

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

H. G. Reissner

GERMAN JEWRY UNDER DURESS

A History of the "Reichsvertretung"

The following observations were prompted by pondering on the most recent publication in the *Schriftenreihe Wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts* (No. 29): S. Adler-Rudel, *Jüdische Selbsthilfe unter dem Naziregime 1933-1939*, J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), Tübingen 1974, XV and 221pp., DM55. A historical presentation of this kind can be conceived in two ways, either factually, quoting and interpreting pertinent documents, or autobiographically (although, with the passage of time, "complete recall" becomes next to impossible, and recheck of, at least, certain data a prerequisite). The revered author of the work under review had the choice of either method. He was not only a witness of the events, but also actively and passively involved in them. He remained true to his long established method to let the sources speak for themselves. He had done so previously, to wit, in the first volume of the same *Schriftenreihe*, entitled "Ostjuden in Deutschland 1880-1914", and in the essay "The Evian Conference on the Refugee Question" in Leo Baeck Year Book XIII (1968),—notwithstanding the facts that as an "Ostjude" (an epithet which this writer applies to the author lovingly) he had worked on behalf of his *landsleute* professionally while in Germany and that having become a refugee himself after his expulsion from Germany in 1936 (until he settled in Jerusalem in 1948), he attended the Evian Conference in 1938.

In assessing the measurable facts of Jewish self-help in Nazi Germany prior to the outbreak of World War II, Adler-Rudel has devised a rather imaginative approach: he recreates the changing situation as it was reflected in the annual reports of the authorised central representation of the Jews in Germany, the *Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland*, as well as in the monthly or bi-monthly *Informationsblätter*, issued originally by the *Zentral-Ausschuss der deutschen Juden für Hilfe und Aufbau*, and as of May 1935, by the *Reichsvertretung* itself. He amplifies the evidence of these two main sources by quoting from additional ad-hoc publications of staff members of these organisations and by "estimates" (often his own, such as the ones on the re-emigration of *Ostjuden* to countries of their birth).

Adler-Rudel's technique—while, indeed, legitimate from the point of view of scholarly research—is not entirely novel. When Hans Lamm, now prominent in Jewish affairs in post-war West Germany, completed his doctoral dissertation *Die innere und äussere Entwicklung des deutschen Judentums im Dritten Reich*, Erlangen 1951, he based it mainly on the testimony of the contemporary

Jewish press in Germany, amplifying it—as Adler-Rudel also does—with pertinent abstracts from concurrent Nazi legislation. The harvest of Lamm's academic endeavours was thoroughly depressing. Having read it immediately after its completion, I wrote to the professor who had accepted the dissertation—incidentally: Hans-Joachim Schoeps: "On the part of the Jews, Lamm presents only a picture of utter confusion and helplessness. It mirrors the utterances which the Jewish press in Germany permitted itself to print; but this does not render justice to what really took place."

I happen to be one of, probably, very few students to have—like Adler-Rudel—re-read the *Arbeitsberichte* and *Informationsblätter* systematically a few years ago. In retrospect, already then they impressed me as a model of sober reporting—taking into consideration the impending impact of Nazi censorship—and of dignified silence in the face of overwhelming odds. And yet—his is, once again, not the full story of what was, I feel, the most singular event of our individual lives. In his characteristic reticence, Adler-Rudel introduces what he is going to present to the reader, as a "play of restrained drama"; his intention, he states, was neither to accuse nor to vindicate. (By the way, Adler-Rudel could have had plenty of reasons to be accusatory: his expulsion from Nazi Germany had been due to an insinuation to the *Gestapo* by Georg Kareski, a Jewish political opponent of his.)

For the benefit of the reader who had been remote from the scene, or who was not even born when the "drama" occurred, there is therefore a need, forty years later, to put action into perspective. This is being admirably achieved by a preface contributed by Adler-Rudel's equally venerable fellow-combatant, Robert Weltsch. Weltsch, who, at the outset of the crisis, had coined the parole *Tragt ihn mit Stolz, den gelben Fleck!*, succeeds in recreating the background of the emotional atmosphere of those fateful years—an "absurd situation", as he dubs it in a remarkable understatement, while delegating final evaluation to "a great poet who, until now, has not been bestowed upon us".

According to one's status at the time, different memories will arise in a survivor's mind—be it the strong conviction of both large entrepreneurs and small shopkeepers that they had to defend the patrimony of generations against the attempted intrusion of a vagabond upstart, or the wishful thought that a *Reichswehr* intervention could put an end to the whole nightmare (a hope inadvertently fostered by the revulsion voiced by foreign diplomats and newspaper corres-

pondents with whom individual spokesmen of Jewish organisations maintained contact). There was also an initial illusory hope in certain Jewish youth circles that a permanent adjustment "on German soil" was conceivable by way of "normalisation" of the then lopsided occupational structure of the Jews in Germany, i.e., through de-emphasising commerce and professions and resettling the numerical excess on the land.

Another stark aspect of the "absurd situation", not here stressed by either Adler-Rudel or Weltsch, and hitherto, broached at random only by a couple of chroniclers (such as the late Martin Rosenbluth in "Go Forth and Serve", New York 1961), is this: relevant utterances of Jewish spokesmen in Nazi Germany must not automatically be accepted at face value. In other words, they did not necessarily mean what they said, or, to put it differently, certain actual endeavours conflicted with pronounced intentions. A telling example, so far unrecorded, would be the verbal instruction given by the Central-Verein and the Zionist Federation for Germany jointly on March 25, 1933 to their delegates, the late Richard Lichtheim, Martin Rosenbluth and Ludwig Tietz, for their trip to London. Ostensibly, as desired by the Nazi government, they were to dissuade Jewish organisations abroad from holding planned mass protest meetings; but after having done so in a transatlantic call to Dr. Stephen S. Wise in New York from London, the delegates added a "cryptic" message, well understood by the recipient, that he should go through with the Madison Square Garden demonstration.

Adler-Rudel was quite aware and, obviously, mindful of similar ambiguities and obfuscations when analysing the testimony of *Arbeitsberichte* and *Informationsblätter*; he draws attention to the fact that the atrocities of the "Crystal Night" are reflected in the former only tangentially by the laconic sentence: "After a transitory suspension of its activity, the *Reichsvertretung* resumed work on November 29 (1938)".

Adler-Rudel reports on the tasks tackled by the *Reichsvertretung* from 1933 to 1939 under five separate (but, in fact, inter-related) headings. They are (1) primary (and adult) education; (2) occupational training and re-training (at home and abroad); (3) promotion of emigration, individual and collective; (4) economic and cultural support measures; 5) welfare, including such special efforts as the *Juedische Winterhilfe*.

Most of the readers of AJR Information have, I am sure, participated in, supported financially, or have benefited from, one or the other of the above categories. Therefore the present review will not attempt to relate the details reassembled by Adler-Rudel. Suffice it to confirm that his résumé is exhaustive and accurate. Readers who were too young to remember themselves or who were remote from the scene of action will marvel at the spectacle of how a harassed minority kept its cool amidst increasing pressure and how it

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GERMAN JEWRY UNDER DURESS

Continued from page 1

tried to respond, in whichever way, constructively to the menace which was to annihilate it eventually.

Adler-Rudel adds a sixth, synoptical chapter, entitled "Financial Selfhelp of the German Jews", although he knows full well that cost is a secondary consideration in a deadly emergency, and that assistance from Jewish organisations and individuals abroad had to assume an increasing share of the total burden. It is quite likely that less support would have been mobilised in Western Europe and America, had their Jews not noticed that their beleaguered coreligionists in Nazi Germany were pulling their weight. The former might also have remembered that, in the past, the German Jews themselves had always contributed their mite, at least financially, towards mitigating hardships and oppression wherever such occurred.

Adler-Rudel calculates that, from 1933 to 1939, "one half of the true expenditure for Jews in Germany was raised by themselves". Whether or not his "guesstimate" is arithmetically correct, is open to argument, this all the more so because RM figures contributed and/or spent at a time of increasing foreign exchange manipulations cannot be readily converted into precise dollar or sterling amounts.

I have compiled a summary (not provided by Mr. Adler-Rudel) of income and expenditure figures of *Zentral Ausschuss* and *Reichsvertretung* as published up to and including 1938. Income figures for the period from April 1 to December 31, 1933 were apparently not published (expenditure during the same period amounted to 1.2 million RM, most of it, presumably, having been funded domestically). During the five calendar years 1934-38, expenditure totalled 18.3 million RM against an aggregate income of 18.1 million RM. Thereof 10.9 million RM (or roughly 60 per cent) came from foreign sources (Joint, Central British Fund, JCA, etc.), and 7.2 million RM (or roughly 40 per cent) were raised at home. However, these sums are exclusive of cost for adjustment, emigration and resettlement abroad borne by individuals themselves. On the other hand, they also disregard disbursements of Jewish relief organisations in countries of transmigration and reception. In his article on the Evian Conference, Adler-Rudel quotes a figure of "some 50 million dollars in the first five years", i.e., through 1937, altogether spent by Jewish bodies outside Germany. A similar estimate was made in 1939 by Sir Herbert Emerson, then director of the Intergovernmental Committee, set up at Evian, to which were to be added "at the very least" 25 million dollars "given in kind and in hospitality" by individuals to individuals abroad.

Needless to say that the additional individual and collective losses, incurred by Jews and Jewish bodies in and from Germany through forfeiture of existence and/or confiscation in one form or another would increase any attempted estimate to near astronomic heights. Indisputable remains the fact that German Jews and German Jewry responded to the challenge with great dignity, determination and willingness to sacrifice. This is climaxed only by the silent heroism of leaders such as the late Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, Otto Hirsch, Julius Seligsohn and many of their co-workers in the liquidating *Reichsvereinigung*, who elected to remain at their posts although they could have saved their lives by leaving while there was still time.

After his own enforced emigration from Germany in 1936, and ever since, Adler-Rudel has been steadfast in his dedication to the cause of the former German Jewry, its needs as well as its history. This most recent contribution of his entails an implied appeal that we, too, keep our faith. It may also be interpreted as an exhortation to other branches of the Jewish people to be prepared should they ever have to face a similar challenge.

Thanks are due to him for this memorial. May we be privileged to profit from his wise counsel for many years to come. *Yeeshar koah*, Adler-Rudel!

"THANK-YOU BRITAIN" FUND LECTURE

The extension of the annual "Thank-You Britain" Fund lectures under the auspices of the British Academy from one to three afternoons proved a great success. It gave the lecturer the chance of dealing with the subject he had set himself in greater depth. Lord Blake, Provost of The Queen's College, Oxford, analysed the development of the office of Prime Minister from Sir Robert Walpole, the first holder of this office, up to the present. Among the interesting facts which transpired when he classified the Prime Ministers according to their class background was that the proportion of aristocrats was higher in the 19th century than in the 18th century. Of course, the process reversed again this century, and now it is more or less a prerequisite that the Prime Minister is a commoner and answerable to the House of Commons. The speaker also dealt with the relationship between the Prime Minister and the Crown and the gradual decline of the factual influence of the monarch in questions such as the dissolution of Parliament and the choice of the Prime Minister. Like all "Thank-You Britain" Fund lectures, Lord Blake's series of lectures will be published. It will be a most valuable and thorough contribution to the political history and present governmental structure of this country.

JEWISH POLITICIANS IN POST-WAR GERMANY

At the board session of the Zentralrat of the Jews in Germany, held on June 16/7, 1974 in Duesseldorf, Dr. Josef Neuberger, formerly State Minister of Justice of the Land Northrhine-Westphalia, gave an address under the heading "25 Jahre Grundgesetz". The full text of the address, together with that of Professor Dr. Aryeh L. Tartakower about "Kampf um juedische Kultur", was recently published by the Zentralrat in a 28pp brochure. In the course of his speech, Dr. Neuberger referred to the fact that several Jews, including Dr. Herbert Weichmann (former Mayor of Hamburg) and himself, had accepted high offices in post-war Germany. "I must confess", he stated, "that before I accepted the office of the Minister of Justice of the greatest Land of the Federal Republic, I had to decide—and I am sure that Weichmann was in the same predicament—whether we could still accept such a high office after Auschwitz". "The admission to public offices", Dr. Neuberger went on, "is according to Article 33 of the Grundgesetz independent of the religious adherence of the citizen. After all, it means something that out of the small remnants of German Jewry, two conscious Jews were appointed to the highest public offices, without raising the problem of dual loyalty, as it happened in former times. The services to the Federal Republic do not create conflicts with a positive attitude to Israel." Dr. Neuberger warned of the dangers from the extreme Right and the extreme Left but stated that the extreme parties no longer played a role in political life. While the Weimar Constitution was controversial up to the end, the Grundgesetz, as the foundation of democratic legal and social order, is uncontroversial. Contrary to Weimar there is a stability of government in the Federal Republic. There were 13 Chancellors during the 14 Weimar years, whereas the 25 year old Federal Republic now has its 5th Chancellor.

NEAL ASCHERSON ADDRESSES GERMAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

The "Arbeitskreis Featherstone Park", comprising former German prisoners of war of Featherstone Park Camp, held its 15th Annual Rally in Duesseldorf. The Founder and Hon. President of the "Arbeitskreis" is Mr. Herbert Sulzbach, a German-Jewish refugee who was education officer of the camp and who now holds a responsible position with the German Embassy in London. The Meeting was attended by 90 persons, including not only the officer prisoners interned at Featherstone Park, but also a high percentage of young people, among them children of the ex-prisoners. The speakers were Neal Ascherson, who spoke about his experiences during the years, when he was German correspondent of the Observer, and Oberst K. H. Boettger, himself a former Featherstone Park prisoner who until recently was military attaché of the German Embassy in London. Among the guests was a Jewish Dutchman, Mr. Weisbaker, a survivor of Auschwitz, who had attended the annual meetings for the past 12 years. The reports were followed by a lively discussion, in which particularly many young people took part.

The Hon. President of the Featherstone Park Circle, Mr. Herbert Sulzbach, an untiring champion for understanding between post-war Germany and Britain and between Germans and Jews, gave two broadcast interviews after the gathering.

COMMUNITIES IN GERMANY

The pocket *luach* 1974/5, published by the Jewish National Fund Office for Germany and carrying the addresses of all Jewish organisations in the Federal German Republic, reveals that there are at present 75 Jewish communities in West Germany (including West Berlin).

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HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

CALLS ON BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE

A Board of Deputies delegation, led by the board's president, Lord Fisher of Camden, and including Mr. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P., had a meeting with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. James Callaghan. Deputies requested the meeting following their concern over Britain's abstention in the United Nations on the admission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The meeting, described as "comprehensive, frank and friendly", took place a week after Mr. Callaghan's Commons statement outlining the "three fundamental needs" for a just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict: that Israel must have satisfaction of her need for recognition by her neighbours of her permanence as a State and of her legitimate security interests; Israel's Arab neighbours must have satisfaction of the withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces; provision to be made for satisfaction of the needs of the Palestinians, not only the rights of individual Palestinian refugees but also the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

Referring to Britain's participation in the European "dialogue" with the Arab world on oil and related matters, the Foreign Secretary added that nothing should be done which would put at risk the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East or to harm Israel. Mr. Callaghan declared he was ready to do all he could to ensure that the many ties which bound Britain to Israel would be developed and fostered.

A delegation of the Anglo-Jewish Association was assured by Mr. David Ennals, Minister of State in charge of the Middle East at the Foreign Office, that the British Government attached "the greatest importance" to ensuring the long-term safety and integrity of Israel.

GERMAN INFLATION IN THE '20s
ON BBC TV

The progressing inflation, affecting all countries in the West and Britain in particular, is bound to call for comparisons with the German inflation in the 'twenties. The extent to which the value of money decreased not only daily but even hourly, with all its effects on the life of the ordinary citizen and the final rise of circulating banknotes to astronomical figures will, it is hoped, remain a unique phenomenon in history. Yet with this reservation, we cannot get away from the fact that, as an extreme case, the upheavals of the German 'twenties are on everybody's mind as a nightmare. It is under this aspect that three immigrants from Germany, Mr. William Guttman, Mr. Herbert Hochfeld (a member of the AJR) and Mr. Willy Derkow (known to many in our midst as the son-in-law of the late Dr. and Mrs. Schwarz in Hindhead) spoke about their reminiscences in a recent TV broadcast. Grotesque episodes were recalled, e.g. the collection of money from the banks by employers in handcarts and lorries, or the increase of the cost of a cup of coffee between the time of ordering it and payment of the bill. Yet, on the more serious side, the broadcast also dealt with the general impoverishment of the middle classes, including, of course, Jewish families to the same extent as non-Jews, as Herbert Hochfeld exemplified in the case of his father, a doctor. Whole sections of the population blamed the State for their misfortune, and quite a few of them thus became enemies of the Weimar Republic, turned to the nationalists and eventually to the Nazis.

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NEWSPAPERS' "DOUBLE STANDARDS"?

Mr. William Rees-Mogg, editor of The Times, addressed the luncheon club of the B'nai B'rith on the attitude of the British press towards Israel. A complaint was made of "double standards" in the editorial comments of British newspapers, including his own, when dealing with Arab terrorism and with Israeli counter-measures of self-defence.

Mr. Rees-Mogg admitted that double standards were wrong but, he said, British newspapers are harsher in their criticism of Israel than of the Arabs only because they expect much higher standards of conduct from Israel than from her enemies.

Explaining the editorial policy of his own paper since the 1967 Six-Day War, Mr. Rees-Mogg said that when they were temporarily in a position of overwhelming strength, this should have been used by the Israelis to effect a lasting settlement with the Arabs. The opportunity did exist but, unfortunately, it was not taken.

WOULD-BE RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS

Immigration officers at London's Heathrow Airport turned back nine Russians who tried to enter Britain from Israel on one-way tickets. The officers were not satisfied with the "validity and credibility" of the reasons given for the Russians wishing to enter the country. Two families of Soviet Jews comprising eight persons who arrived from Israel were, however, allowed to remain here on month-long tourist visas.

A family of four Jews were sent back to Israel after having been persuaded to return by the head of the Jewish Agency immigration department in London. Jewish relief and welfare organisations in London refused to help any of the families on the ground that they could not be classified as refugees, their original place of refuge being Israel.

NATIONAL FRONT

Although the National Front lost all its 90 deposits in the election, in 24 constituencies it claimed an increased percentage vote compared to the February election. The losses sustained by the Front were a setback for Right-wing extremists in Britain, commented Dr. Jacob Gerwitz, executive director of the Board of Deputies defence and community relations department. But there was no room for complacency since the NF would no doubt be encouraged that for the first time it polled more than 100,000 votes.

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Deputies' Deficit

A meeting of the Board of Deputies was told that the deficit in the first half of the current financial year was almost 50 per cent higher than in the same period last year, exceeding £10,000 compared with just over £6,600 the year before.

The increase was attributed mainly to a drop in donations. There had also been large increases in costs especially for printing and stationery and for special projects, including over £2,800 on the campaign for Soviet Jewry. The market value of the board's investments had also dropped by up to 40 per cent.

An open letter to all members of the Jewish community has been issued to "share in the responsibility for the efficient running of its representative body". In order to stabilise the board's financial position, a £2 contribution per person per annum is to be obtained from the membership of every constituent body represented on the board.

"Charity Begins at Home"

The plan of the executive of the Norwood Homes for Jewish Children to spend £400,000 in Israel created a stir within the community. The executive is now prepared to consider a proposal, made by Mr. David Clore, appeals chairman of the Home for Aged Jews, that Norwood should lend some of its £2 million wealth to Jewish charities at home. He suggested that Norwood advance money to charities in dire need against covenanted donations coming in over long periods, at a minimal rate of interest.

School Meals Crisis

The Ilford kosher school meals service, now in its tenth year, is in jeopardy due to transport costs and lack of support. Redbridge Council meets part of the cost of the meals so that the children pay only 12p per day, the same as for non-kosher meals. However, the problem is in the cost of the coaches collecting children from local schools and taking them to the centre. With only 80 children using the service, half the cost is barely covered. The only new recruits lately were four Moslem children, making a total of seven, yet very many Jewish children are eating non-kosher school meals.

Manchester Apathy

In his financial report, Mr. Anthony Daulby, treasurer of the Council of Manchester and Salford Jews, deplored the apathy of the Manchester Jewish community. The council, he said, was "insolvent" and survived only on synagogue levies. It could not rely on donations or grants. The current overdraft was more than £3,000. Mr. Daulby appealed to synagogues who had agreed to the original levy of £1 to honour their "moral pledge" to the council.

Newcastle Community

The Representative Council for Newcastle Jewry, in a survey of the population of the Newcastle Jewish community, shows a decline in numbers.

The 1974 Jewish Year Book gives 3,500 for the Jewish population of Newcastle, but it is claimed that today's figure should be not more than 2,000. It is suggested that the decline is due to the low birth rate and high death rate of the present community and the increasing incidence of intermarriage.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

AMERICAN ELECTIONS

Despite the fact that in the mid-term Congressional and State elections in the United States there was an overwhelming vote for the Democrats, the Republican Senator Jacob K. Javits was re-elected for New York. Older members of the Jewish community voted for him because of his attitude towards Israel. The Democrat candidate, Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff, of Hartford, Connecticut, was also re-elected by a comfortable majority.

These two, together with Mr. Robert Young the successful candidate from Florida, will now comprise three Jews in the Senate.

In New York State the first Democratic Governor for 20 years, a Catholic, Mr. Hugh Carey, was elected with the massive help of Jewish voters.

DEROGATORY SPANISH DICTIONARY REFERENCES

After some 20 years of protests by Jewish organisations, mainly the Latin American Jewish Congress, most definitions derogatory to the Jewish people and religion have been adequately amended in South America's official dictionary. However, a new edition of the popular Spanish-language *Salvat Dictionary* distributed in South America contains many such derogatory references.

ANTISEMITISM IN BUENOS AIRES

A meeting in memory of Juan Manuel de Rosas, the tyrant who ruled Buenos Aires in the middle of the last century, supporters of the pro-Nazi *Alianza Libertadora Nacionalista* shouted "Jews to the gallows". High-ranking members of the Government, including Dr. Jose Antonio Allende, the Senate president who is next in line in the succession to the Presidency, were also present at the meeting.

Daia, the representative organisation of Argentine Jews, protested to the Minister of the Interior against the antisemitic outburst, who said that he associated himself with the general condemnation of elements seeking to sow hatred in the country.

ITALY

Schoolmaster was a Nazi

In a statement denouncing Professor Stephen Steinmarr, the Merano Jewish community in Italy's north-eastern German-speaking province of South Tirol states that the principal of the town's secondary school is a former member of the Nazi SS. Records, they say, show that Steinmarr enlisted in the Nazi SS "Prinz Eugen" Division as a volunteer. The statement points out the risks of such a man being in charge of the education of young people and the danger of indoctrination.

The statement comments on the "political issue of connivance which covers with a veil of compassion (Second World War) events in which too many people appear to be involved as active protagonists, while the victims (of Nazism) are requested to forget".

Catholic-Jewish Relations

The formation of a "Commission for Relations with Judaism" has been announced by the Vatican, the function of which it will be to promote and stimulate "religious relations between Jews and Catholics" and with Judaism on a world level. Whilst emphasising the relations to be developed with "Judaism on a world scale", the statement avoids all references to Zionism, Israel, Jerusalem or the Holy Places.

The indication is that the Vatican intends to maintain the character of a "special relationship" with Judaism, stemming from a common Old Testament heritage.

AUSTRALIA

Retirement of Rabbi

To mark the retirement of Rabbi Dr. H. M. Sanger, the co-founder and spiritual head of Temple Beth Israel in St. Kilda (Melbourne), the Temple will in future bear Dr. Sanger's name. Born in Berlin, Dr. Sanger completed his studies at the Jewish Theological Seminar in Breslau in 1936 and shortly afterwards emigrated to Australia. In 1958 he was awarded the honorary doctor degree of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and shortly afterwards the OBE. Dr. Sanger is a Vice-President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

SCANDINAVIA

Communities' Future

About 6,500 Jews today live in Denmark, some 13,000 in Sweden and 1,500 in Norway. They face many problems, not the least being the decrease in the number of members, spreading assimilation, and low attendances at synagogue services.

Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior and Rabbi Sechbach minister to the spiritual needs of the communities in Denmark, while in Sweden there is only Chief Rabbi Morton Narrow of Stockholm, and no rabbi officiates in Norway. All the communities need religious leaders, teachers and other functionaries. The strains of the tensions between the different trends of Judaism and the quarrels within individual congregations, together with economic factors, contribute to the pressures.

The arrival of some 6,000 Polish refugees in Denmark and Sweden four and five years ago did not swell the ranks of the local communities, since many of the newcomers scarcely realised they were Jews or of Jewish origin.

Against this is the fact that many of Scandinavia's youth are today taking part in a rich and varied Jewish life, some being more religious than their parents, more interested in Israel, and more willing to join the leadership of their communities.

Many of the best of the Scandinavian communities' youth have emigrated to Israel, but the communities hope that a sufficiently large number of young people will remain and will in time take on the management of communal affairs.

SOVIET JEWS IN BELGIUM

According to a Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman, the number of Soviet Jews in Belgium now stands at 800, but this is by no means certain as there is little check on foreigners arriving in Belgium by train or road.

In a programme on Belgian television, a Soviet Jew said that in Israel they were held in even less regard than Arabs. Another claimed that the staff of a firm where he worked while in Israel had refused to sit at the same table with him.

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JEWRY IN THE EAST

ARSON TRAGEDY

Reports have reached London that Professor Perlman, a Soviet Jewish scientist, was killed attempting to save his children when unknown elements set fire to his seventh-floor flat in Minsk. Police enquiries have not yet led to the arrest of the persons responsible.

Minsk Jews point out that Professor Perlman is the fifth victim of apparently antisemitic elements in the town during the past three years.

HARASSMENTS

In the days following the agreement between Washington and Moscow on increased Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, there was no abatement in the harassment of Soviet Jews who have applied to go to Israel.

Dr. Michael Shtern, a 56-year-old endocrinologist in Vinnitsa in the Ukraine, who applied to emigrate to Israel last year, has faced three different sets of charges since his arrest on May 25.

SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN COPENHAGEN

At a Soviet industrial and trade exhibition in Copenhagen, a pamphlet containing anti-semitic and anti-Israel attacks was distributed. Written for the Soviet *Novosti* press agency and entitled "Zionist Falsehoods", the pamphlets attacked Jews and Judaism as well as Israel and Zionism, whose leaders were represented as criminals.

Mr Moshe Leshem, Israel's Ambassador to Denmark, in a vigorous protest to the Danish Foreign Ministry said that the Russians had used the opportunity of a commercial exhibition to abuse Danish hospitality by spreading racial and hate propaganda in the country.

POLISH GRAVES PRESERVED

The Warsaw authorities informed four Orthodox rabbinical organisations in America that Jewish cemeteries in Warsaw and Lodz have been declared places of historic interest and will be preserved by the Polish Government. Mr. Bednarozuk, the first secretary of the Polish Embassy in Washington, said that all other Jewish cemeteries in Poland would be preserved.

THE GERMAN SCENE

JEWISH ENDOWMENT IN FRANKFURT

The Pestalozzi-Stiftung in Frankfurt, the proceeds of which are used for educational grants to "sons and daughters of Frankfurt citizens" owes its origin to the former Arthur und Emil Koenigswartersche *Unterrichts- und Studienstiftung*, founded in 1873 by the brothers Zacharias and Isaak Koenigswarter and Liselotte Koenigswarter née Lieben. Under the Nazis, five other Jewish endowments with similar objects were incorporated and jointly administered under the neutral name of "Pestalozzi-Stiftung". It has now been renamed into "Pestalozzi-Stiftung (frueher Arthur und Emil Koenigswartersche *Unterrichts- und Studienstiftung*)", and two of the five board members are to be nominated by the Frankfurt Jewish community. According to the articles of the endowment, the beneficiaries are to include also victims of political or racial persecution, who want to start or to continue their studies in Frankfurt.

E.G.L.

COLOGNE

With the incorporation of the neighbouring places, the total population of Cologne will reach the one million mark on January 1, 1975. At the end of 1932, the number of Jewish citizens amounted to about 18,000, of whom 11,000 became victims of Nazi persecution. The present Jewish community comprises 1,200 members.

Egon Larsen

WALTER TRIER'S RENAISSANCE

We loved him, and we loved to laugh with him. We smiled at the mere sight of his drawings in that unmistakable, inimitable style: in the *Lustige Blätter* and *Uhu*, usually the cover picture; on and in Erich Kästner's children's books; and then, for twelve years, on the cover of the London monthly *Lilliput*. They called him the Spitzweg of our century, and he would have liked to remain the gentle leg-puller of his time, but Hitler and Hitler's war sharpened his pen and his wit.

No wonder that Walter Trier has now, almost a quarter of a century after his death, his own special renaissance, along with the great revival of interest and the nostalgia for the Weimar age which he represented no less than, say, Tucholsky or George Grosz. It is significant that this renaissance does not seem to be confined to Western Germany; for *Das grosse Trier-Buch*, edited by Lothar Lang and prefaced by Erich Kästner, was first published in East Berlin, and a licensed edition has now appeared with Piper in Munich/Zurich (DM29.80, available from Interbook, London W.1, at £5.65). It is a splendid volume which gives us a complete survey of Trier's work with its 300 full-page pictures, 64 of them in colour, as well as the story of his life.

He was born in Prague in 1890 as the son of a Jewish glove-maker, and went to the same school as Egon Erwin Kisch, five years his senior. Trier studied art in Prague and Munich, where he published his first cartoons in the *Simplicissimus* and *Jugend* at the age of 19. In 1910 he settled in Berlin, coaxed by the editor of the *Lustige Blätter* who recognised the young man's extraordinary talent. That journal benefited most from it during the next 25 years. But humorous pictures and cartoons were by no means the limit of his talent; he joined the *Berliner Sezession*, and exhibited paintings which a leading critic put on a level with those of Lesser Ury, Hofer and Jaekel.

In his short biography, obviously written by the East German editor to comply with the requirements of any G.D.R. publication, Trier is said to have been "misled by the imperialist demagogy" during the First World War, meaning that he drew chauvinist pictures for the *Lustige Blätter*. In fact, he was a completely a-political artist. "He loved the world, however bad it was", wrote Kästner in his preface, "and turned it into his toy box... Walter Trier never attacked. He defended the frontiers, but he did not cross them; he respected them... He was more sensitive than most people, and the times injured him more severely than others".

Edith Jacobsohn, Siegfried's widow, was Kästner's publisher and brought the two men together in 1927; a year later *Emil and the Detectives* appeared—the first of all the children's books by Kästner for which Trier did the illustrations and the covers.

In July, 1935, Trier's last cartoon was published in the *Lustige Blätter*; emigration seemed vital to him, but he did not want to turn up with empty hands in another country. For a year he drew and painted only for his suitcase, and in 1936 he emigrated to London with his wife and daughter. Hardly anyone here knew him; one of the exceptions was Stefan Lorant, former editor of the *Münchener Illustrierte*, who was later to found *Picture Post* and was now already busy with a new magazine, *Lilliput*. From its first issue in 1937 until 1949, Trier did every cover pic-

ture for *Lilliput*—each of them showing, in some new variation, three figures: a man, a woman, and a dog. It was quite an extraordinary career for a refugee: within a mere two years, the artist who had been famous in Berlin began to be famous in London. But then, of course, he did not have to learn a new language. Kästner saw him in London in 1938, and Trier showed him two large cartoons which seemed to be completely similar—traffic chaos in a big town. "This one", said Trier, "appeared in Berlin years ago, and that one in *Picture Post* only last week. Of course, I had to change one



figure". That was the Berlin *Schupo* whom he had turned into a London Bobby. "The English admire my knack for adapting myself and call it almost uncanny in a foreigner", he grinned.

Perhaps he was too sure of himself and dared to embark on a third career at the age of 57. His beloved daughter had emigrated to Canada before the war and got married there; in 1947 Trier and his wife followed her. But he was now too far from his European milieu. To be sure, he contributed another two dozen cover pictures for *Lilliput*, and his London friend, the publisher Kurt Maschler, enabled him to keep his contacts.

But his major occupation became the drawing of publicity cartoons for a food firm, Canada Packers. In 1951, only 61 years old, he died at his home in Ontario.

Das grosse Trier-Buch is more than an amusing collection of his best work; it is evocative of a whole age. For us, it is not only the time before Hitler that comes to life in Trier's pictures; it is also the war era when he drew anti-Nazi cartoons for *Die Zeitung*, the *Daily Herald*, and propaganda leaflets for the Ministry of Information. When it was all over he expressed his feelings in a typical Trier drawing (re-published on this page): Hitler and Mussolini, Göring and Laval hanging from an enormous fountain pen, shouldered like a rifle by a happy artist. The caption reads: "Aber meine Feder hat länger gehalten".

A CHAMPION OF THE WISSENSCHAFT DES JUDENTUMS

Centenary of Professor Ismar Elbogen

"Mobility of the spirit, clarity of thinking, a progressive and yet conservative attitude, open-mindedness, a pedagogical gift"—these were the words with which Leo Baeck characterised his long-standing colleague, Ismar Elbogen, when he bade farewell to him in Berlin. Elbogen emigrated to the United States in 1938 where he died on August 1, 1943.

On September 1, 100 years had passed since his birth in Schildberg (Posen). After having completed his studies and taught for some time in Florence, he was in 1912 appointed lecturer and, later, professor at the Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums in Berlin. His *opus magnum* was "Der juedische Gottesdienst in seiner geschichtlichen Entwicklung" (published first in 1913, republished in Germany in 1962 and in Israel in a Hebrew translation in 1973). His "Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland" (1935) was re-edited and brought up to date by Dr. Eleonore Sterling in 1966. His last comprehensive work, "A Century of Jewish Life", originally planned as a supplement to the Jewish History by Graetz, was published posthumously (Philadelphia, Fourth edition 1953), and translated into German by his pupil, Dr. Ellen Littmann (Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Frankfurt). A bibliography of 400 titles, edited by his wife, Regi (who died 1965 in Holland) testifies to his widespread scholarly work as the author of books, monographs and essays.

As a teacher at the "Hochschule", he was the understanding friend and adviser to his students. His indelible contribution to the Wissenschaft des Judentums has been evaluated in a tribute by Erwin I. J. Rosenthal (Cambridge) in an essay, published in the 1963 Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute. Even if the Wissenschaft des Judentums, Rosenthal writes, may not have resulted in the regeneration of Judaism, for which Elbogen fought, and even if today his views on Judaism are no longer shared by many conscious Jews—the Science of Judaism is still a topical subject, especially in Israel.

Elbogen's achievements and the wealth of his ideas have left their lasting mark on Jewry and Judaism.

E.G.L.

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J. J. Maitlis

JESUS THE JEW

The phenomenon of Jesus, his life, work and teaching, in short his historical authenticity, has for a long time posed a number of questions to theologians, agnostics and historians alike. The main difficulty lies in the fact that the sources of the New Testament are rather inconsistent and historically speaking unreliable. They require a critical and thorough examination of the texts and material available in order to discern reality from theology, fact from interpretation. To be sure the Synoptists, like some ancient Jewish writers, did not intend to write history proper, but their purpose was a didactic one, to bear witness to the supernatural events and miraculous deeds performed by Jesus. The adopted biographical form of the Gospels served as a vehicle to preach faith and firm belief in Jesus the Messiah, the Christos and Son of God, who came to redeem the world and had arisen from the dead.

Some Christian scholars have drawn attention to the fact that the synoptic narratives differ considerably from one another and contain an element of fiction, whereby the kernel of historicity is richly embellished with pious stories and legends drawn from the lore of the ancient world. In point of fact, the Gospel of John in its theological interpretation sees in Jesus not the incarnate mortal, but a pre-existent being, celestial and divine.

It is therefore extremely difficult to extract from the early Christian tradition fact from legend, events from imagination. No wonder that thus the radical Christian theology is most sceptical about various statements and accounts contained in the older synoptic sources. Rudolf Boltmann goes even so far as to say that no "... definite proof of authority can be provided for a single individual saying of Jesus". What we know with some measure of certainty is that the Synoptic Gospels were written after the final revolt of Judaea against Rome (66-70 A.D.), a generation or more after the crucifixion, on the whole a biographical framework into which extracts from sayings attributed to Jesus were incorporated. Even Paul had only scanty knowledge of the life of Jesus. It is to all intents and purposes an arduous task to try and establish the value of the synoptic story in regard to the real life of Jesus, the events and his teaching that could be historically authenticated at this distance of time.

In his recent study "Jesus the Jew",* Dr. Geza Vermes, the Oxford scholar, in line with some earlier scholars, sets out not only to examine the writings of the New Testament and analyse the Gospels report, but above all to discover the original meaning of their message, "to search for fact and reality", and in pursuit of this aim to draw on the rich literary legacy of Palestinian and Diaspora Jewry of that time. His aim as a historian is to uncover the real Jesus, the personality alive, the man and Jew, not "distorted by Christian and Jewish myth alike". Searching for Jesus as he was in fact, Vermes succeeds to throw some new light on the historical figure of Jesus, his life and teaching, against the background of contemporary Jewish life in Palestine, with its struggles and Messianic hopes. Against the claims of Jesus' Messiahship and his imminent return, the mortal

who has become the Son of God and is supposed to play a part in God's eternal plan of salvation, Vermes, the historian, attempts to bring Jesus down nearer to earth. He sees him as a man of incomparable human and spiritual superiority, a just and holy man, a Jew with great charismatic qualities, but divested of all supernatural attributes, befitting the Son of God, the Chosen One. Reinstated into the framework of contemporary politico-religious Jewish history, the author depicts a veritable, concrete figure of "Jesus of Nazareth that takes on the eminently credible personality of a Galilean Hasid", a humble and holy man, a prophet, a charismatic teacher and preacher.

In the course of his text-analysis, Vermes presents us with a picture of Galilee, the home of Jesus, its people with its idiomatic peculiarities, piety and popular beliefs. As a proud, independent and freedom-loving people the Galileans were constantly involved in bitter struggle against the Roman domination of the land, and were thus political suspects, often arrested and tried by the Romans. As a wandering preacher, a healer and exorcist with a band of followers who admired and venerated him, Jesus urged the ordinary folk to repent because the Kingdom of God was at hand. For this reason alone he might have become politically suspect in the eyes of the law. Vermes suggests that in all probability the indictment against Jesus was not a Jewish-religious one but a secular accusation against the political agitator and rebel, the "King of the Jews". Jesus lived in a charged atmosphere of intense apocalyptic expectations of contemporary Jewish eschatology with a burning desire for imminent redemption. He himself, and particularly many of his enthusiastic followers must have believed in his Messianic role and the imminent advent of the Kingdom of God.

As in similar cases, the evidence procured sufficed to commit Jesus for trial as a rebel and to be sentenced. However, Vermes maintains that, in his trial and surrender to Pilate who gave the order for execution, the Pharisees as a class play no part. In many ways, Jesus was closer to the populist party of the Pharisees of his day than to their opponents, the aristocratic Sadducees. Many of Jesus' utterances and sayings bear great re-

semblance to the teaching of the rabbis and to some doctrines as they came to light in the recently discovered Dead Sea Scrolls. Though there were some conflicts with the Pharisees as regards certain socio-religious problems and the traditional interpretation of the law, Jesus as a devout and loyal Jew did not intend to abolish the Law of Moses, but on the contrary he came to fulfil it. So from the outset he went on to preach to the lost sheep of Israel, and true to his master, Peter remained the Apostle to the Jews. Only Paul at a later date brought about the final rift with Judaism and developed a theology to suit the Gentile world, that laid the foundation for Christianity as an independent, separate religion.

As far as the resurrection of Jesus from the Dead is concerned, the author observes, after having examined and fully compared the relevant texts, that the evidence produced is somewhat confused and inconclusive. The belief has only become a central issue, as Vermes points out, "in the post-Synoptic... stage of doctrinal evolution" inside Christianity. A statement in the Acts (2, 36) speaks already of the resurrection in a doctrinal sense, implying that Jesus became the Lord and Messiah through his elevation to the throne of God after he had risen from the Dead.

In many points Dr. Vermes succeeded in presenting us with a vivid picture of the historical Jesus, as he lived, preached and taught. He is seen by the author as one of the most remarkable personalities in the history of religion, a man of superior spiritual qualities and an unsurpassed master in the art of teaching. "From a viewpoint of a study of first-century A.D. Galilee, or of charismatic Judaism, or of his titles and their development" in the religious context, we have, according to the author to place Jesus in the venerable company of the devout, charismatic rabbis of his time, the ancient hasidim, the holy and just men.

In his final chapter Vermes quotes a fine passage in Joseph Klausner's Hebrew study "Jesus of Nazareth", where the Jewish historian writes about Jesus: "In his ethical code there is a sublimity, distinctiveness and originality in form unparalleled in any other Hebrew ethical code; neither is there any parallel in the remarkable art of his parables".

As an epitome to Dr. Vermes' great scholarship and yet most readable study, one may use the words of Martin Buber (Two Types of Faith, 1961, page 13) and quoted by the author: "There is a something in Israel's history of faith which is only to be understood from Israel". It is doubtless an important task in the field of historico-religious research, to which Vermes has contributed great resourcefulness, learning and scholarly acumen.

OSKAR SCHINDLER

Death of a "Righteous Gentile"

Oskar Schindler, a Catholic German citizen honoured by Jews and "Yad Vashem" as one of the "Righteous Gentiles", died in Frankfurt at the age of 66. During the Second World War, Schindler employed hundreds of Jews in his factory near Cracow, later transferred westwards. With courage and bribes, he succeeded in getting them exempted from deportation and thus 1,200 Jews owe their lives to him. After the war he first lived on a farm in Argentina, given to him by those he had rescued. In 1960 he returned to Germany and settled in Frankfurt. Schindler was a leading member of the German group of Friends of the Hebrew University. He was buried in the Catholic cemetery on Mount Zion in Jerusalem.

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* *Jesus the Jew*, by Geza Vermes. Collins, 1973. 286 pp. £3-15.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

DR. MAX GRUENEWALD 75

On December 4, Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald will celebrate his 75th birthday. His life and work are marked by achievements which have given him a special niche in the history of the last generation of German Jewry. In Germany, he was the spiritual leader of the once flourishing community of Mannheim. There, his understanding of the needs of the young resulted in a unique venture, the creation of the *Jugendgemeinde*. Equally unique was his position among his colleagues in Germany, when in 1933 he also became chairman of the community, an office always preserved for the lay leadership.

After his immigration to the United States, he became rabbi of the community of Millburn, N.J., establishing a position for himself which was widely recognised in American-Jewish life and thus also enhanced the reputation of his fellow Jews from Central Europe. At the same time, he retained his loyalty to his community of origin. He is a former president (now honorary president) of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe and a presidium member of the Council of Jews from Germany. Yet the cause closest to him is that of the Leo Baeck Institute. When this year, the office of the presidency fell vacant due to the death of Dr. Siegfried Moses, his appointment as successor was the obvious choice. He is equipped for this position not only by his great knowledge but even more by his deep attachment to the specific role played by German Jewry in Jewish history. His inaugural address as newly elected president of the LBI delivered at the Institute's board meeting in London last May, will never be forgotten by those who were present. Relieved from his rabbinical duties after his retirement, Dr. Gruenewald can now devote even more of his time to the work of the Institute, thus rendering invaluable services to the preservation of our heritage. May he be granted undiminished vigour and enthusiasm for many years to come. It is in this spirit that we extend our cordial birthday wishes to our friend Max Gruenewald.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO RABBI DR. G. SALZBERGER

Two years ago, we paid tribute to our revered friend Rabbi Dr. Georg Salzberger when he became a nonagenarian on December 23. In gratitude and admiration we can now express our congratulations to him on the occasion of his forthcoming 92nd birthday. His vigour is undiminished and great is the number of those who continue to benefit from his wide knowledge. He is endowed with an unsurpassable ability to create an atmosphere of human understanding whenever he addresses people of various ages and intellectual levels. He often spends Friday evenings or Jewish fast festivals with residents of one of the Homes and members of the AJR Club. He also regularly gives guidance to a circle of interested friends on questions concerning the spiritual forces of Judaism. The amazing fact of all these activities is his capacity to formulate issues spontaneously in a way which would qualify them for print without any changes. A great thinker, a man who has had personal relations with many outstanding Jewish and non-Jewish personalities, a warm-hearted personality—these are the qualities which have endeared Dr. Salzberger to all who know him, and it is in grateful recognition of his achievements and untiring helpfulness that we wish him many more years of undiminished alertness and health.

LORD SHINWELL 90

Lord Shinwell, who has recently reached the ripe old age of 90, is the grandson of a Polish-Jewish immigrant. He has himself experienced hardship and poverty and knows well the problems of the indigent and the unfortunate.

He entered the House of Commons 52 years ago and was a member of various Labour Governments, acting as Financial Secretary to the War Office, Parliamentary Secretary to the Department of Mines, Minister of Fuel and Power, Secretary of State for War and Minister of Defence. A member and chairman of the National Executive of the Labour Party, he has been a Life Peer since 1970. The first Jew to be elected as a Labour MP in 1922, he represented the Scottish workers of Clyde—the "bloodless revolutionaries" as he says in his autobiography.

For many years he kept aloof from the Jewish community, because he represented a mining constituency and had little personal contact with Jewish organisations. At the 1933 annual conference of the Labour Party he moved a resolution denouncing the persecution of the Jews in Germany, expressing his oneness with Jewry. He greeted the establishment of Israel, which he visited for the first time in 1953, with enthusiasm.

Lord Shinwell has an amazing knowledge of current developments in Jewish matters and, in spite of his age, remains a staunch fighter for the causes in which he believes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERNST G. LOWENTHAL

Those who know Dr. Ernst G. Lowenthal (Berlin) will be surprised to learn that on December 28 he will join the ranks of the septuagenarians. His appearance and his almost unlimited working capacity seem to belie his age. He has done Jewish communal work in many capacities during the past 45 years, starting in 1929 as a responsible official of the Central-Verein and Assistant Editor of the *C. V. Zeitung*. He came to this country a few months before the outbreak of war and resumed his work for the German Jews as a staff member of the Jewish Refugees Committee. After the war, he volunteered for the Jewish Relief Unit and became its Field Director in Germany. There followed many other appointments in Germany in which his rare combination of administrative ability and background knowledge proved beneficial for the remnants of German Jewry. At the same time, he has always been an untiring contributor to Jewish periodicals and, after having relinquished his successive and successful activities for various organisations, he is now a freelance author. His articles, published in Jewish periodicals all over the world over the signature of his full name, or his initials "E.G.L." or innumerable other abbreviations and pseudonyms, derive their particular value from his first-hand experience of German-Jewish life before the dispersion and his personal relationship with many personalities who played a part in it. He thus keeps the memory of the past alive, and one cannot think of any other publicist who could do this particular kind of work with the same adroitness. His profiles always excel by the personal touch he is able to give them. Yet his reports on happenings of Jewish interest in post-war Germany are of equal value.

The AJR has added reasons to extend their congratulations to Ernst G. Lowenthal. He was a co-founder of the organisation and a member of its Executive Committee from the very beginning. When *AJR Information* came into being in 1946, he was, together with Herbert Freeden (now in Israel), its first co-editor. Since then he has been a regular contributor to our journal. At the same time, he also holds offices with the Leo Baeck Institute and the Council of Jews from Germany. It was under the auspices of the Council that he edited the book "Bewahrung im Untergang" a dignified memorial to the Jewish spiritual and lay leaders who stayed in Germany with their fellow-persecutees and perished with them.

It is difficult to write a detached birthday article, if one is connected with the birthday child by bonds of personal friendship covering both happy and less easy times. Yet things being as they are the wish for many happy returns of the day is not a conventional phrase but based on feelings of affection and gratitude.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

DR. WILLY JONAS, 90

The gynaecologist, Dr. Willy Jonas, recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Before he came to this country, he was a well-known specialist in Berlin, where he also ran a clinic of his own. He resumed his professional work in London after having obtained his British medical qualifications and again established a widely recognised reputation for himself. He was also on the panel of doctors established by the German Embassy who examined victims of Nazi persecution to assess their claims for damage sustained to their health. Notwithstanding his age, Dr. Jonas is still of undiminished vigour in spirit and health. He has been a long standing interested member of the AJR, and we extend our sincerest congratulations to him.



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IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD SCHNEIDER

It is announced with deep regret that Mr. Richard Schneider died on October 27. He was 85 years old. Born in Schneidemuehl, he was active in Jewish affairs since his student days, when he became a member of the K.C. fraternity. Several years after the First World War, during which he was on active service, he became a director of the Fuld Concern in Frankfurt. In 1933, he emigrated to Belgium and from there to England before the Second World War, continuing in both countries his work for companies originating from the Fuld Concern.

When the AJR was founded in 1941, he immediately identified himself with its objectives. This was all the more remarkable as during the hard struggle of the first years, many of those who, like Richard Schneider, had already succeeded in building up their lives anew in this country still stood aloof. He served on the Executive for many years and attended its meetings as long as his health permitted. He equally lent his co-operation to the Council of Jews from Germany as Executive member of its British section.

Yet this bare enumeration of dates does not reflect the personality of Richard Schneider. He felt very deeply about his Jewishness and, urged by an unreserved loyalty to his community of origin, generously gave his counsel in many crucial situations which the AJR and the Council of Jews from Germany had to face in the course of their work. His was a sound judgement, based on the widespread experience he had gained in his successful career, and a knowledge of Jewish organisational life, which he had already acquired in Germany by his work for the Frankfurt Jewish community and as a member of the Prussian Landesverband juedischer Gemeinden. It was only natural that he also associated himself from the very beginning with the congregation created by

former German Jews before the outbreak of war, the New Liberal Jewish Congregation (now Belsize Square Synagogue).

It so happened that the occasion of his last public appearance was a function arranged by the AJR two years ago in honour of Rabbi Dr. Salzberger on his 90th birthday. On behalf of the Mayor of Frankfurt, he made a presentation to Rabbi and Mrs. Salzberger, and in his memorable address, serious and humorous at the same time, he recalled the old Frankfurt days and also assessed the impact which the turbulent years that followed had on all of us.

His death is not only mourned by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Schneider, his daughter, son-in-law and grandson, but also by a great number of others to whom he had endeared himself. They include quite a few to whom, often together with Mrs. Schneider, he had been helpful, as well as his colleagues on the Executive of the AJR and the Council, his K.C. "Bundesbrueder" and innumerable others who had the privilege of knowing him.

W.R.

DR. LEOPOLD SAMSON

Dr. Leopold Samson, consultant gynaecologist and obstetrician since 1945 at Herts and Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, died of a heart attack in this hospital on September 29. Born in Berlin on June 1, 1908, a descendant of the founders of the famous Samson-Schule in Wolfenbuettel, the family moved to Hamburg in 1917, when his father, Dr. Siegfried Samson, was appointed gynaecologist at the Hamburg Jewish Hospital. The family became well-known by their musical evenings, in which Rubinstein, Klemperer and many other famous musicians took part.

Leopold Samson followed his father's footsteps as a gynaecologist and, after his father's death, became "Oberarzt" at the Hamburg Jewish Hospital. In November 1938 he was arrested and sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Thanks to the efforts of Kurt Hahn of Gordonstoun, his mother's cousin, he was released after six weeks and, together with his mother, able to emigrate to Aberdeen, where Kurt Hahn had bought a house for them. In close contact with Kurt Hahn's Gordonstoun school, he vaccinated the boys there, and he became a lecturer at the Medical School of Aberdeen University, with an interruption of internment in Canada after the fall of France.

Since his appointment in 1945 at Herts and Essex Hospital he was responsible for the safe delivery of 21,000 babies. After his marriage in 1948 to Inge Fehr, daughter of Professor O. Fehr, whom he had met in my home, he moved to a house near the hospital to be available on duty day and night. "He was a man who was known for his devotion to his mothers and his babies," writes the Herts and Essex Observer in its obituary. At the request of numerous colleagues, patients and friends in East Hertfordshire and West Essex, an appeal for a memorial fund has been launched "to commemorate Dr. Samson's long, distinguished and dedicated service, extending for over 29 years in this area".

His wife mourns an affectionate and helpful husband, his three sons the kindest and most adorable father, and myself a very good amiable friend.

MARGARET JACOBY



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SIR SEYMOUR KARMINSKI

The Rt Hon. Sir Seymour Karminski died on October 30 at the age of 72. He was an eminent judge and, after having held an appointment with the High Court of Justice from 1951 to 1969, became a Lord Justice of Appeal, a post from which he retired last year. Throughout his life, Sir Seymour also took an active part in Jewish affairs. He was president of the Jewish Welfare Board from 1947 to 1959, first president of the Westminster Synagogue and a vice-president of Ajex. Among the various causes for Israel with which he was associated, the work for the Hebrew University was particularly near to him. He was chairman of the legal group of the Friends of the Hebrew University and succeeded Lord Cohen as Hon. President of the "Friends".

Sir Seymour was a first cousin of the late Hannah Karminski, the outstanding German Jewish communal worker, who voluntarily stayed in Germany and perished during the war. When the AJR Communal Centre at Adamson Road, which commemorates her name, was officially opened, Sir Seymour spoke as a representative of the family. His address, based on deep feelings of attachment to Hannah and on his own experience as a leading Jewish communal worker, left an indelible impression on the audience. He kept on taking an interest in the work at Hannah Karminski House, and Lady Karminski visited the Centre on several occasions. We express our sincerest sympathy to Lady Karminski and her family.

DR. CARL BRINITZER

Dr. Carl Brinitzer, who recently died at the age of 67, was associated with the German service of the BBC from 1938 until 1967. During the war, he took a leading part in putting Britain's case over to Nazi Germany. A lawyer by training, he was also a gifted writer. His books include one about the BBC's war-time activities "Hier spricht London" and biographies of Heine and Georg Christoph Lichtenberg.

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Margot Pottlitzer

CBF ANNUAL DINNER

THE ART OF SALESMANSHIP

A group of sociologists are at the moment investigating the effects of a change of occupation in adult life. They might do worse than consult Willie Gertler who has just described his own experience of just such a change in *Selling is My Game* (W. H. Allen, London 1974, price £3). This is one of the greatest success stories of refugee life told simply and with a wonderful sense of humour, and without the slightest trace of self-pity at any stage. Neither the title nor the sub-title *The Secrets of a Super Salesman* do full justice to the remarkable personality of the author who would obviously have made his way in any occupation.

Born in Hungary he had been a refugee twice before finally settling in England: His parents had taken the family to Vienna during the worst days of the Bela Kun régime and had finally left their native country under the White terror when Jewish persecution in Hungary was at its height. Family circumstances forced him to leave school at the age of 16 and to train as a sales representative for a firm of shoe-polish manufacturers.

After the Anschluss he decided to come to England. His wife found a job as a domestic servant, the children were found homes by the Refugee Children's Movement and he eventually reached this country after an eventful illegal flight to Belgium. Mrs Gertler had persuaded an East End clothing manufacturer to obtain a trainee permit for him. He was paid £2 a week and stayed with the firm until the end of the war. By 1940 he had become one of its key men engaged on

work of national importance and was thus prevented from joining the Pioneer corps. In 1943, still a trainee, he outlined his ideas on the post-war export trade to the London Chamber of Commerce, and naturalised in 1946, he henceforth travelled the world to realise his plans.

He soon set up his own firm and eventually succeeded by a mixture of common sense and effrontery to secure the coveted agency for *Levi jeans*—the "in" gear and status symbol of a new generation, achieving an annual turnover of 25 million dollars. He established a network of Levi agencies on both sides of the Iron Curtain and retired in 1973 to devote more time to his family and to the charitable causes he is interested in.

These are the bare bones of a refugee rags-to-riches story, told with great charm and unobtrusive wisdom. The book is difficult to put down. It is a highly individual contribution to the history of more than thirty years of European Jewish life, of which so much will probably never be told. In this context one should mention the author's struggle to prevent his children from being baptised without hurting the feelings and losing the good-will of their well-meaning foster-parents. He does not mention his desperate attempts single-handedly to enlist the help of members of parliament to rescue Jews from the Continent during the early war years. From the pages of this book the author emerges as a likeable and high-principled man who has a lot to teach the world, quite apart from the art of salesmanship.

The annual dinner for the Central British Fund held in London was attended by 250 supporters. An appeal by Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, who was in the chair, brought in a total of £80,000.

Lord Mancroft, the guest of honour, said that the need for the CBF's work was as great as ever. Lord Nathan, chairman of the CBF, stressed that much of its work in politically sensitive areas had to go unpublicised for the sake of the under-privileged and handicapped Jews it was to serve.

First established to help victims of Nazism, the CBF has over the years shown a remarkable adaptability in meeting the changing needs and areas of Jewish distress.

HOME-COMING TO WIGMORE HALL

Self Aid Concert

After having gone further afield to the Queen Elizabeth Hall during the past years, Self Aid held this year's concert, on November 13, again at Wigmore Hall, its original venue. The disadvantage of meeting friends in the drafty passage of the old-fashioned building instead of in the spacious vestibule South of the Thames was made up by the re-instated intimacy of a family event. The promoters enlisted the co-operation of three outstanding artists, Jenny Abel (Violin), Eirian James (Mezzo-Soprano) and Peter Gellhorn (Piano-forte). The well-balanced programme included works by Mozart, Dvorak, Schubert, Debussy, Richard Strauss and Brahms. The function was an artistic and social success, and the proceeds from the advertisements in the Souvenir Programme and the sale of the tickets will help Self Aid to carry on its important work for the benefit of the numerous former refugees who still require its assistance.

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SCENE FROM ISRAEL

TWO-POWER PACT

The American-Russian agreement which, it is hoped, will enable 60,000 Russian Jews to leave the Soviet Union every year, has been warmly welcomed in the United States. It is said to be an unprecedented use of trade legislation to help the cause of human rights in other nations. The new agreement makes clear that Congress has stipulated that unless the Soviet Union allows more emigration, there will be grounds for the US to refuse improved trade conditions with Russia to continue.

Jewish activists in the Soviet Union, while welcoming the agreement as a step forward, have emphasised that important questions remain unanswered. It is being asked how long, supposing they intend to keep it at the beginning, will the Russians stick to their part of the bargain. In messages to the West, Russian Jews express both hopes and fears and ask for vigilance to ensure that the hopes do not prove illusory and that there is no further disillusionment.

Also, the problem of the prisoners of conscience appears to be largely unresolved by the agreement, which merely promises "sympathetic consideration" of their plight. There is as well no provision in the agreement for Hebrew and Jewish studies and no undertaking by the Soviet authorities to combat antisemitism.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY AFTER THE YOM KIPPUR WAR

In a report about the work of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem after the Yom Kippur War, the University's President, Mr. Avraham Harman, states that the Academic Year 1973/4 was opened on December 23, 1973. As a substantial number of students were still in the Army at that time, it was opened for the second time on March 17, 1974. These students completed their studies on September 13, 1974, with a full Academic Year of credit. During the summer, many members of the Faculty have been teaching the returning soldiers without additional remuneration. The University also continued to absorb immigrants, both from Soviet Russia and from other countries, among its teaching Faculty and its student body.

STUTTGART SUPPORTS SHAVEI ZION

The City of Stuttgart has decided to make a grant of DM 10,000 to Shavei Zion, the village founded by Jews from Wuertemberg. Due to the decrease of holiday guests in 1973 in view of the general security situation, the finances of Shavei Zion have been adversely affected. Stuttgart had already made donations of a total of DM 30,000 in the years 1969 and 1970.

IMMIGRATION DIFFICULTIES

Concern grows in Israel about the number of Soviet immigrants who have left Israel or are planning to do so. Immigration officials no longer describe as "a storm in a teacup" reports of Soviet Jews in difficulty in Western Europe after having left Israel.

More than 80,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel since the end of 1971 when Moscow started allowing comparatively large-scale emigration. Although statistics of those leaving are incomplete, there are indications of a definite rise in the numbers. From less than 1 per cent of newcomers from the Soviet Union who left Israel during 1972 and 1973, the official 1974 figure has risen from between 4 and 5 per cent, while unofficial estimates put it at 6 per cent.

There has also been a bigger increase in the percentage of Jews who do not continue their journey to Israel once they have arrived in Vienna from the Soviet Union. The number of drop-outs which last year averaged less than 4 per cent now stands at about 20 per cent. There is the strong impression that many of the Soviet Jews arriving in Israel have no intention of settling in the country or of staying for long, but really want to settle in the West.

In the Knesset, some Opposition members accused the Government of not making adequate preparations in the past to absorb new settlers. They also said that the Government was still not ready for the new wave of immigrants expected.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Chaim.—Miss Jenny Chaim, of 15 Lytton Close, London, N.2, will celebrate her 94th birthday on December 21. Wishing her many more happy years from her family and friends.

The **AJR Club** sends its warmest wishes to **Miss Erna Feingold** who celebrated her 70th birthday on November 17.

Goodman.—Eric Goodman, of 24 Harwick Crescent, Barnsley, South Yorks., will celebrate his 70th birthday on December 28. Wishing you many more happy and healthy days from Ruth.

Gruenewald.—Mr. Heinrich Gruenewald celebrated his 80th birthday on November 11. He was active in the Zionist movement in Germany and, after his aliyah in 1939, rendered many services to his country of resettlement. He now lives in retirement at 5 Dover Road, Brankstone Park, Poole, Dorset.

Podhorcer.—Mr. John Podhorcer c/o Mrs. Coldwell, 11 Fenstanton Avenue, London, N.12 (tel.: 01-445 0061), will celebrate his 87th birthday on December 28.

Engagement

Smith : Rosenthal.—Lewis and Marion Smith, of 25 Winston Avenue, London, N.W.9, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Vivien to Michael Anthony, eldest son of Hyman and Betty Rosenthal, of 23 Hardinge Road, London, N.W.10.

Deaths

Aron.—Dr. Ernst Aron of 15 Byron Court, 50 Fairfax Road, London, N.W.6 passed away suddenly at the age of 75. Deeply mourned by his wife, colleagues and friends.

Heimann.—Mrs. Frieda Heimann, of 65 Eton Avenue, London, N.W.3, passed away on October 28. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her family and friends.

Schneider.—Richard Schneider, of 39 Manor House Drive, London, N.W.6, passed away peacefully on October 26, after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Ruth Schneider and adored father and grandfather.

Stern.—Mrs. Margaret Stern (née Frankenstein), widow of the late Dr. Ernest Stern, died peacefully on October 15, at the age of 87. She will be very sadly missed by all her children and grandchildren.

CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 15p for five words.

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The **AJR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY** needs part-time Home-helps (shopping/cooking), companions and attendants for the elderly who require personal assistance. Please telephone: 01-624 4449 for an appointment.

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Personal

WIDOW, 64, living in North London, wishes to meet gentleman for friendship. Box 439.

VIENNA-BORN LADY, widow, young looking, 60ish, good looking, blonde, independent, own car, own flat, would like to meet cultured gentleman in similar position, not over 70. Box 440.

WIDOW, young, lively 45, two school-age children, would like to meet cultured, intelligent gentleman for company, Manchester area. Box 441.

MOTHER anxious to see her son married. He is a bachelor, 39 years old with own business. Educated at the University of Minnesota, U.S.A. Interests: concerts, theatre, tennis and bridge. Looking for a mate between the age of 28-34. Box 442.

PROFESSIONAL LADY, fiftyish, tall, varied interests, home-loving, sociable, sincere, would like to meet intelligent, kind gentleman with sense of humour, age 55 to 70, N.W. London, view friendship (hopefully) marriage. Box 443.

AUSTRIAN BORN WIDOWER, living North West London, seeks attractive, intelligent lady up to 60. Object friendship/marriage. Box 446.

Missing Persons

AJR Enquiries

Alkan.—Miss Marianne Alkan, M.C.S.P., last known address 30 Pembridge Gardens, London, W.2.

Bernfeld.—Dr. W. K. Bernfeld, last known address: 39 Gabalfa Road, Cardiff, Glamorgan, CF4 2JJ.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to ensure that you receive your copy of "AJR Information" regularly, please inform us immediately of any change of address.

Due to the forthcoming public holidays the next issue will be delivered in the second week of January.

THEATRE NEWS

The Munich Residenz-Theater announces a new production of Kleist's "Der zerbrochene Krug" with Gert Froebe (of "Goldfinger" fame) in the lead.

Also in the news is Franz Marischka, son of Hubert Marischka, whose stage talents became apparent at the old "Blue Danube Club" during the first post-war years. He is now a film director in Germany, and at present busy with a film for Dynamic/Victoria with the promising title "Marsch ins Loch."

John Hendrik, who started his singing career as a choir boy in a Berlin synagogue and progressed to a lead tenor in London musicals during the Thirties, remarried in October. He became a broadcaster whilst working as "Stimme Amerikas", and was subsequently appointed to RIAS-Berlin, where he still has a weekly programme.

Birthdays in 1974: The German actor Paul Dahlke celebrated his 70th birthday; Paul Hartmann—youthful hero and heart throb for many decades, whose sonorous voice will still be well remembered—was 85 years old this year. Lucie Mannheim, dividing her work between Britain and Germany, is now 65. However, there is one birthday to beat them all: At the end of December, the Doyenne of the Austrian stage, Rosa Albach-Retty will celebrate her 100th birthday. This charming, lively and still quite vigorous old lady, whose late son Wolf Albach-Retty together with his wife Magda Schneider symbolised pre-war romanticism, lives in Baden, Austria. Retired from the Vienna "Burg" where she acted up to her 83rd year, she can be seen walking in the parks, and receiving scores of admiring visitors. Her granddaughter, Romy Schneider, achieved international fame.

Obituary: Hofrat Ernst Lothar, Austrian writer, theatrical producer, and Max Reinhardt's appointed successor as Director of Vienna's "Josefstadt", died in Vienna at the age of 84. Exiled between 1938 and 1945, he returned to the city he loved, publishing his nostalgic novel "Miracle of Survival". He was the last of his generation of Austrian novelists, and is mourned by Vienna's literary circle and by his actress wife, Adrienne Gessner. S.B.

AJR INFORMATION FINDS MISSING RELATIVE

The important role, played by the "Missing Persons" column of AJR Information has, throughout the years, been repeatedly confirmed, and there have been many cases in which people were enabled to re-establish contacts with relatives and friends, of whom they had lost sight. Only recently, we received the following letter from one of our members whose whereabouts were sought by a relative in Israel: "I am pleased to tell you that an advertisement in your 'Missing Persons' column has resulted in the re-establishment of contacts with a relative in Israel after a lapse of 40 years. I immediately wrote to her, after I had read the advertisement and just received an answer from her. It is wonderful to find somebody to whom one was once very close, and I still can hardly believe it. Probably she will come on a visit to London next summer and I will thus be able to see her again."

SIR MYER GALPERN

Sir Myer Galpern, Labour MP for Glasgow Shetleston, has been appointed one of the Deputy Speakers of the House of Commons and a Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means.

RECORDS OF JEWISH HISTORY

Tombstones of Small Communities

Tombstones as records of past history are hardly anywhere as important as in the field of German-Jewish historiography. To reconstruct and decipher them is also a matter of urgency because the number of those which become illegible is bound to increase steadily. During the post-war years, several research schemes, albeit in a limited way, were successfully carried out. Professor Dr. Eugen Ludwig Rapp took photos of artistically and historically valuable tombstones in Wertheim. Similar research work was carried out by scholars like Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Brilling (Munster/W) and Professor Dr. Otto Boecher (Mainz) in Westphalia and Worms respectively.

A short while ago a young German historian, Reinhard Hesse, included in his illustrations of the small town of Warstein (Westphalia) pictures of tombstones taken at the local Jewish cemetery; the Hebrew texts are well preserved and Rabbi Emil Davidovic (Dortmund) contributed the German translations. The community of Warstein was not very old and comprised only comparatively few members. Nevertheless, an undertaking of this kind is to be welcomed, and it is to be hoped that they do not remain restricted to such single instances but will be carried out on a larger scale and in a methodical all-embracing way.

The year 1975 has, according to a decision of the Europe Council Conference of 1973, been declared as the year for the protection of historical monuments. By legislative and informative measures, by public and private initiative, the countries of the Old Continent, now subjected to the fast progress of industrialisation, are called upon to preserve their old heritage. It is in this context, that the German authorities concerned should include in their efforts the adequate preservation of the visible mementos of Jewish history in Germany. E.G.L.

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Letters to the Editor

ALBERT EINSTEIN

With reference to the review by Egon Larsen of Ronald W. Clark's book, "Einstein: The Life and Times", (AJR Information, August 1974), we received a letter from Mr. Otto Nathan (New York), Executor and Trustee of the Estate of Albert Einstein, in which he points out, amongst other things, that some of the contents of Mr. Clark's book described by the reviewer as having so far been unknown to the wider public, have already been mentioned in earlier publications about Einstein. The letter also carries the following interesting description of the context in which Albert Einstein, "avowedly a very active Zionist," made the remark quoted by Mr. Larsen, of being "pas très Juif":

In October 1930, Einstein was a house guest of Lord Samuel who made notes in his diary about Einstein's visit. They spoke in French, the only language in which they could converse. When Einstein remarked that he was under attack in Germany "parce que je suis Rouge et Juif", Samuel said, "Mais pas très Rouge", and Einstein shot back "et pas très Juif".

To use this apparent banter between the two men as an indication of Einstein's alleged inconsistency about a most vital aspect of his life is utterly indefensible and misleading. If Einstein meant anything, he may have wished to indicate that he was not an observing Jew. He was a loyal, devoted, profoundly concerned son of the Jewish people. Clark himself quotes, in a different part of his volume, Einstein's statement that his relationship to the Jewish people had become his "strongest Jewish bond."

OTTO NATHAN
(Executor and Trustee of the Estate
of Albert Einstein)

New York.

(Several references by Mr. Clark to Einstein's well-known allegiance to the Jewish people are quoted in Mr. Larsen's review.—The Ed.)

NOVEMBER POGROM PLANNED

Sir,—Again and again I see articles or book reviews about the events of and around the November Pogrom. Having at the time read two books about events in Concentration Camps, I got so excited, so worked up that I swore to myself never to touch such a book again. I have kept this self-imposed promise, and, therefore, do not know whether or not the one particular fact I want to relate here has already been stated somewhere else.

After two years in prison (Zuchthaus Brandenburg) for preparation of high treason, I arrived in Dachau in February 1936 from where all Jews were transported to Buchenwald in September 1938. The number was around the 2,000 mark.

Our work originally consisted in transporting building materials from various points to

various sites; timber, bricks, cement, etc. were carried on our shoulders or on our backs. But, about the beginning to middle of October 1938, we had to carry vast amounts of timber into a certain corner near the entrance gate, where "Aryan" prisoners erected five huts with three or four sleeping bunks above each other in long rows. After these were finished, a fence with entrances at each end was strung from the outer perimeter to Hut No. 2. When on the morning of the 8th (or was it the 9th?) November the Jews were herded into the Buchenwald compound most of them were immediately driven into that special, fenced-in camp and stayed there without having to work, that meant without the chance of going outside that small area.

The conditions there and all the accompanying pains have been well reported. But what I want to stress is the unquestionable fact that the pogrom was planned long before it actually took place. It was not a spontaneous effect of that Paris shooting, but a cold-blooded, premeditated action by the Nazis.

As I said in the beginning, I am not aware whether this fact, the early erection of those barracks, has ever been reported by an eye witness. But here it is.

O. WINTER (F.R.P.S.L.)

24 Tennyson Road,
London, NW7 4AS.

STEFAN GEORGE AND NAZISM

Sir,—With interest and gratitude I read Fritz Friedlander's article on Margarete Susman at the centenary of her birth in your October issue. The unforgettable personality of this creative woman emerged from the informative biographical sketch.

All the more I regretted the phrase concerning the Stefan George Circle: "... she never felt quite at home there. For she had already sensed an undercurrent of political mysticism which later ran into the sewage of National Socialism." I am sure I am speaking for a large group of your readers when I declare such a statement misleading, untrue, offensive.

George, author of the prophetic poem *The Antichrist*, left Germany and died in voluntary exile because of his disgust with the Third Reich. A prize offered to him from the new Nazi government in 1933 was sent back by him through his Jewish friend, Dr. Ernst Morwitz. The names of Jews close to him, such as Morwitz, Wolfskehl, Edith and Julius Landmann, Salin, Gundolf (the list could be increased), and of such non-Jewish adversaries of National Socialism as the Stauffenbergs and Renata von Scheliha should suffice to remove any thought of connection between the poet's world and Nazi sewage.

(DR.) VERA LACHMANN
Professor of Classics and Comparative
Literature

Brooklyn College of
The City University of New York.

MARGARETE SUSMAN

Sir,—With reference to Fritz Friedlander's interesting centenary article about Margarete Susman, in which he also mentions the conflicting statements about the year of her birth, I should like to confirm that she was born in 1872 and not, as stated in reference books, in 1874. Her "rejuvenation" is attributable to her husband's instigation. He considered it an embarrassment to be younger than his wife. May I, in this connection, also mention that after a lecture on "Three Great Jewish Poetesses", which I gave in Jerusalem several years ago, Werner Kraft told me that Else Lasker-Schueler was five years older than I had stated in my talk. She was, in fact, born in 1869, as her passport, which Kraft had seen, confirmed.

In any case, in spite of the two years' delay, we have to be grateful for Fritz Friedlander's article. He has presented us with a fitting tribute to Margarete Susman, whose work as a poetess and thinker is not remembered to the extent she deserves and who was one of the great personalities of German Jewry.

HERMANN LEVIN GOLDSCHMIDT
(Prof. h.c. Dr. phil.)

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BAZAAR AT OTTO HIRSCH HOUSE

A most enjoyable and well attended Autumn Fayre in aid of the Residents' Comfort Fund was held at Otto Hirsch House on November 17. The proceeds amounted to £250, and thanks are due to all those who prepared the function, especially to the Matron, Mrs. V. Watson, and her husband.

PERSONALIA

MRS. JUSTICE HEILBRON HONOURED

Mrs. Justice Heilbron, who recently became the second woman to be appointed a High Court judge and was the first woman judge to sit at the Old Bailey, has been made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. Mrs. Heilbron is in private life Mrs. Nathaniel Burstein, the wife of a Liverpool surgeon.

CAMBRIDGE APPOINTMENT

Rabbi Dr. E. Wiesenberg, reader, Hebrew department, University College, London, has been appointed visiting research associate at the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge University, for the academic session 1975-76. He will work primarily on the fragments concerned with halacha and hopes to identify and classify many which have not yet been dealt with.

DUTCH LITERATURE PRIZE

The 81-year-old Jewish author, Mr. Abel J. Herzberg, has been awarded the Dutch Prize for literature, named in memory of P. C. Hooft, Holland's famous seventeenth-century writer and poet.

This is Mr. Herzberg's sixth award for his books and plays, most of which are on Jewish themes.

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