. It has been possible to raise £4,000 for the Memorial Floor at *Hillel House*. Furthermore, a plaque in memory of *Richborough Transit Camp* was unveiled last June. The preparatory work involved was mainly carried out by the AJR. It has been arranged that the surplus of the money raised among former *Kitchener Camp* men will be put at the disposal of the Borough of Sandwich.

With regard to finances, the speaker stated that last year's appeal for voluntary increase of subscriptions had resulted in a rise of income by about 10 per cent. Gratifying as this is, it has, however, to be kept in mind that the expenditure has risen to the same extent. This year members are again asked to increase their payments either by higher subscriptions or by additional donations. In assessing the general position it should be kept in mind that the basic mini-

mum subscription of £3 is quite unrealistic. On the other hand, it has always been the policy of the AJR to enrol and retain everybody on its membership records, whatever his contribution may be.

To safeguard the continuity of the work of the AJR it has become increasingly essential to strengthen the *AJR Charitable Trust*. In the past year the *AJR Charitable Trust* has received several substantial donations and legacies. It has also benefited from payments made by members under Deeds of Covenant.

Turning to questions of *restitution and compensation*, the speaker referred to the increase of BEG pensions retroactively from January 1, 1971 (see February issue—Ed.). He also dealt with the problem of "Zweitbescheide", details of which are published in this issue.

Lastly, the speaker reported about the *History of Immigration Scheme* which has been launched under the auspices of the Council of Jews from Germany, and on which work has already started in the United States and in France. In Israel and in this country the scheme is still in its preparatory stage, but it is to be expected that the procedure in Great Britain will take shape soon.

Mr. E. A. Lomnitz (Deputy General Secretary) first reported about Eleanor Rathbone House, the *Flatlet Home* which is jointly owned by the C.B.F. and the AJR Charitable Trust and provides accommodation in 48 one-room flats and five larger flats. The Home is running smoothly. There is also a vivid community life with functions of various kinds. The long waiting-list of 100 applicants indicates the demand for this kind of accommodation.

New Block of Flats

The speaker then dealt with another flatlet scheme which is not being run under the auspices of the AJR, but with which the AJR is closely co-operating. To provide accommodation for persons who, due to their comparatively favourable financial position, are not eligible for Eleanor Rathbone House, a special housing society (*Eventide Housing Society Ltd.*) has been founded on the initiative of the AJR. This Society has joined hands with another housing society (*Apex Housing Society*), which had acquired a site at Nether Street, North Finchley. The building is now nearing completion. It comprises 54 flats. However, the Borough authorities have only consented to the scheme on condition that there are no one-room flats, but only flats with two or three rooms. The scheme has been implemented under the auspices of the Housing Corporation, which has put the investment costs at the disposal of the Society. These costs will have to be repaid by the occupants of the flats in annual instalments, and after the lapse of the first five years the occupants, who become co-owners of the building, or their heirs, receive repayments if the flat becomes vacant. Most of the flats have already been reserved. There

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STEADY EXPANSION

Continued from page 1

are, however, a few three-room flats left, the rent for which amounts to £15 per week, including rates. Any interested readers are advised to get in touch with the AJR Office. While the majority of occupants will be former refugees there will also be a number of British-born Jewish and non-Jewish residents.

AJR Club

Mrs. M. Jacoby (Chairman of the AJR Club) reported that the facilities offered by the Club were enjoyed by a very great number of regular visitors. Club members may obtain meals in the afternoon and in the evening at a nominal fee of 5p each. During the year under review there were various kinds of functions, among them a Seder evening (held by Dr. A. Horwell), a Chanukah celebration (Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger), a celebration on the 15th anniversary of the Club and a performance by Peter Herz (from Vienna). On the occasion of last year's Bring and Buy Sale £340 were raised, which was allocated partly to the Ahavah Children's Home in Israel, partly to the Gertrud Schachne Fund, from which Club members in need of support receive benefits. This year's Bring and Buy Sale was scheduled for February 27. The care for Club members also includes visits to hospital or members' homes in cases of illness.

Mrs. M. Casson (Secretary of the AJR Social Services Department and the Employment Agency) first reported about the various social services. They include advice in cases of personal difficulties, and the arrangement of visits to hospitals. There are also a number of border-line cases who visit the department at frequent intervals, not so much for obtaining advice but for unburdening their problems.

The accommodation position is almost insupportable. It is very difficult to find rooms for people who have been given notice.

Turning to the work of the Employment Agency, the speaker reported that requests, especially for home helps, were being received from many quarters, not only from former refugees. The minimum charge for a home help is 50p per hour, but as far as people in need of help cannot afford this amount the payments are subsidised by the AJR Charitable Trust.

There are at present 42 persons registered for clerical work; the difficulty is, however, that most of them do not wish to take on full-time work. Nevertheless, 35 clerical vacancies could be filled during the past period.

The department has also received offers from voluntary helpers. It is not always possible to make use of their services immediately, but there is a need for building up a panel of helpers on whom the department may fall back in cases of emergency. A number of voluntary workers also help to run the Meals-on-Wheels Service.

Meals-on-Wheels Service

Mrs. Ruth Anderman (member of the AJR Executive) reported on the Meals-on-Wheels Service, which started in August, 1971, and is operating from Hannah Karminski House. The meals consist of two courses (soup and meat or fish), and the charge is 25p per meal. The number of meals has steadily risen (September, 89; October, 91; November, 100; and December, 160). There was a further increase in January. So far the Service has been rendered mainly in cases of emergency (e.g., illness). However, as the work has now been stabilised it can be extended to regular deliveries in all kinds of cases, and all who want to avail themselves of the Service should contact the AJR Office.

Manchester Home

Dr. F. H. Kroch (Manchester) reported about the Morris Feinmann Home in Manchester. It is the oldest Home founded for refugees in this country, but it is also the latest Home in so far as its present premises were completed in 1969. The speaker said that they had come to face the same kind of staff problems as those in charge of the London Homes, and that there was a comparatively large turnover of ordinary staff. On the other hand, they had the good fortune that throughout the years since the Home's inception they had only three changes of matron. The present matron is due to retire shortly and the Committee is now looking round for a successor. With regard to finances, the speaker reported that last year's deficit amounted to £2,000. This deficit was covered by the income from the Morris Feinmann Home Trust, which has been built up by friends of the Home. The speaker also mentioned that there are at present a few vacancies, and that this might help to reduce the pressure on the London Homes.

The reports were followed by a discussion in which, among others, questions concerning the administration of the Homes and the taxability of certain German payments were raised.

In concluding the meeting Mr. W. M. Behr thanked the Board members for their interest in the manifold activities of the AJR.

THE GERMAN SCENE

WANNSEE CONFERENCE REMEMBERED

Several German T.V. stations remembered the 30th anniversary of the "Wannsee-Konferenz" at which the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question" was decided. Dr. Robert M. W. Kempner who, as U.S. prosecutor at the Nuernberg trials had discovered the minutes of this darkest day in the history of Jewry in the files of Ribbentrop's Foreign Office, stated that even today proceedings against several leading former officials involved in the "Final Solution" were still in abeyance. Thus, so far, no trial had been fixed against the former Secretary of State in the Ministry of Transport, Albert Ganzmueller, who is indicted as co-ordinator of the death transports. This also applies to Legationsrat Horst Wagner, Legationsrat Franz Rademacher, and the former adviser on Jewish affairs in Rumania, Gustav Richter. All these men, Dr. Kempner stated, are still free.

ASYLUM FROM ISRAEL

A former Rumanian citizen who was also a Catholic went to West Germany from Israel some time ago, claiming asylum on the ground that he had suffered racial and religious persecution in Israel after emigrating there from Rumania. The man had refused to convert to Judaism after arriving in Israel and so could not marry his Jewish fiancée. He also complained that he had been dismissed from different jobs in Israel because he was not a Jew.

The West German authorities rejected the application for asylum but a Bavarian court has overruled this. The claimant's young son, who is not a Jew and attends a Catholic boarding school in Tel Aviv, was also granted the right of asylum in West Germany. This decision was given by the court on the ground that the boy would face the same racial and religious persecution as his father.

GERMAN "UNSUNG HEROES"

The engineer, Fritz Wolzenberg, was awarded the German Federal Cross, First Class, in recognition of his courageous assistance to persecuted Jews. During the war, Herr Wolzenberg was head of a building plant in Berlin which had a group of Jewish forced labourers among its workers. He procured preference ration cards for them to which as Jews they were not entitled, and also warned them when a razzia was impending. Later he helped many of them to go into hiding and provided them with forged papers. Throughout the years after the war, Mr. Wolzenberg declined any honours for his actions, and the award now bestowed on him is due to the initiative of a Jewish couple, Mr. and Mrs. Rewald, who owe their survival to him.

According to a recent statement, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, whose task it is to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive, has up to now honoured 900 Christians who assisted Jews at the time of Nazi persecution, among them 65 Germans.

STREET NAMED AFTER JEWISH HISTORIAN

A recently completed street in Frankfurt-Eschersheim was named Eleanore Sterling Street, in memory of the German-Jewish historian and politologist who returned to Germany after the war and became a lecturer of political science at the University of Frankfurt. Shortly before she died in 1968, at the early age of 43, she was appointed professor at the Paedagogical Academy in Osnabrueck. Dr. Sterling was a co-editor of the "Dokumente zur Geschichte der Frankfurter Juden 1933-1945" (1963) and also published a new edition of Ismar Elbogen's "Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland".

RESTITUTION NEWS
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HOME NEWS

SOVIET JEWRY

At a choral service at the New Synagogue in Egerton Road, London, the Chief Rabbi spoke of the new attitude of world Jewry to the problem of Soviet Jewry. This could no longer remain one simply of protest, but must take into account the fact that some of the demands are being fulfilled. He described the service as the first public occasion for Anglo-Jewry to record this changed attitude "by mingling thanksgiving with continued pleas. . . . We cannot keep on only accusing the Soviet Government when in fact their approach to Russian Jewry's demands for emigration to Israel seems to be softening", said Dr. Jakobovits.

The All-Party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry now includes the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, who has agreed to become a patron. Other new patrons are the Earl of Perth, Lord Soper, Lord Janner and Alderman Michael Fidler, M.P.

An appeal for help by 34 Soviet Jews was telephoned from Moscow. The signatories expressed the hope that the active help of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee would "contribute much to the national resurrection of the 2,000,000 Jews in the Soviet Union which is constantly being suppressed". After meetings addressed by members of the Parliamentary committee, North Hendon Labour Party and the Finsbury Park Synagogue both promised to assist in securing the release of Miss Silva Zalmanson, at present in a Soviet labour camp. The committee has tabled a motion in the Commons drawing attention to the continuing suffering of Soviet Jewry and urging the Soviet Government to grant Jewish citizens full rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

POALE AGUDAT ISRAEL CONFERENCE

The opening session of the fifth national conference of Poale Agudat Israel, held at the Miriam Rachel Wohl Hall, Golders Green, was addressed by the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Michael Comay, and the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits. Both speakers appealed to Orthodox Jews to concentrate less on the specific issues in Israel which upset them and more on matters which unite the Jewish people. The Ambassador declared that world Jewry could not at this time afford to wage war among itself—concentration must be on the overriding tasks we have in common.

Dr. Jakobovits asserted that people were too engrossed in individual legislative problems in Israel, which led to much ill-will, strife and friction.

Rabbi Dr. Kalman Kahane, president of World Poale Agudat Israel and the party's deputy leader in the Knesset, was one of the principal speakers at the conference. Addressing the delegates in Yiddish he spoke of the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, and called for PAI supporters not only to foster aliyah but also to emigrate to Israel themselves.

MAX BELOFF LEAVES LIBERAL PARTY

Professor Max Beloff, who holds the Gladstone chair in government and public administration at Oxford, has left the Liberal Party after 30 years. One of the reasons for his resignation is the anti-Israeli attitude of the Young Liberals. Although this had not been stated in the exchange of letters with the Party leader, Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, Professor Beloff said that he had often complained about it to the party leadership, and took it into account in his decision to leave the party.

"MEIN KAMPF" IS BACK

Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" is to be published in August as a paperback under the Hutchinson (Radius Books) imprint. The print order of the book, edited by Mr. D. C. Watt, the historian, is 10,000.

When the hardback edition appeared in 1969, its publication created a strong division of opinion among Hutchinson's senior staff. At that time, the managing director declared that they would not issue any paperback or cheap edition in the foreseeable future.

CALL FOR SOVIET GOODS BOYCOTT

By eleven votes to nine Middleton Borough Council, Manchester, carried a motion for a boycott of all Russian goods in protest against the treatment of Soviet Jews.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Arthur J. Cleasby, a non-Jew, who declared that there was no doubt that the Soviet Union treated its three million Jews as second-class citizens. People who failed to show their disapproval of the Soviet Union were, he said, as guilty of showing indifference as those who ignored the horror of Belsen.

LEICESTER'S FIRST JEWISH FREEMEN

Lord Janner and Mr. Mac Goldsmith

Lord Janner has been made a Freeman of the city of Leicester. For many years Lord Janner was a Labour Member of Parliament for one of the Leicester constituencies, now represented by his son, Greville.

Mr. Mac Goldsmith, who was also made a Freeman of the city, came to this country as a refugee and has always been a staunch supporter of the AJR. Paying tribute to him, Alderman Kenneth Bowder, leader of the city council, said: "Mac Goldsmith has personally experienced the cutting-edge of political prejudice. He has the full measure of the intellect and industry which distinguishes so many of his co-religionists".

HUSBAND AND WIFE PROFESSORS

Dr. Arnold L. Epstein and his wife, Dr. Scarlett Trude Epstein, have the unique distinction of husband and wife being appointed professors, both at almost the same time. They will be leaving Australia to take up chairs at Sussex this autumn, he as professor of social anthropology at Sussex University, and his wife as professor at the Institute of Development Studies, not part of Sussex University but closely associated with it. The couple have two young children.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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TREASURES AND PLACES IN ISRAEL

Please note alterations in dates and additional lecture on April 10.

Monday, March 6, at 8.15 p.m.

Miss Amina Harris (Jerusalem University) will speak on

MUSEUMS IN ISRAEL

Monday, March 20, at 8.15 p.m.

Mr. David Stern, F.R.I.B.A., J.P., will speak on

MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN ISRAEL

Monday, April 10, at 8.15 p.m.

Mr. Matityahu Dagan, Consul-General, Israeli Embassy, will speak on

JERUSALEM

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Youth Holocaust Commemoration

The Education and Youth Committee of the Board of Deputies is holding a Warsaw Ghetto and Holocaust commemoration on Sunday, April 9, at the Cambridge Theatre, London. Intended for ten to 14-year-olds, the function will not be "horrific". A play, "Korczak and the Children" will be presented, songs from the ghetto will be featured, and there will be readings from the Diary of Anne Frank. Kaddish and El Molé Rachamim will be recited as children light a candelabrum in memory of the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

Robert Rietty, the actor, will act as narrator and Madame Comay, wife of the Israeli Ambassador, will be present. Admission is free, by ticket obtainable from schools, youth movements, or from the Board of Deputies. [Details about the afternoon function are published on page 11.]

Jewish Education

The new £200,000 Yesodey Hatorah girls' primary school in Amhurst Park, Stamford Hill, will start being built in May. Nearly £35,000 towards the cost of the building was raised during an appeal at the 21st annual dinner of the Yesodey Hatorah schools. The school, which will be State aided, will have 280 places.

Marriage and the Synagogue

Rabbi John Rayner, senior minister of the St. John's Wood Liberal Synagogue, has commented on remarks made by Rabbi Raymond Apple, chairman of the Jewish Marriage Education Council, on the validity of marriages solemnised in Liberal synagogues. He warned Orthodox ministers that if they persisted in violating the right of every Jew to be married in the synagogue to which he belongs, then some Progressives might become a little more militant.

Rabbi Apple's endorsement of the campaign "designed to bamboozle Progressive Jews into marrying in Orthodox synagogues 'to avoid complications later' is mischievous", declared Rabbi Rayner. "The right of every Jew to be married in the synagogue in which he belongs must be unreservedly respected and no pressure brought on him or her to marry elsewhere".

Manchester Jewish Council Needs Cash

The Council of Manchester and Salford Jews needs financial help if it is not to close down. At a meeting of delegates Councillor Leslie Donn, the president, said that an immediate £2,000-£2,500 is required to save the youth department and that the whole future of the council is also at stake if hard cash is not forthcoming.

Tribute to Judge Myrella

Tribute was paid to Judge Myrella Cohen, Q.C., on her appointment as one of the new circuit judges. A kiddush was held after the service at the Ryhope Road Synagogue, Sunderland. The minister, stating that the honour was shared by the entire Sunderland community, praised the intellect and character of the new judge. Further tributes were paid by dignitaries of the synagogue.

Replying, Judge Cohen warmly thanked the speakers stating that, although she did not support the Women's Liberation movement, she felt that it was of fundamental importance that women should be given educational and career opportunities.

New Senior Chaplain

The Rev. Malcolm Weisman has been appointed senior Jewish chaplain to the Forces. This follows the retirement of Rabbi Cyril Harris, who took up the post of national director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation. Mr. Weisman, who is 41, has served as chaplain for several years, visiting Jewish personnel in both Britain and abroad. He is also a member of the united chaplaincy board for the universities and a visiting minister to the small communities.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Bombs in New York

Bombs planted in New York killed two women and injured five people. The explosions occurred in the offices of Mr. Sol Hurok the impresario (one of the injured), and the Columbia Artists' Management Company in a Sixth Avenue Manhattan skyscraper. Both have arranged American tours for Soviet performers.

The police, who do not directly suspect the Jewish Defence League, do not discount theories that the perpetrators could have been members of Right-wing extremist groups plotting antisemitic revenge.

Black Muslims

An American Jewish Committee report on the Black Muslims in America states that the movement is potentially more menacing to Jews today than when it first came to public attention a decade ago, because the Muslims "are a significant source of antisemitic infection in the black community".

The report draws attention to the vast empire, with physical assets valued in excess of \$20 million, presided over by 75-year-old Elijah Muhammad, self-proclaimed "Messenger of Allah". Their propaganda media includes "Muhammad Speaks", a publication which indulges in antisemitism and persistent hostility towards Israel.

Low Income Housing Controversy

A low-income housing project in the Forest Hills district of New York may result in "mass conflict", according to the American Jewish Committee. The construction of 840 flats is opposed by many residents of the mainly Jewish middle-class Forest Hills area. They claim that the schools and services are already overcrowded and that the influx of low-income families into an area always results in a higher crime rate. Most of the potential newcomers will be Negroes or Puerto Ricans. The Forest Hills residents have been accused of racialism because of their opposition, and this the opponents of the scheme vigorously deny.

Two leaders of the New York Chapter of the American Jewish Committee have written to the Mayor of New York pointing out that the deteriorating situation in Forest Hills is symptomatic of grave urban and national social crisis... "what is being expressed in Forest Hills has long-range implications for our city and our nation and might well foreshadow mass conflicts".

In opposition to the group which strongly opposes the project, a new group called "Neighbors" has been formed to initiate a peaceful approach to the issue. The group announced its aim to effect a smooth transition for present and future inhabitants of Forest Hills, to accept the project as a *fait accompli* and to labour within that framework. They intend to try and make it work and give some direction to the city.

Chasidic Amity

In contrast to Jewish attitudes in the Forest Hills, area, Chasidim in the Crown Heights district of Brooklyn are purchasing homes in a mixed Negro-White neighbourhood, to remain in the community. According to the 1970 census, 62 per cent of Crown Heights' 225,000 residents are Negroes. The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, has for a long time been telling his followers that it is immoral for affluent Jews to flee a changing neighbourhood. Aided by loans from the Hebrew Free Loan Society, 30 families have obtained a total of £32,000 and are buying mainly old, two family brick houses.

ARGENTINIAN JEW KIDNAPPED

Mr. Sam Mallah, a 75-year-old millionaire who arrived in Argentina from Salonika, Greece, during the Second World War, and one of South America's outstanding Jewish philanthropists, was kidnapped and ransomed for £160,000. The group responsible for the crime has threatened other Sephardi industrialists and prominent people.

SYRIAN JEWRY

In the House of Commons an all-Party motion on the plight of the Jews in Syria was tabled on the third anniversary of the Baghdad hangings.

The motion, stating "the desperate plight of Jewish citizens of Syria", calls on the Syrian Government to release its innocent Jewish prisoners, of whom the M.P.s list 16 names. They call on the Syrian Government to permit those Jews who wish to leave the country to do so in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In a question to Mr Anthony Royle, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Stanley Clinton suggested that Britain raise the matter of the maltreatment of the Jewish community of Syria at the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations. He also said that the Government should mention the refusal of the Syrian Government to give access to the Red Cross or Amnesty International to investigate the matter. Mr. Royle replied that it was for the countries directly concerned to take the lead in raising the matter at the United Nations.

Protesting against the deterioration in the situation of Syrian Jewry, 40 demonstrators gathered outside the Arab League offices in London, and handed a letter on the subject to the League's director.

The World Zionist Congress was told in Jerusalem that at least 16 Jews are languishing in Syrian prisons, with the rest of the Syrian Jewish community, estimated at 4,500, virtually under house arrest and living at near starvation level. The Israeli evening newspaper, Maariv, reported that several Jews from the Syrian border town of Kamishli who stepped on mines while attempting to escape to Turkey were left to die by the Syrian authorities, in spite of their screams of agony. The report said that Kamishli's community of 350 were living under conditions of extreme repression.

WAR CRIMINAL IN BOLIVIA?

Klaus Altmann, a naturalised Bolivian businessman, was placed under Bolivian police protection after France had asked Peru for his arrest pending extradition proceedings. He is suspected of being the former German Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, sentenced to death *in absentia* by a French military court after the war for torturing and killing hundreds of French Resistance fighters in the Lyon area during the German occupation.

NEW DUTCH CONGREGATION

Enschede, in the east central region of Holland, has founded a Liberal congregation, with Rabbi David Lilienthal as minister. Born in Sweden and a graduate of the Leo Baeck College, London, after ordination last July Rabbi Lilienthal joined Rabbi Dr. J. Soetendorp, the minister of the Amsterdam Liberal congregation.

There are about 500 Jews in the area. The joint board of the Orthodox-based Jewish communities of the region sent a letter to their 350 members warning them not to join the new Liberal community.

THE LATE KING CHRISTIAN

At the funeral of King Frederick IX of Denmark, President Shazar represented Israel. The late king had always been a good friend of the Jews. During the Second World War the Danish people headed by King Christian saved 7,000 Jews from deportation and murder by the Nazis.

STAMPS GERMANY AND TERRITORIES

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JEWRY IN THE EAST

EMIGRATION

A Soviet diplomat told the Jewish Chronicle correspondent in Washington that all Soviet Jews who wished to emigrate would be allowed to do so, except those occupying "sensitive" Soviet Government posts or those who might increase "Israel's military potential". The number depended on visa applications and nobody was going to be refused. The diplomat thought that an Israeli Government estimate of 35,000 "may be much too low". The country, he said, did not want to keep people who wanted to leave and, in any case, many would try to return "because they had a distorted view of Israel".

Mr. Pinhas Sapir, the Israeli Finance Minister, replying to this statement in Tel Aviv, said that Israel could take up the challenge—the Government would arrange for the absorption of some 70,000 immigrants during 1972, an increase of 25,000 over the 1971 totals. Some £10 million would be required for additional immigration expenditure and a new levy would be imposed on Israelis earning more than £3,000 a year. A total of about £20 million would also be obtained from abroad to help the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

WESTERN PROPAGANDA INJURIOUS?

At a press conference in New York, Congressman James A. Scheuer reported the parting comment he received from Mr. Alexander F. Chakovsky, a member of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee. Mr. Scheuer, during his recent visit to the Soviet Union, raised the plight of the 39 Jewish prisoners gaoled in the first and second Leningrad trials and other trials between December 1970 and June 1971. Mr. Chakovsky, said the Congressman, stated that something could be done to free the prisoners if Western propaganda against the Soviet Union's treatment of Jews were reduced.

Mr. Scheuer was protesting against his expulsion from the Soviet Union two days after police removed him from a dinner party at the Moscow home of Professor Alexander Lerner, the Soviet computer expert dismissed from his university post and the Communist Party after applying to emigrate to Israel. This is believed to be the first American Congressman expelled from the Soviet Union.

HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT

Reports from the Soviet Union state that Jews who have applied to emigrate to Israel are being harassed and physically assaulted. Recently some Georgian Jews were the targets of antisemitic insults by a group of youths on a Moscow railway station. The police arrested both the Jews and the youths, freeing the youths soon afterwards but remanding in custody three of the Jews. A Moscow Jew was detained by a Soviet police sergeant when he called at the Dutch Embassy regarding his application to emigrate to Israel. The sergeant later beat up the Jew and threatened to lock him up in gaol. Shouting antisemitic insults, two men beat up and injured Mr. Yuri Aronovich, the former director of the Moscow radio and television orchestra for seven years, dismissed some months ago after applying to emigrate to Israel. Soviet police took no action against the men.

WARSAW CEMETERY LOOTED

A Dutch correspondent reports from Vienna that a well-organised gang is systematically looting tombstones from the Warsaw Jewish cemetery to sell at high prices on the black market. Dispatches published in the Nieuw Israelietisch Weekblad and general Dutch newspapers, also state that vandals desecrated individual graves looking for gold teeth. Other Warsaw people desecrated the graves seeking money or jewellery which might have been hidden during the German occupation.

Containing some 800,000 graves, the Warsaw cemetery is believed to be the largest Jewish cemetery in Europe. The oldest tombstone dates from 1820.

Fritz Friedlaender (Melbourne)

ISMAR ELBOGEN AS I KNEW HIM

"Professor Elbogen wants to see you", Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck said to me in 1922, when I worked on my thesis about Gabriel Riesser. Elbogen received me with a kindness which was neither patronising nor condescending. He discussed with me the problems related to my subject, and assisted me in the most generous way.

Baeck and Elbogen, both teaching at the Berlin Lehranstalt fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums, were close friends, but different in character. While Baeck was sometimes carried away by his pathos, Elbogen was, as he called himself, a "tachlis-Mensch". He deplored that Baeck, rabbi and lecturer too, was overburdened, and remarked to me about himself: "Everyone is envious of my position, but no one knows that my appointment is not permanent and that I will not be entitled to draw a pension."

Therefore, he incessantly wrote and edited not only to contribute to Jewish learning, but also to secure a comfortable living standard for his family. "What do you think", he told me, "will happen to us unless I did so much? We could eat, but not live!"

When Elbogen, being deeply attached to his family, dedicated his "Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland" to his wife, it was not only meant as a personal tribute, but also as a general tribute to Jewish womanhood. It was in the same vein that he once remarked to me that Heine owed his best to his mother.

On one occasion he informed me that he attributed as much importance to the organization of his scientific work as to his actual research and teaching. It was a cause of regret for him if a Jewish scholar did not make the right use of his abilities: "Jacob Klatzkin", he said to me, discontentedly, in 1928, "has become a publisher instead of sitting down and concentrating on scientific work." In the interest of scientific co-operation he liked to bring those people together who had something in common. Thus he introduced me to Dr. Simon Rawidowicz with these words: "As you know, Rawidowicz is an historian of ideas, and I think an exchange of views between you both may be useful."

Follower of Zunz and Graetz

I learned from many conversations with Professor Elbogen how much he appreciated Leopold Zunz and Heinrich Graetz. Therefore, as he told me, he considered it a grave insult that the "Historische Kommission fuer die Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland" (1885), instigated by Professor Harry Bresslau, the eminent historian, excluded Graetz from its work. "Probably", I remarked, "Bresslau, the master of the exact method, found fault with Graetz's method." "That is correct", Elbogen replied, "but it was nevertheless an inexcusable insult."

Elbogen's equanimity of mind shunned excessive German as well as excessive Jewish nationalism. Though he did not accept political Zionism, he admitted: "In fact, it was the Zionists who mobilised Jewish cultural life again. Formerly everyone in the Jewish-Liberal camp was asleep." "You, a protagonist of Liberal Jewry, say that!" I exclaimed. Elbogen smiled and, referring to a noted Jewish Goethe scholar, continued: "Ludwig Geiger once told me: 'If I publish an article in the *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums*, hardly anyone pays attention, but if I publish an article in the *Vossische Zeitung*, lots of people tell me they have read it.'"

I tried to defend the Jewish-Liberal cause: "But a Liberal Jew, Hermann Cohen, reassessed Judaism in modern times." "Hermann Cohen", Elbogen retorted, "did not do anything without asking himself: 'What will Rade and Wellhausen say?'" I was startled for this remark suggested that, in Elbogen's view, Hermann Cohen had interpreted Judaism in a manner which was meant to meet with the approval of these two famous Christian theologians who had been his friends and colleagues at Marburg University.

I saw Elbogen for the last time before he left Berlin for New York in 1938. The mild hilarity, usually shining on his face, was gone, for the world of German Jewry lay in ruins.

SHORT STORIES BY LOLA LANDAU

A collection of seven short stories by Lola Landau was recently published in Germany.* All short stories testify to the perceptiveness of the author and are obviously based on real events either experienced or, at least, observed by her. The longest story, "Brueder", deals with one of the most upsetting and fascinating aspects of the dispersion of German Jews: the divergence of destinies among members of the same family. As long as siblings shared everyday life in their parents' house, differences of character and outlook, which are anyhow the rule rather than the exception, were usually toned down. Yet the unifying strength of the common background receded when children had to emigrate without their parents and had to fend for themselves in a new environment. Then each member of the family developed a different pattern of life in accordance with his basic inclinations and faculties.

In the case of Lola Landau's story, the difference is accentuated by the fact that the brothers are children of a mixed marriage, one brother inheriting the intellectuality of the Jewish father and the other the practical mind of the Gentile mother. Unfortunately, the story is slightly marred by the artificial style of some dialogues and letters. All the same, the characters are brought out in full relief, and a highly interesting aspect of the emigration of the German Jews has been moulded into a piece of literature with much skill and imagination. W.R.

* Lola Landau: *Hoerst du mich, kleine Schwester?* Hohenstaufen Verlag, 7765 Bodman (Bodensee). 1971. 176 pp. DM 18.80.

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Old Acquaintances

Obituary: Hans Breitenstraetter, who took up boxing as a P.O.W. in England during the First World War, becoming the most popular heavyweight champion of the early twenties, died in Berlin aged 75.—The author and publicist, Dr. Edgar Stern-Rubarth, until 1933 Chief Editor of Wolff's Telegraphic Agency, died in London in his 89th year.—Dermatologist Dr. G. H. Ritterman, who frequently lectured at "Club 43", has died in London; he was 69.—Clara Reyersbach, London correspondent of the *Hamburger Abendblatt*, has died in Teneriffe.

News from Everywhere: Rolf Gerard, son of opera singer Mafalda Salvatini, responsible for designing several productions in London and for New York's "Met", has been elected an officer of the Legion d'honneur.—Wolfgang Reinhardt, now living in Rome, scripted a film about the last days of Hitler, in which Alec Guinness will play the "Fuehrer".

Hannchen and Chanah: Hannchen Meierzak was seven years old when she was chosen by Fritz Lang to be murdered by Peter Lorre in "M". A few years later the child had to leave Berlin with her parents for Israel, her new home and fatherland. Credit for her amazing story must go to our old friend Erich Gottgetreu, for having discovered the identity of Hannchen Meierzak in Chanah Maron, who became a member of the famous Habimah ensemble and was awarded prizes for her Eliza and Nora. Married to a well-known architect, her promising career was cruelly interrupted on February 10, 1970, when an Arab terror bomb exploded at Munich's airport and Chanah Maron lost a leg. Now recovered, she is back on the stage in "Medea", acting better than ever. Tragedy, which struck twice, could not stop her career.

Austria: Kurt Waldheim, new Secretary-General of the United Nations will be principal speaker at Max Reinhardt's 100th birthday celebrations next year.—Carl Zuckmayer received the "Ehrenring" of the City of Vienna, and conductor Anton Paulik of the Volksoper the "Ehrenkreuz".

Milestones: Heinz Ruehmann will be 70 years old on March 7.—Paula Wessely Berlin, known first in her part as Rose Bernd and discovered for the screen in "Maskerade", is 65; she is married to Attila Hoerbiger.—Pola Negri, star of Ernst Lubitsch's "Dubarry" and re-discovered by Willi Forst for "Mazurka" is 75.—Palucca, the dancer, is 70 years of age.—Ursula Grabley celebrated her 40th stage anniversary by appearing in "Raub der Sabinerinnen" in Hamburg.

Home News: Robert Muller, who adapted the new BBC 2 series "Man of Straw" based on Heinrich Mann's "Der Untertan", was born in Hamburg. He grew up in England and was on the staff of Heute, a German illustrated weekly sponsored by the Americans, before he became known in Fleet Street as a drama critic. Now he writes TV scripts and novels and also co-operates with Peter Zadek in Germany.—Luise Rainer, winner of two Oscars in the thirties and married to Swiss-born London publisher Kittel, will read Shakespeare in German in Stratford-on-Avon on April 23, the birthday of the playwright. Israel will be represented on the occasion by Dahlia Lavi.

PEM

ERNEUTE UEBERPRUEFUNG RECHTSKRAEFTIGER ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSBESCHEIDE

Wie wohl allgemein bekannt sein dürfte, werden Bescheide der Entschädigungsbehörden, also der ersten Instanz in Entschädigungssachen, rechtskräftig, wenn nicht innerhalb 3 Monaten (innerhalb 6 Monaten ausserhalb Europas) gegen einen Bescheid Klage erhoben wird. Bisher wurde auch in der Rechtsprechung die Ansicht vertreten, dass ein Bescheid, gegen den nicht innerhalb der obigen Frist(en) Klage erhoben wurde, in ähnlicher Weise rechtskräftig wird wie ein Urteil. Das bedeutete, dass gegen ihn auch dann nicht vorgegangen werden konnte, wenn er inhaltlich völlig unrichtig war oder wenn spätere Entscheidungen der höheren Gerichte eine andere Ansicht vertraten. Das höchste deutsche Gericht, der Bundesgerichtshof in Karlsruhe, hatte diese Ansicht seit 1959 immer wieder vertreten.

Nun ist diese Ansicht durch ein Urteil geändert worden, das das Bundesverfassungsgericht (BVerfG) am 17.12.1969 erlassen hat. Dieses die deutsche Gesetzgebung kontrollierende Gericht hat dabei die Feststellung getroffen, dass die Rechtskraft auf dem Grundsatz der Rechtssicherheit beruhe, d.h. auf dem Grundsatz, dass Entscheidungen, gegen die nicht fristgemäss vorgegangen wurde, endgültige Entscheidungen bleiben sollen. Das Gericht hat aber gleichzeitig erklärt, dass neben dem Grundsatz der Rechtssicherheit der Grundsatz der Gerechtigkeit berücksichtigt werden müsse und dass für das gesamte Wiedergutmachungsrecht der Grundsatz der Gerechtigkeit wichtiger sei als der Grundsatz der Rechtssicherheit.

Das sind mutige und für die Rechtsprechung insbesondere in Entschädigungssachen ausserordentlich bedeutungsvolle Feststellungen. Die Entscheidung wurde auf einen Satz der Verfassung der Bundesrepublik, nämlich auf Art. 19 Abs. 4 Satz 1 des Grundgesetzes, gestützt, der den Rechtsweg dann gewährleistet, wenn jemand geltend macht, durch die öffentliche Gewalt in seinen Rechten verletzt zu sein.

Die Bedeutung der Entscheidung kann heute noch nicht übersehen werden. Die Länder der Bundesrepublik haben inzwischen sogenannte Richtlinien zu dieser Entscheidung erlassen, die hier nur kurz angeführt werden können. Sie stehen auf dem Standpunkt, dass dieses Urteil des höchsten deutschen Gerichtes (BVerfG) nur Anwendung finden kann, wenn der als unrichtig angesehene Bescheid nach dem 18.9.1965 ergangen ist. Die zweite Voraussetzung für das Vorgehen gegen solche rechtskräftigen Bescheide ist, dass entweder die Entscheidung der Rechtslage zur Zeit des Erlasses des Bescheides nicht entsprach oder seit dem Ergehen des Bescheides die rechtliche Beurteilung sich insbesondere dadurch geändert hat, dass neuere Urteile der Entschädigungsgerichte eine Aenderung der Ansicht zum Ausdruck bringen, die dem rechtskräftigen Bescheid zugrunde lag, oder Beweise aufgefunden wurden, die eine günstigere

Beurteilung ermöglichen würden. Bei solchen Beweisen ist aber weitere Voraussetzung, dass sie trotz aller Sorgfalt im früheren Verfahren nicht geltend gemacht werden konnten.

Wenn der damalige Antragsteller inzwischen verstorben ist, so können eine erneute Entscheidung nur Ehegatten und Kinder verlangen.

Diese Richtlinien, die an sich nicht leicht zu verstehen sind, sollen hier nicht weiter behandelt werden, weil der Fall des Wiederaufgreifens durch rechtskräftige Bescheide abgeschlossener Entschädigungsverfahren so schwierig ist, dass das Wiederaufgreifen ohne rechtskundige Beratung wohl kaum durchführbar sein wird.

Worauf in diesem Aufsatz aber verwiesen werden soll, ist die in den Richtlinien neu eingeführte Frist. Diese Frist wird hier als neu-eingeführt bezeichnet, weil sie sich im erwähnten Urteil des BVerfG nicht vorfindet. Die Richtlinien erklären, dass der Ueberprüfungsantrag innerhalb einer angemessenen Frist gestellt und innerhalb dieser Frist auch mit den Gründen versehen werden muss, die nach den obigen Ausführungen allein eine Ueberprüfung rechtfertigen. Die Richtlinien bezeichnen als angemessene Frist die Frist von einem Jahr für Antragsteller in Europa und die Frist von achtzehn Monaten für Antragsteller ausserhalb Europas. Die Frist beginnt nach den Richtlinien frühestens mit dem Ablauf des Monats, in dem die Richtlinien in der Fachzeitschrift für die Rechtsprechung, "Rechtsprechung zum Wiedergutmachungsrecht" (RzW) veröffentlicht werden. Diese Veröffentlichung erfolgte jetzt in RzW, Januar 1972, Seite 1f. Eine Ausnahme gilt aber für die Fälle, in denen die oben aufgeführten Gründe für einen Ueberprüfungsantrag erst nach dem einen Jahr oder den 18 Monaten eintreten. In diesem Falle beginnen die Fristen mit dem Eintritt dieser Gründe oder, soweit als Grund Aenderung der Rechtsprechung durch Gerichte geltend wird, dem Zeitpunkt, zu dem die Aenderungsentscheidung in der genannten Zeitschrift RzW veröffentlicht wird. Da nicht alle Entscheidungen in dieser Zeitschrift veröffentlicht werden, erhebt sich jetzt bereits die Streitfrage, wann die Frist in den Fällen beginnt, in denen es sich um nicht veröffentlichte Entscheidungen handelt.

Die Frage, ob die in diesen Richtlinien veröffentlichten Gründe und Fristen, insbesondere die Voraussetzung, dass der angegriffene

Bescheid nach dem 18.9.1965 ergangen ist, einer Nachprüfung durch die Gerichte standhalten werden, kann hier nicht behandelt werden, weil sie zu den schwierigsten Gebieten der Gültigkeit von Verordnungen der Länder neben Bundesrecht gehört. Zweck dieses Aufsatzes ist lediglich, auf die neu eingeführten Fristen hinzuweisen, deren Einhaltung auf alle Fälle eine Erleichterung der Durchführung dieser Nachprüfungsanträge bedeutet.

DR. B. MANNES
(Senatspräsident a.D.)

SOZIALVERISCHERUNG Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen

In Beantwortung einer Einzelanfrage über die Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen hat der Sachbearbeiter beim Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung, Ministerialrat von Börries, ausgeführt, dass es immer problematisch sei, eine verbindliche Auskunft darüber zu geben, in welcher Höhe und in welcher Anzahl die Beiträge zweckmässigerweise nachentrichtet werden sollten. Für die richtige Beitragswahl, heisst es in dem Schreiben, liessen sich aber folgende "Faustregeln" aufstellen:

1. In Fällen, in denen die Frage der Wartezeitbefreiung keine Rolle spielt, es auf die Erfüllung der Halbedeckung nicht ankommt, weil nachweisbare Ausfallzeiten (Ausbildungszeiten usw.) nicht vorhanden oder nicht anrechenbar sind und der Vomhundertsatz der persönlichen Rentenbemessungsgrundlage aus den bisherigen Beitragszeiten vor 1965 200 v.H. nicht übersteigt, sollten Beiträge in der höchstmöglichen Beitragsklasse nachentrichtet werden. Dadurch wird in der Regel der Durchschnittswert angehoben und eine günstigere Bewertung der anrechenbaren Fehlzeiten (Ersatzzeiten und pauschale Ausfallzeiten) bewirkt. Hier sollten also wenige hohe Beiträge statt einer grösseren Anzahl kleinerer Beiträge nachentrichtet werden.
2. Es ist nicht sinnvoll, den Zeitraum von der Vollendung des 16. Lebensjahres oder vom Beginn der Pflichtversicherung, wenn dieser Zeitpunkt vorher liegt, bis zum letzten Kalendermonat vor 1957, der mit einem Pflichtbeitrag belegt ist, mehr als zu vier Fünftel mit Versicherungszeiten (Beitrags- und Ersatzzeiten) zu belegen, weil sonst die Ausfallzeitenpauschale ihrem Umfang nach eingeschränkt würde."

Sollte auch danach der Versicherte nicht in der Lage sein, die Anzahl und Höhe der nachzuentrichtenden Beiträge zu bestimmen, so rät das Ministerium, sich an das für ihn zuständige Versicherungsamt zu wenden, auch wenn an dessen Auskünfte die Versicherungsträger nicht gebunden sind.

ERHOEHUNG DER OESTERREICHISCHEN PENSIONEN

Die Pensionen aus der oesterreichischen Pensionsversicherung der Unselbstständigen, die Renten aus der Unfallversicherung sowie die Leistungen aus den Pensionsversicherungen der Selbstständigen sind mit Wirkung vom 1. Januar 1972 um 7, 4 Prozent erhöht worden.

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Margot Pottlitzer

TOWN-PLANNING IN THE 18th CENTURY

If one were to rely on what one reads in the press in this age of the Environment, one might be led to believe that town-planning, like sex, had been invented in the second part of the twentieth century. A recent study by Dr. Helen Rosenau—a frequent contributor to AJR Information—goes a long way to demolish that assumption. Dr. Rosenau confines herself to a comparison between Paris and London between 1760 and 1800, a period on which she is an acknowledged authority. *Social Purpose in Architecture* (Studio Vista, London, £3.75) is the result of thorough research in many fields and, supported by excellent illustrations, provides a wealth of fascinating information for the historian, the sociologist and, of course, the architect-planner, as well as for the non-specialist.

During the period under review Paris and London were the recognised leaders of European thought and in spite of fundamental differences due to geographical and historical premises they greatly influenced each other. C. P. Snow's *Two Cultures* did not exist then, and philosophers, artists and technicians shared a common ideological background. In France the new groups of philosophers who were to create the intellectual climate for the French Revolution, strongly influenced architectural trends and were, in turn, greatly relying on Kant's *Kritik der Urteilskraft* for their aesthetic theories. For the first time, the building of hospitals, prisons and schools, and of decent living quarters for the people, took precedence over the private enterprises of the wealthy and the ruling classes. Similar tendencies, but based on different traditions, were to be seen in London. Here, town development had followed the pattern of the planned layout inherited from the Romans and had been shaped by the fact that the city had always been surrounded by villages which were gradually incorporated. When the social reformer, Robert Owen, planned an Establishment for 1,200 people and based his layout on a square, a traditional form of secular planning in this country, a French critic

remarked even at that early stage that social reformers are often Philistines as far as the arts are concerned.

Nowadays architects and planners from all over Europe flock to this country to look at British achievements in a field which the Germans have termed *Sozialer Wohnungsbau*. These achievements may well be due to a long tradition going back to the period so masterly described in Dr. Rosenau's book.

DEATH OF A PUBLISHER

Dr. Rolf Passer

Dr. Rolf Passer recently died in London. He was about to embark on a journey to the Far East when sudden death at the age of 75 brought his colourful life to an end.

Rolf Passer was born and brought up in Prague the son of a well-to-do German speaking family. Having lost every contact with Judaism, some of its members went so far as to seek complete assimilation through baptism, others found Jewish marriage partners, picked up the Jewish tradition again and their remnants are now living in Israel. Hitler's annihilation policy made, of course, no differentiation between baptised and non-baptised Jews, and most of the Passer family died in the gas chambers.

After graduation in Chemistry at Prague University, Dr. Rolf Passer moved to Vienna to follow his true inclination towards art and literature. He founded a Publishing House which bore his name, and with the genial touch of the amateur he succeeded in securing the collaboration of many most distinguished authors and published their works. We find amongst them the names of Karl Capek, Johannes Urzidil, W. von Weisl, Walter Tschuppi, Oskar Schuerer and many others. The charm of his personal appearance, his wit and unconforming mind might have contributed to his success.

With the Nazi occupation of Austria in 1938 this flourishing activity came to an abrupt end. Passer escaped to France and from there to England. Here he had to return to the science for which he was trained and earned his livelihood as an employee of a chemical concern.

Perhaps it was the best part of his life when, after retirement, he could devote his time to extensive reading; he also took part in the activities of London's Club 43, played bridge, took great interest in the cultivation of his garden and seems to have found the bliss of a harmonious domesticity.

N.T.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD KOEBNER

A moving tribute to the late Richard Koebner, professor of modern history at the University Jerusalem, is paid by Dr. Eliahu Elath, once Israeli Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, in his book "Britain's Routes to India", recently published (in Hebrew) by the Magnes Press of the Hebrew University. Koebner was Elath's teacher at the university from 1943 to 1945, and it is due to his encouragement and permanent tutorship that this research project was accomplished and served as thesis for attaining the doctoral degree. When Elath was Ambassador in London, Koebner suggested to him to choose for his thesis a subject from British nineteenth-century history, which was also connected with the Middle East and even with Jewish aspects, as it was Sir Moses Montefiore who pioneered the railway that linked Jaffa with Jerusalem in 1856. The problem of the road to India touched on Koebner's main concern during his last years. His two great books, published posthumously in London (Cambridge University Press) in 1961 and 1964, were devoted to the semantic and ideological clarification of the concept of Empire.

Richard Koebner (1885-1958) was professor at Breslau University, first mainly in medieval history, and contributor to many learned publications, but when he came to Jerusalem in 1934 he became aware of the urgent need to teach modern history at the young institute, and he guided a whole generation of students in this subject. Thousands of disciples remember him with gratitude, one of them Dr. Elath. In spite of linguistic difficulties—Koebner never mastered the Hebrew language—his lectures were extremely popular. In the fifties he was guest professor in Manchester and London. Apart from his historical works he also published some remarkable essays on the philosophy of aesthetics. Outstanding among these is the book "Vom Schönen und seiner Wahrheit" (1957), written in co-operation with his wife Dr. Gertrud Koebner who now lives in London. Koebner was among the founders of the Leo Baeck Institute and a member of its London Board until his death.

R.W.

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RABBI DR. IGNAZ MAYBAUM 75

Far be it from me, even on so eminent an occasion as Rabbi Dr. Ignaz Maybaum's 75th birthday on March 2, to venture into the field which is rightly reserved to his fellow-theologians. As one who in her work for the Jewish cause has often been privileged to join the circle of scholars of religion, albeit as the *Weltkind in der Mitten*, I am well versed in the habit of keeping my lips sealed in their presence—not out of any objection, of course, but solely out of an abundance of respect for a scholarly branch devoted to the loftiest subjects.

If, in spite of it, I dare to offer Rabbi Maybaum herewith the heartfelt congratulations on behalf of his innumerable friends and admirers, I derive my legitimisation from that fact that he is not only a theologian but more than that: he is—and I hope he will not recoil from these classifications in horror and disgust—also an educator and a politician.

This, at least, he has proved in my own life, which may not be, in this respect, untypical of the lives of many contemporaries. When in the years after Hitler's seizure of power in Germany the ground seemed to give way beneath our feet, he was prominent among those who sustained and supported us. He provided new pillars of spiritual security while the old ones had been cruelly shattered. He strengthened our self-confidence as German Jews when the superficial but by no means uncommon feeling tended to castigate itself in abject self-condemnation. We had abandoned ourselves too far into the Western spirit? Yes, he would retort, but the Western spirit was the *conditio sine qua non* of Judaism unfolding itself in the modern world. We had too credulously absorbed German ways and thought? Yes, but German thought, far from leading us hopelessly astray, had, on the contrary, led us into our own in more than one fertile ground and had, for a century or more, made us the leading centre of world Jewry. We had too confidently believed in our Diaspora existence, thinking of Germany at certain propitious times as the "new Jerusalem" and culpably forgetting the true one? Yes, he would respond, we had certainly erred in our ways, and who does not? But there had also been truth in error, because Diaspora there must be; exile is our fate, even Israel is part of it.

The years of our greatest tribulations were Ignaz Maybaum's *anni mirabiles*. They include not only those following the advent of Nazism but those still to come, when his glowing heart and unwearied mind presented his Edgware congregation with memorable sermons and the wider community with a series of books touching on almost every problem affecting Jewish existence, both the temporal and the eternal.

Of Leo Baeck's word that the Jews are the great nonconformists of world history, Ignaz Maybaum is an outstanding example. When Zionism was still a marginal and to the average even a rather suspect movement, he felt attracted to it, because at the time it was the most "Jewish" of Jewish schools of thought. When under the impact of total disillusion wrought by the Nazi onslaught an understandable, but shallow, "lightning" conversion to all-out so-called "Zionism" set in, he became a warner against too easy illu-

sions and even assumed a worldly-wise attitude—surely nothing that came easily to his religious ardour—towards the realities of the Promised Land. "The Arab as a bearer of power is a fact" he wrote in 1937 in an essay "Zionism and the Love of Zion" (*Der Morgen*, 13th year, No. 12); "if we fail to acknowledge it he will to us become a stumbling-block". During an era which idolised youth and youthfulness, he exalted human maturity, the *baal habayit* as the legitimate upholder of Jewish values.

When the temptation of national power became the natural concomitant to Israel's ever-threatened Statehood he never ceased to protest that the "power of the powerless", if lived in the sign of religious belief, was a more enduring guarantee of existence than physical strength and armaments. It was a creative unrest which he thus aroused at a time when, under acute existential danger, the diversity of Jewish thinking was threatened with giving way to uniformity and equalisation.

Courageous Non-Conformist

This is how the educator Ignaz Maybaum became also a politician. Not a party-politician by any means, rather the contrary. At a time when German Jewry still bore the load of inner-Jewish party-political strife, Rabbi Maybaum not only dreamed of a Jewry liberated from internal struggle; he wrote a book, "Parteiloses Judentum" (1935). He became a politician in the original sense of the Greek *Politeia*, meaning coexistence within a community. The politics he has preached have nothing to do with tactics and expediency. They are directly derived from those absolute standards which to him are the essence of Judaism.

As a politician of such calibre he entered the arena of public controversy whenever the integrity and honour of German Jewry were challenged. "That our Jewish tragedy in Germany should in all our sorrow not lack dignity after the curtain came down in the fifth act was, and still is, your faithful concern", he wrote recently in a letter of congratulation on an event equalling the one which occasions these lines. It is, if anything, his concern. And if he went on saying that it was an especially female capability to give "naturally and with a warm heart what men give only in the hard struggle of commitment", I solemnly insist on differing from him. Because if there is anyone who gives "with a warm heart" as well as "in the hard struggle of commitment", it is Ignaz Maybaum. Long before it became the odious fashion to degrade those who perished in the Nazi Holocaust and to stigmatise their "ignoble death" (Letter to the Editor in "New Statesman", 28.1.72, p. 111), he wrote: "As martyrs we Jews died as courageously as do heroes" (Creation and

Guilt, p. 16). Never since has he ceased to stand up against the malicious distortions of the concepts of honour and nobility with whose help self-appointed judges of history have tried to boost their own grandeur at the cost of the alleged meekness of the vicarious victims.

Dr. Ignaz Maybaum, theologian, philosopher, educator and politician: we wish you to continue for many more years to reap the fruit of your profound erudition and your youthful enthusiasm for everything good, true and Jewish—for your own and your family's sake and for the sake of all of us.

MR. ERICH LUETH (HAMBURG) 70

Mr. Erich Lueth (Hamburg) who since the end of the war has persistently worked for the atonement of his fellow-Germans for the happenings under the Nazi régime, recently celebrated his 70th birthday. His first public action was the campaign against the producer of the *Jud Suess* film, Veit Harlan, who made a comeback in 1950. In 1951 Erich Lueth launched the scheme "Peace with Israel", raising funds for the planting of olive trees in Israel. He was also one of the main initiators of the Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation in Hamburg. In 1953 Erich Lueth was the first German to be invited to Israel; he had, however, to travel incognito under the name of Julius Bermann from Belgium.

A journalist by profession, Erich Lueth worked with the liberal *Hamburger Anzeiger* until 1933. After the war, he became *Senatsdirektor* and Head of the Press Department of the City of Hamburg. He retired in 1964 and, relieved of official duties, now works even more intensely as a writer. His latest work, to be published shortly, will be a biography of the former First Mayor of Hamburg, Carl Petersen, who died in 1933. Petersen, whose mother, Maria, née Behrens, came from a Jewish family, was an outstanding Liberal who succeeded in building an alliance between the middle- and the working-class. Lueth also wrote a portrayal of the former Hamburg Mayor, Professor Herbert Weichmann, under the heading "Vom 'Lueckenbueßer' zum Ehrenbuerger", as well as biographical essays on a number of prominent Hamburg Jews, e.g., Salomon Heine, Gabriel Riesser, Isaac Wolfson and Albert Ballin.

DR. RICHARD AUERBACH 80

Dr. Richard Auerbach (New York) recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Before he emigrated to the United States, he was a lawyer in Berlin. He now practises as a certified public accountant and also as an adviser in restitution matters. Dr. Auerbach has been a leading member of the K.C. students' fraternity since his university years, and it is mainly due to his efforts that an international organisation of former K.C. members was established which maintains the contacts between K.C.ers, now spread all over the world. He is also an executive member of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe and actively associated with Self-help and Congregation Habonim in New York. His numerous friends from former days in this country extend their cordial birthday wishes to Richard Auerbach.

MR. HEINZ ENGLANDER 65

Mr. Heinz Engländer, who until 1939 held a responsible position with the Youth Department of the Berlin Jewish community, and who was also active in the Jewish sports movement in Germany, recently celebrated his 65th birthday. After the November, 1938, pogroms he participated in the organisation of children's emigration. When war broke out he was in Palestine as the leader of a children's transport, and could not return. He later re-emigrated to the United States, but eventually returned to Berlin. (Temporary address, c/o Hotel Silberhorn, Grindelwald, Switzerland.)

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

SOVIET DELEGATION

The first visit of an official Soviet delegation to Israel since the break in diplomatic relations during the 1967 Six-Day War, has been played down by Israel's news media.

Three members of the Soviet League for Friendship and Cultural Links with Foreign Countries attended the conference of the Israeli League for Friendship with the Soviet Union. The delegation included a Jewish member and the League's head. They urged Israel to work for a renewal of friendly links with Moscow.

MOSES MONTEFIORE

The Jerusalem city council, the Jewish Agency and the family of the late Sir Moses Montefiore, are discussing plans to reinter on the Mount of Olives or on Mount Herzl the remains of the great Jewish benefactor, who died in 1885. The Jewish Agency has also agreed to build a mausoleum on one of the sites.

GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO SYNAGOGUE CENTRE

The new communal centre of the Ichud Shivat Zion Synagogue in Tel Aviv was recently consecrated in the presence of the Munich Lord Mayor, Dr. Hans-Joachim Vogel. The congregation was founded by Jews from Germany and comprises 1,000 families from almost all former Jewish communities in Germany. The ceremony was conducted by the Rabbi of the community, Dr. Yehuda Ansbacher, a survivor of the Gurs Concentration Camp in France. At the ensuing reception, Mayor Dr. Vogel was welcomed by the actor Shmuel Rodensky, who had played the Tevye part in the German production of "Fiddler on the Roof". In his address, Dr. Vogel mentioned that about 300 former Jewish citizens had been in Munich as guests of the municipality. The city has also contributed to the costs of the new Centre.

28th ZIONIST CONGRESS

Reports about the 28th Zionist Congress, which was held in Jerusalem, would indicate that very little was accomplished. This Congress, described as one of transition, has seen the beginning of the realisation of Zionism's greatest post-1948 dream — immigration from both capitalist America and Communist Russia — but has not yet decided on its proper role in the years ahead. It was also transitional in that the veterans are not yet ready to yield leadership while the young are not yet ready for the responsibilities of leadership, although they are demanding a greater share of it. A young speaker was roundly applauded for attacking the platform for "the same platitudes, the same political speeches, the same careerism and the same opportunism".

As delegates arrived for the opening of the Congress, police moved in on Black Panthers and other young people who were demonstrating at the convention centre. Many delegates afterwards complained to the organisers of the Congress at the police actions against the demonstrators.

Inside the hall as the Prime Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, sat on a dais with Mr. David Ben-Gurion, the former Premier, Cabinet Ministers and other dignitaries, a group of Mapam Party members unfurled a banner reading: "Let Goldmann speak" and threw similarly worded leaflets.

ANGLO-JEWRY'S CONTRIBUTION

During the financial year 1970-71 British Jews contributed more than £4 million to Israel through the J.P.A., compared with £2½ million in the preceding year. A record £12,430,000 was contributed during 1967-68, which included the Six-Day War and its aftermath.

INVITATION TO WILLY BRANDT

Chancellor Willy Brandt has accepted an invitation by Mrs. Golda Meir to visit Israel. He will be the first Federal German Chancellor to visit the country while in office; both Dr. Erhard and the late Dr. Adenauer went privately after their terms of office.

RABBINATE BANS LEADING HOTELS

Because they provide lift, telephone and other services on Shabbat, many of Jerusalem's leading hotels have been excluded from a kashrut guide published by the Chief Rabbinate's kashrut division. The hotels include the King David, the Jerusalem Tower, the Eden and the Kings.

The Ministry of Tourism is pressing for the guide to be withdrawn because it is damaging to tourism and also introduces the consideration of rabbinical approval for Jerusalem, which does not apply anywhere else in Israel. The Chief Rabbinate is, it is argued, also introducing a change in the religious status quo accepted by all parties to the Coalition Government agreement.

ULTRA-ORTHODOX IMPEDE PROGRESS

A rabbinical training establishment, the Harry Fischel Institute, which has trained many of Israel's leading dayanim, has started to introduce non-traditional subjects like Jewish philosophy, Jewish history, Bible study and Hebrew language in the courses for training overseas rabbis. Its nominal president is Rabbi I. J. Unterman, the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, and its principal Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, a respected member of the Orthodox establishment and a prominent scholar.

Ultra-Orthodox anger at these innovations culminated with a demonstration called by ultra-Orthodox rabbis, who issued a "Torah ruling" forbidding any Jew from studying at the institute.

Rabbi Unterman, like most of the established rabbinate fearful of being termed "liberal", has been influenced by the attacks and by the extremists' "Torah ruling".



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IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR CURT BONDY

Only a few months ago, Professor Dr. Curt Bondy gave a widely acclaimed lecture at Hamburg University to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Professor Dr. William Stern, the incumbent, until 1933, of Bondy's chair at Hamburg University. It is now learned with regret that he passed away on January 17 in his 78th year. He had remained active also after his retirement (1959) as Professor of Psychology and Social Pedagogics and Director of the Psychological Institute of Hamburg University. Originating from the German youth movement, his research and practical work were devoted to youth education, and he took a particular interest in the treatment of juvenile delinquents.

Within the Jewish sphere, Curt Bondy's activities mainly covered the years 1936 to 1939. After his dismissal from the University of Goettingen, he became the educational head of the Jewish Emigration Training Centre Gross-Breesen near Breslau, sponsored by the Reichsvertretung, the C.V. and the Reichsbund juedischer Frontsoldaten. He developed Gross-Breesen into an exemplary educational centre which not only provided the trainees with the agricultural expertise required, but also made its lasting impact on their personalities. This work came to an end on November 10, 1938. For several weeks, Bondy and his boys were in Buchenwald concentration Camp. After the release, Bondy worked for the rescue of the Jews in and from Germany, first in Germany, then in Holland (Jewish trainee camp Wieringerwaard) and later in England (Richborough Camp). In 1940 he resumed his academic career and became a professor at the Professional Institute in Richmond (Va., U.S.A.). In 1950, he was invited to return

to the city of his birth, Hamburg, and to take up a professorship at Hamburg University.

At the funeral ceremony in Hamburg-Ohlsdorf, addresses were delivered by the President of Hamburg University, Dr. Peter Fischer-Appelt, and by Professor Dr. Klaus Eyferth, a former pupil of Professor Bondy's. The tributes of the former trainees and staff members of Gross-Breesen were conveyed by Mr. Ernst J. Cramer (Hamburg) who in his address also paid tribute to the memory of the former members of the Kuratorium, Dr. Julius L. Seligsohn, Dr. Otto Hirsch, Mr. Fritz Schwarzschild and Dr. Alfred Hirschberg.

E.G.L.

DEATH OF ANTI-NAZI OFFICIAL

Ministerialrat Karl Bernard

During the first years of the Nazi régime, up to 1935, there was a certain antagonism between the leadership of the Party which aimed at a radical elimination of Jews in economic life, and the officials of the Ministry of Economics who often took a more moderate line. One of those who, out of a sense of justice, courageously tried to curb the development was Ministerialrat Dr. h.c. Karl Bernard. He never got into the limelight, and he resigned in 1936 to take up a position in the banking trade. This former high official recently died in Frankfurt/Main at the age of 82. In 1945, the U.S. occupation authorities entrusted him with an important function in the committee for currency policy. From 1948 to 1958 he was President of the Central Board of the Bank deutscher Laender. Dr. Bernard, who received many well-deserved honours, was a member of a Huguenot family.

E.G.L.

Of those refugee soldiers who volunteered for the Fighting Forces and were wounded during the war, probably hardly any will have been afflicted as much as Kenneth Fraser (formerly Kurt Fleischmann), who recently died in his 52nd year.

Shot down at Arnhem, he became a paraplegic. After his release as a prisoner of war, he was a patient of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, whose Director, Dr. (now Sir) Ludwig Guttmann, took a special personal interest in him. It was during his hospital treatment that he met a nurse, Edith, who was to become his wife. Together they set up house on the estate for the disabled at Garston near Watford, and it was due to her devotion that he could lead a happy and, within the unavoidable limitations, a "normal" life. He established a duplicating firm and also worked as a translator. A strong-willed personality, he heroically conquered the effects of his physical handicap, and whoever met him was bound to forget immediately that he was sitting opposite an invalid. He had a wide circle of friends, took a keen and active interest in current politics, enjoyed music and, last but not least, good company. During the last years, which he spent in a hostel for the disabled at Eastbourne, his health deteriorated. All the same, his death occurred suddenly and unexpectedly. Yet, perhaps, it was a blessing because he was thus spared long suffering.

All those who knew Ken will remember him with affection and admiration. But the community of former refugees at large also has reason to record its respect to this once "enemy alien" who sacrificed his health in the fight against the Nazi tyranny and all it entailed for us.

W.R.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Deaths

Blumenthal.—Mr. Gustav Blumenthal, of 24 Lyndhurst Road, London, N.W.3, passed away suddenly on January 20 in his 87th year. A much-loved uncle and great-uncle. Greatly missed by his nephews and nieces and their children in London, Cape Town and New York.

Liebes.—Miss Dora Liebes (formerly Breslau) passed away peacefully at Osmond House, The Bishops Avenue, London, N.2, on February 15, aged 91. She will always be remembered by her sister Liesel Glass and family and her friends.

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MISSING PERSONS Personal Enquiries

Weisz.—Engineer Mr. Paul Weisz, born in Malacky C.S.R., son of Salomon Weisz. Left Vienna in 1938 or 1939. Sought by Mr. Hugo Loebel (son of his sister Johanna Loebel) of 64-34 102nd Street, Forest Hills, New York, N.Y. 11374, U.S.A.

AJR Enquiries

Goldstein or Lesser.—Else Goldstein or Else Lesser or Lesa (née Goldstein). Last German address: Berlin S.W., Zimmerstrasse. Emigrated to London 1938 or 1939 with her friend Hans Lesser or Lesa. About 67 or 68 years of age. Wanted by a friend in Sao Paulo. **Wertheim.**—Miss M. Wertheim. Last known address: 106 Hillfield Avenue, London, N.8.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

DR. ADELHEID LEVY 75

Ada Levy is of the opinion that there are enough Jewish Holy-days to celebrate and that it is, therefore, unnecessary to celebrate birthdays. As her parents, brothers and sisters had died by 1936 and she has no family around her in London, she would rather leave 19th March, the date of her 75th birthday, out of the calendar. This is the added reason for her friends to try and give her a feeling of belonging and to express their thanks to her. With sincerity and innate modesty she has devoted her life to others, giving of herself unselfishly and to an unlimited extent.

When one asks Ada Levy what the fundamentals of her life are, the answer is: nature, religiosity and vegetarianism.

As a girl of ten she joined the "Wander-vogel" movement, and she felt herself to be a member of a community whose ideals appealed to her. The Sunday rambles awakened her love for the beauty and peacefulness of the countryside and religious feelings, which laid the ground for her deep belief in God.

Ada Levy was born in Berlin. She first studied mathematics and later economics. As a student she became the co-founder of the women's group of the "Akademischer Verein fuer Juedische Geschichte und Literatur" (A.I.G.V.), and later for many years its chairman. Although basically a lonely person, Ada Levy has been interested in people all her life, and she realised very soon that her vocation was to work with, and for, people. She, therefore, decided to become a professional social worker. She joined the Welfare Department of the Berlin Jewish Community in 1927 and later became head of one of its district offices. In 1939 she emigrated to England on a domestic permit.

In 1941, when the AJR came into being, Ada Levy became the first staff member of this organisation. She took charge of the Social Services Department, and later also of the newly formed Employment Agency. Her interests were never confined to Jewish people. In 1942 she joined the "All-Nations Voluntary Service League" and visited the physically handicapped looked after by the Shaftesbury Society.

Untiring Helper

Many tributes have been paid to Ada Levy in this journal on the occasion of her 70th birthday, and when, because of age, she had to retire from the AJR. She never spared herself and she is not sparing herself now.

She has found new outlets for her need to help others by becoming a voluntary worker for the Jewish Blind Society, the Jewish Welfare Board and, through the Camden Voluntary Workers' Bureau, for the British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association. She visits the blind and the crippled, the sick and the lonely, by day, in the evening and in all weathers.

The AJR Club, which just celebrated its 16th birthday, owes its existence to her initiative. She is its Vice-Chairman, and her interpretations of the Jewish holidays are memorable enrichments of the Club activities. Her twice-weekly consulting hours at the Club are visited by many of her former proteges, who, if they do not seek help with any particular problem, come because they are certain to be listened to with understanding, when they need somebody to talk to.

In 1958 she became interested in vegetarianism. She is a co-founder of the Jewish Vegetarian Society in Great Britain. Vegetarianism to her is not just a question of diet, but has become a way of life.

Ada Levy has been an inspiration to us all. We wish her health and strength to continue in her work for untold years to come. We hope that she will find some happiness in the thought that she has many friends who care for her and who would like to convince her that it is worth while not only to celebrate Jewish holidays, but also her 75th birthday.

DORA SEGALL

GERTRUD BLANK 80

Those of us who were associated with the work of the central Jewish organisations in Germany, domiciled in the Kantstrasse, will remember one of its leading officials, Miss Gertrud Blank. She recently celebrated her 80th birthday in Israel, where she now lives. Like many others who put themselves at the disposal of Jewish organisations in 1933, she had started her career in the wider public service. When she lost her position as a principal welfare officer of the Berlin-Charlottenburg district she joined the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle of the German Jews. Her steadily increasing duties included the organisation of the care for the communities in the Provinces and the central administration of the Jewish Winterhilfe.

In April 1939, she emigrated to Palestine, where she soon adjusted herself to the requirements of a new environment and obtained responsible positions, first under the Mandatory Government and later under the Israeli State authorities. She now lives in well-deserved retirement. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Gertrud Blank and wish her many years of happiness and unimpaired health.

ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

Opening Lecture — March 6

This year's Jewish Book Week and Exhibition will be held from March 6 to March 9 at Adolph Tuck Hall, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. The Opening Lecture on Monday, March 6, at 8 p.m., will be delivered by David Daiches, Professor of English, Sussex University, on "Translating the English Bible". The AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of the lecture, and it is hoped that many members will attend.

The Book Week also includes the following functions: A Hebrew Evening under the heading "From Guilt-Complex to Identity — Major Trends in Contemporary Hebrew Literature" (on Tuesday); a Forum with questions and discussion on "The Jewish Concept of Justice", introduced by Professor E. J. Cohn, Rabbi Dr. S. Goldman and Rabbi J. D. Rayner (on Wednesday); and an illustrated Symposium on Synagogue Music (on Thursday). All functions commence at 8 p.m.

The Book Exhibition, which will display new publications as well as other Judaica of interest, will be open on Monday at 7 p.m. and from Tuesday to Thursday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

IN MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Meeting on April 9

This year, the traditional meeting in memory of the Six Million Jewish Victims of Nazism and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising will be held on Sunday, April 9, at 3 p.m., at the Cambridge Theatre, Earlham Street, London, W.C.2. The principal speaker will be Lord Maybray-King (formerly Speaker of the House of Commons). Further details will be announced in the next issue. As readers know, the AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of these annual memorial meetings, and it is hoped that many members and their friends will attend.

HONOUR FOR SCIENTIST

In memory of Dr. Hans Kronberger, the eminent atomic scientist, a stained-glass window has been dedicated at the chapel of Penrhos College, Colwyn Bay. The scientist's daughters were educated at Penrhos.

Designed by Mr. Geoffrey Wax, a Sheffield artist, the window was the gift of Mr. G. D. Thomas, a personal friend of Dr. Kronberger.

MEMORIAL IN CRAILSHEIM

At the Jewish cemetery in Crailsheim, a plaque was added to the Memorial Stone for the fallen Jewish soldiers of the First World War, commemorating the "humiliated, expelled and murdered victims of the Nazi régime". At the suggestion of a Jewish former citizen, Mr. Theodor Rosenfeld, the municipality also erected a memorial on the site of the former synagogue.

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Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

MARCUSE AND ISRAEL

Seventy-three-year-old Herbert Marcuse, Professor of philosophy at the University of California and 'guru' of the New Left, has reluctantly but clearly formulated his views on Israel and its present political problems. On his visit to that country, the erstwhile Refugee from Nazi Oppression lectured in lucid English on 'The Philosophy of Aesthetics' but, pressurised by his questioners, he relented smilingly and made statements on current Middle East issues.

It was to be expected that he would arrive at anti-establishment conclusions, also 'anti' the Israel establishment, and neither the majority of Israelis will share his opinions nor, probably, most of the Jewish people elsewhere. This does not make them less challenging, even more so as they deviate from the extremism of most of his followers.

The most interesting and — surprising — result is Professor Marcuse's positive assessment of Israel's right to sovereign Statehood, so often repudiated by Leftist groups for the sake of some mystic "Palestinian" entity. "The historical goal which motivated the foundation of the State of Israel was to prevent a recurrence of the concentration camps, the pogroms and other forms of persecution and discrimination", said the "father" of the New Left; "pursuance of this goal presupposes the existence of a sovereign State which is able to accept and to protect Jews". His remarks about his own *aliyah* added a piquant flavour: while supporting immigration to Israel of Jews as one way of solving the problem of persecution in their countries of origin, his own decision to immigrate would depend on "what is going on in this country".

The establishment of Israel, having been a political act and made possible by the Great Powers, from the beginning involved the displacement of the Palestinian people, partly under pressure, partly "voluntarily", Professor Marcuse declared. The part of the Arab population that remained in Israel found itself reduced, in spite of the granting of civil rights, to the status of secondary citizens. In his opinion, Israel could achieve its aim only while existing in normally peaceful relations with its neighbours.

Coming from the general to the specific he considers Egypt's reply to Dr. Gunnar Jarring of February 15, 1971 as a first step towards peace. A peace treaty with the U.A.R. would include, on the one side, recognition of Israel and free access through the Suez Canal and the Straits, on the other side, withdrawal from the occupied areas and settlement of the refugee problems.

The argument that withdrawal would lay Israel open to a devastating Arab attack could, so he explains, be met by the establishment of demilitarised zones, protected by UN forces. "The risk involved seems to me not greater than the perpetuated risk of war under present conditions", he stated, emphasising that a negative answer would mean that Israel could preserve itself only as a military fortress in a vast hostile environment, and that its material and intellectual reserves would be geared to ever growing military requirements.

If this were the only solution, its dangerously precarious and temporary character would be all too evident. "A superpower may continue to exist under such conditions a long time—the smallness of the country precludes this policy for Israel", Professor Marcuse pointed out.

In his interpretation, the status of Jerusalem may well turn out to be the hardest impediment to peace. He believes Jerusalem should become the first international city. The Arabs would find the "Dome of the Rock" unacceptable in a Jewish capital, yet he sees no reason why the Jews should not pray at the Western Wall inside an international administration.

As to the refugee problem, Professor Marcuse outlined two possibilities. The resettlement in Israel of those Palestinians who wished to return was limited by the extent to which Arab land had become Jewish land, and Arab property Jewish property. But it could partly be carried out by resettling the returnees on still available land or by giving them adequate reparations.

The Professor took up the official argument that such a mass return would transform the Jewish majority into a minority and thereby defeat the very purpose of the Jewish State.

"I believe that it is precisely the policy of aiming at a permanent majority which is self-defeating", he challenged. "The Jewish population is bound to remain a minority within the vast realm of Arab nations from which it cannot indefinitely segregate itself without returning to ghetto conditions on a higher level. . . . and lasting protection for the Jewish people cannot be found in the creation of a self-enclosed, isolated majority, but only in the co-existence of Jews and Arabs". . . .

As an alternative to solving the refugee problem in this way, he sees the establishment of a national Palestinian State alongside Israel. Whether this State would be an independent entity, or federated with Israel or with Jordan, should be left to the self-determination of the Palestinian people. The optimal solution, in Professor Marcuse's view, would be the co-existence of Israelis and Palestinians, of Jews and Arabs, in a socialist federation of Middle Eastern States which he himself describes as "a utopian project".

As a personal confession he admitted that he most felt himself a Jew when he considered the Jew an underdog, but he found it difficult to identify himself as a Jew "who sits on top of the underdog".

DEATH OF LORD SIEFF

Lord Sieff of Brimpton, President of Marks & Spencer and lifelong worker for Zionist and general Jewish causes, died at the age of 82.

Israel Moses Sieff was born in Manchester into a family of Lithuanian origin and educated at Manchester Grammar School and Manchester University. As a young man he became a member of the circle around Dr. Weizmann, then lecturer at Manchester University. In 1918 Sieff was appointed secretary of the Zionist commission which went to Palestine to survey the possibilities for the realisation of the Balfour Declaration. Throughout his life he contributed to the development of the country both as a political adviser and as a constructive benefactor. His most outstanding endowment is the Daniel Sieff Institute in Rehovot, now closely linked with the Weizmann Institute.

Lord Sieff had a decisive share in building up the Marks & Spencer organisation, where he took a particular interest in problems of industrial relations and staff welfare. He was also closely associated with Political and Economic Planning (PEP). When he was raised to the peerage, he delivered several widely acclaimed speeches on economic and labour relations questions.

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