

Egon Larsen

UPHEAVAL AND CONTINUITY

An Assessment of German History

It is perhaps significant that one of the most important recent books on the past one hundred years of German history was not published in that country but in England (*Upheaval and Continuity: a Century of German History*, edited by E. J. Feuchtwanger. Oswald Wolff, London, 1973. £3.50). We all, writers and readers among the refugees alike, have developed a feeling that our country of origin looks somewhat different when seen from abroad, particularly from Britain. It is not just the geographical distance; it is our whole attitude to Germany that has become more detached, calmer, and less influenced by passing trends—probably more objective, or so we like to think. For this we have to thank the English way of life and of viewing things beyond the Channel with—as it were—a wide-angle lens. Furthermore, the writers amongst us have learnt to express themselves simpler, while German academics who never felt a whiff of the Anglo-Saxon intellectual climate are still wont to put their thoughts into involved and intricate language. The German public, it seems, is still unimpressed by simple words ("Was kann an dem schon dransein, wenn sogar ich ihn verstehe?")

English Approach

The book now before us is a good example of this, and even its contributions by German authors have benefited from that English clarity, for the lectures which are here reprinted were first given on English soil. Dr. Klaus Schulz, Director of the German Institute in London, had arranged a series of lectures on "Germany 1871-1971" in association with the London School of Economics and University College, London; distinguished German, English and French historians and writers accepted the invitation. Their texts have now been edited and prefaced by Dr. E. J. Feuchtwanger, Reader in History at Southampton University, a nephew of Lion Feuchtwanger and a descendant of the famous Munich bankers. The lecturers were Golo Mann, the leading German historian (*AJR INFORMATION* reported on his paper in its issue of December, 1971); Wolfgang Abendroth, the doyen of German Marxist historians; Walter Jens, a well-known German classicist and writer; Professor R. Hinton Thomas, who specialises in German studies; Martin Broszat, F. L. Carsten and Kurt Sontheimer, internationally known for their works on modern German developments; Theo Sommer, a prominent German journalist and editor; Peter C. Ludz, a West German authority on the GDR; and Alfred Grosser, a French political scientist and contributor to *Le Monde*, Paris.

Upheaval and Continuity (also published in Germany under the title *Deutschland—Wandel und Bestand* by Kurt Desch Verlag, Munich) is altogether a fine example of modern historical scholarship, and the contributors' often diverging views provide an enormous helping of food for thought. In his excellent introduction, Feuchtwanger makes the point that during that last century the Germans have experienced more frequent and profound upheavals of their national life than most other major nations—though they never had a "proper" revolution on the French, Russian or seventeenth-century English model. Drastic and violent territorial and political changes, Bismarck's *kleindeutsche Lösung* under Prussia's predominance, a truncated and poverty-stricken Republic after the first and a divided nation after the second World War, and above all the traumatic totalitarian Third Reich, to say nothing of one runaway inflation and the economic crisis with six million unemployed in the early 1930s—it has indeed been quite a lot of upheavals for a people which had never had a chance of developing a national identity. Germany was the last big country to be unified, and one may argue that is a root cause of the occasionally quite dangerous German national inferiority complex.

Golo Mann lists a great number of what he regards as failures of various social groups in Germany to develop a democratic tradition; thus, the middle classes missed their chance to do so in the Weimar Republic. Abendroth, the Marxist, analyses the beliefs and behaviour of the Social-Democratic Party, "the most authentic expression of the aspirations of the German working class". It was officially a Marxist party from the Gotha Congress of 1875 until Hitler, and from 1945 again until 1959. But its moment of truth, its tragic failure, came in 1914 when it, "in a complete volte-face and in defiance of its long cherished beliefs, came out in support of the war". Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were among the small group who opposed that surrender.

Walter Jens, Hinton Thomas, Kurt Sontheimer and F. L. Carsten have taken the development of German ideas and the German mind as their subject of study. All seemed well in the classicist age of Schiller, Hölderlin and Humboldt, says Jens; but classical education became an ornament for the bourgeoisie, leading to the self-conscious aestheticism and élitism of the Stefan George circle—and from there, comments Feuchtwanger, it was "but a short step to a general contempt for the manifestations of modern mass civilization, democracy, parliaments, parties and so on. Thus the classical tradi-

tion in Germany, once a force for social criticism, became a pillar of the established order and potentially a factor reinforcing the move to the extreme right".

And on the extreme right we find that curious German phenomenon, anti-intellectualism. Heine, says Professor Hinton Thomas, was the prototype of the critical, "rootless" Jewish intellectual who has kept figuring large in the demonology of nationalist reaction. Recent research, continues Hinton Thomas, has served to underline the extent to which the contribution of the Jewish intellectuals "has helped to steer social and political thinking in Germany into messianic directions", for instance "in important sectors of socialist thought". This theory may raise a few eyebrows among German Socialists, but it does show how puzzling that traditional propaganda line of the German reactionaries must appear to an Englishman: that brains and intellect are a suspect Jewish characteristic. He tries, but fails, to find the key to that attitude among the writings of the German poets and philosophers.

Separation from Western Ideas

"Another strand in the separation of the German world of ideas from the West goes back to the development of German idealism," says Feuchtwanger. "Through Hegel there was transmitted a view of the state, of the individual and of freedom, three essential components of man's social existence, which put the stress on the collectivity and perceived freedom for the individual as arising in its highest form only through the identification with the community. This made it much easier to regard authoritarian policies, which emphasised national unity, as particularly suited to Germans, while parliaments and parties could be seen as factors of disintegration and degeneration."

It is Alfred Grosser, the Frenchman, who recognizes the signs of a completely different mentality in present-day Germany, though "perhaps Germany no longer exists because there are two German states. . . . Both of them are already in many of their contents closely integrated with the relevant elements in other countries. From Bismarck to Brandt: it is a change transcending the political-constitutional sphere." And he emphasizes the significance of "the gesture of the Federal Chancellor Brandt in kneeling in front of the Ghetto Memorial in Warsaw" as human and statesmanlike. "What he expressed in a particularly touching way was, however, based on the same principle as the Treaty with Israel of 1952: in contrast to the GDR the Federal Republic has from the beginning accepted the responsibility (not to be confused with the rightly rejected idea of collective guilt) for the crimes committed in the name of Germany." A new continuity has developed in the new Germany; we must fervently hope that the next century of history will spare the country the upheavals of the last.

THE BUDGET AND GERMAN OR AUSTRIAN PENSIONS

The Chancellor announced in his Budget Speech that pensions from overseas received by United Kingdom residents will, from the start of the 1974/75 tax year, be taxed on the basis of the income arising, irrespective of the amount remitted to the United Kingdom. In future, therefore, all such pensions will be liable to tax, subject to the general allowances and reliefs, on the amount arising. The Chancellor stated, however, that a deduction of 10 per cent will be made so that only 90 per cent of the income arising will be subject to United Kingdom tax.

It appears from the Finance Bill, which was just published when this issue went to press, that the tax assessment for 1974/75 (tax due January and July 1975) and onwards will be based on the pension which arose, i.e. was payable, in the preceding tax year (unless the pension first arose during the tax year 1973/74 in which case the assessment for 1974/75 will be based on the pension arising in 1974/75, and so on). This means that the first assessment under these rules will be made for the year 1974/75, although generally the sum assessed to tax will be that received in 1973/74. Double taxation relief for any foreign tax suffered will be allowed and there can be no question of "double taxation". As the pensions will be taxed on "arising" basis from 1974/75 onwards, it appears to follow that any pensions which arose in past years and were not remitted to the U.K. can be remitted to the U.K. without any U.K. tax liability resulting from the remittances.

The German pensions concerned are the pensions of former public servants and Jewish communal officials. (However, if it is held by the House of Lords in the pending case of Oppenheimer v. Cattermole that the Jewish refugees deprived of German nationality by the Nazi decree of 1941 have retained, under English law, German nationality, even on subsequent acquisition of British nationality, they will not be liable to U.K. tax on these pensions.) The new rule does similarly apply to German or Austrian social insurance pensions.

"Renten" paid as compensation (Berufschaden, Gesundheitsschaden, Lebensschaden) under the Compensation Law of the German Federal Republic (BEG) were entirely exempt from U.K. tax under the Finance Act 1961, with retrospective effect from the commencement of the payment of these Renten. Nothing has been changed in this position.

We shall make a further announcement if, on further examination or on amendment by Parliament of the Finance Bill, this appears to be necessary. Generally, any reader concerned should consult his or her professional adviser on any questions arising.

F.E.F.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

"THIRD REICH" MAGAZINE

The first issue of the illustrated fortnightly magazine, the "Third Reich—Events from 1933 to 1945", published by the Hamburg firm of John Jahr, has appeared with a circulation of 500,000. According to the publishers, the magazine has been produced to give full and authentic information on all aspects of the Nazi Reich. It is planned to appear in 52 parts. A number of noted West German journalists and historians are among the contributors, but some have criticised the publicity campaign of the publishers, which they said had been launched without their knowledge.

As reported in our last issue, some television stations refused to accept advertisements to launch the magazine. The advance publicity material showed the swastika and other Nazi symbols and pictures of the Nazi leaders. It was criticised by the organisations of victims of Nazism, Jewish circles and the mass media.

A West Berlin court ruled that the publicity material was illegal since it glorified the Nazi régime. It ordered the confiscation of the posters, flags and discs on which the Nazi symbols and pictures of Nazi leaders appeared.

"REICHSBANNER" FOUNDED 50 YEARS AGO

A press release of the German Press Agency indicates that, as may be unknown to many readers, the "Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold", which was founded in 1924 and dissolved by the Nazis in 1933, was re-established after the war under its old name with the addendum "Bund aktiver Demokraten". It has a membership of 10,000. The "Reichsbanner" was founded in Magdeburg on February 22, 1924, as "Demokratischer Kampfbund" to defend the "freiheitlich-republikanische Rechtsstaat", i.e. the Weimar Republic. To mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation, the periodical of the post-war "Reichsbanner" published a special issue which carries tributes by Chancellor Brandt and Foreign Minister Scheel. The chairman of the "Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund", Heinz O. Vetter, writes that the jubilee should serve as an exhortation to the present generation to be watchful and resolved in "the defence of freedom and democracy in our country".

MUNICH MURDER SUSPECTS

In Munich two Germans were gaoled for 26 and eight months respectively for illegally possessing arms. The court was told that the two men were arrested in October, 1972, by police who were looking for members of a Right-wing extremist group. A large quantity of small arms and hand grenades were found in possession of one of the men, of a similar type to those used by the Black September Arab terrorists who had murdered the eleven Israeli Olympic Games sportsmen in Munich in September, 1972.

THE OLDEST BERLIN NEWSPAPER "Vossische Zeitung" Exhibition

The liberal Vossische Zeitung, originally "Koeniglich privilegierte und Berlinische Zeitung von Staats-und gelehrten Sachen", was the oldest newspaper of the city. Founded in 1704, it became a victim of the Nazi régime in 1934. From 1913 onwards it was published by the Ullstein Verlag. At present, the Institute for Newspaper Research of the City of Dortmund, directed by Professor Dr. Kurt Koszyk, holds an exhibition of originals and reproductions of publications of the "Voss", which are of historic interest.

HOSPITALITY TO EX-BERLINERS

To continue the scheme under which former Berliners, who had to leave the city under the Nazi régime, may be invited to an eight-day stay, the Berlin Senate has allocated 700,000 DM for the year 1974. According to a statement by the Senate, until now 14,000 former Berliners from all parts of the world, especially from U.S.A. and Israel, have been guests of the city.

ANNIVERSARY OF COLOGNE MUSEUM Jewish Benefactors

The 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Wallraf-Richartz Museum in Cologne was commemorated by a special ceremony. During the decades before 1933, many Jewish citizens of Cologne helped build up the collection by donations of exhibits and financial contributions. Among the names which come to mind are Dr. Leopold Seligmann, Dr. h.c. Alfred L. Tietz and his mother, furthermore Albert Ottenheimer, Max Meirowsky, Louis Lehmann, Otto Rothschild and Philipp Stern. When, in 1910, the firm of Bernstein & Meyer erected a new building in the old part of the city, a medieval mosaic was discovered, which the firm donated to the Museum.

E.G.L.

HON. DOCTORATE FOR ALBRECHT GOES

The theologian and author, Albrecht Goes, was awarded the honorary doctorate of the University of Mainz. Albrecht Goes' novel, "Das Brandopfer" (1954), a moving story based on the persecution of the Jews in Germany, and his constant work for Christian-Jewish understanding, were recognised by the award to him in 1962 of the Heinrich Stahl Prize of the Berlin Jewish community. When, two years ago, the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal was presented to Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger, Albrecht Goes spoke the laudatio at the ceremony in London.

THE LATE ARTHUR ELOESSER Information Required

In connection with his habilitation thesis, Dr. Wolfgang Kutteneuler (Bonn) repeatedly came across the writings of the Berlin Germanist and theatre critic Arthur Eloesser, who died in Berlin in 1938. Dr. Kutteneuler thinks it would be highly desirable if one of Eloesser's books, "Das Buergerliche Drama" could be republished. Independent of the legal position of copyright, Dr. Kutteneuler is, for reasons of principle, anxious to do everything possible to trace the heirs of Arthur Eloesser. So far, his attempts have failed. Any reader, who is able to give information, should get in touch with: Dr. phil. Wolfgang Kutteneuler, Rheinstrasse 85, 53 Bonn-Beuel 1. West Germany.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

Greyhound Guaranty Limited

Bankers

5 GRAFTON STREET, MAYFAIR,
LONDON, W1X 3LB

Telephone: 01-629 1208

Telex: 24637 Cables: Greyty, London, W.1

HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

CALLAGHAN'S REASSURANCE

In the course of a meeting with the Israeli Ambassador, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. James Callaghan, reassured Mr. Gideon Rafael that there has been no change in the Labour Party's consistent attitude on the issue of territorial withdrawal within the terms of Resolution 242 unanimously adopted by the Security Council after the Six-Day War. The Foreign Secretary indicated that in the interpretation of his Government, any Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967 should be to "secure and recognised boundaries".

MPs REFUSED RUSSIAN VISAS

Two Labour and two Conservative MPs, all principal hon. officers of the All-party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry, were refused entry visas to Russia. Messrs. Peter Archer, QC, Patrick Cormack, Greville Janner, QC, and Mr. Hugh Dykes, had intended contacting Soviet Jewish families wishing to emigrate to Israel.

The ban coincided with reports from Russia of new obstacles by the Soviet authorities to Jewish emigration to Israel, said Mr. Dykes, hon. secretary of the committee. Mr. Janner stated that telephone conversations with Jews in the Soviet Union had confirmed reports that two new measures were in operation. One was the non-delivery to Jewish intending emigrants of invitations from Israel, which formed the basis for any application for aliya. Secondly was the insistence of "character references" from every applicant, obtainable from their place of employment. Both these measures were very serious, said Mr. Janner, because they tried to obstruct Jewish emigration even before an application could be made.

JEWS IN U.S.S.R.

Debate in House of Lords

During a debate in the House of Lords on human rights in Communist countries, Lord Janner strongly protested at the treatment meted out to Russian Jews, requesting that Britain take whatever action was possible to alleviate the situation. He also wanted intervention with Syria about the plight of Jews in that country. Lord Janner instanced the violation of human rights perpetrated by the Syrians and pointed out that the situation of Soviet Jewry continued to be grave and alarming.

Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, promised that "when suitable occasions" arose the Government would take up with the Soviet Union the treatment of Jews in Russia. The attention of Russia and its satellites had been drawn on many occasions to the strength of feeling in Britain about the limitation of the rights of dissidents, including those of the Jewish faith.

EGYPTIAN ENVOY

Protests have grown over the acceptance by the Government of General Said Shazli as Egyptian Ambassador to Britain. The appointment was confirmed in Parliament by Mr. David Ennals, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Michael Fidler, MP, protested that such an appointment was unacceptable and an offence not only to the Jewish community but to all freedom lovers in this country. Ten years ago General Shazli was closely associated with fascist organisations here which were endeavouring to raise money from Egypt to engage in antisemitic activities in Britain.

Mr. Harold Wilson, the Prime Minister, was told by Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg that a large number of people in this country, both Jewish and non-Jewish, deeply resented the Government's decision to approve the appointment of the new Egyptian Ambassador in view of his known past fascist connections.

OFFICE FOR CONSERVATIVE MP

As reported in our last issue, the largest number of Jews ever—46—were elected to the present Parliament. Of these, nine have obtained senior or junior positions in the Wilson administration. In the reorganisation carried out by the Conservative Party, Sir Arnold Silverstone has been appointed joint treasurer of the Party.

Sir Arnold, who is 62, is a brother of Sir Joseph Stone, the Prime Minister's personal physician, and is also connected with Lord Bernstein, the Socialist Peer, and Mr. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, now a Junior Minister. Born in Wales, Sir Arnold has spent many years in Birmingham, where his family is active in communal affairs.

NEW VICE-CHAIRMAN OF AJR

Mr. C. T. Marx, member of the AJR Executive since 1964, has been elected vice-chairman in succession to Mr. Werner M. Behr, who was elected chairman after the resignation of Mr. A. S. Dresel. Mr. Marx is also chairman of the House Committee of Otto Schiff House and treasurer of Self Aid of Refugees.

EEC AND SHECHITA

Under proposed Common Market legislation designed to prevent cruelty to animals, it is required that livestock be stunned before slaughter. Anglo-Jewish religious leaders have received assurances that shechita will be safeguarded, since exemptions from the general rules would be granted to take account of religious customs. However, the draft proposals on stunning are felt in some Anglo-Jewish quarters to be another attempt by anti-shechita organisations to secure their aims. The Council of European Rabbis has sent delegations to appropriate Ministers to ensure that they are fully acquainted with the requirements of Jewish law.

WITCHCRAFT BOOK

For the past 40 years Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd. have been publishing "The History of Witchcraft and Demonology" by Montague Summers. The Board of Deputies have now called on the publishers to correct in any new edition what the board describes as "erroneous references to Jewish traditions and history". In their letter they point out that the book contains pages enumerating many cases of alleged ritual murder of Christian children by Jews.

The publishers, in a letter from their chairman, stated they were shocked to get the letter and were surprised that no such complaint had been made earlier. Mr. Summers was dead and it was impossible to refer to him to check the accuracy of his remarks. They would endeavour to put the matter right before going back to press.

Your House for:—

CURTAINS, CARPETS,
FLOORCOVERINGS

SPECIALITY

CONTINENTAL DOWN
QUILTS

ALSO RE-MAKES AND RE-COVERS

ESTIMATES FREE

DAWSON-LANE LIMITED

(Established 1946)

17 BRIDGE ROAD, WEMBLEY PARK

Telephone: 904 6671

Personal attention of Mr. W. Shackman.

Women's Halachic Rights

In May, 1973, Miss Beatrice Barwell, a champion of Jewish women's rights within the halacha, moved a motion overwhelmingly adopted at the annual meeting of Wembley Synagogue and later at Hammersmith and Hampstead Synagogues. The United Synagogue Council was called upon to request the Chief Rabbi to investigate the halachic possibility of women members being elected by other women members to the board of management, in numbers relative to the proportion of female to male synagogue membership. There is apparently no restrictive bar on women members being elected to serve on synagogue boards of management and, presumably, the United Synagogue Council, with full voting rights. Following a further meeting with Chief Rabbi Jakobovits, Miss Barwell states that all matters of principle have been satisfactorily resolved.

Limited Franchise

Women, who number 25 per cent of the total membership, have achieved some breakthrough with the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation. Mr. Herbert Newman met with partial success in his campaign for the right of women to attend congregation meetings. However, women will not be permitted to nominate candidates for the synagogue's executive and board of management or vote in the elections. Also, in order to become members instead of only seatholders, they will have to make individual applications and will have to wait until the annual meeting in 1975 to have their membership ratified.

"Zion: Sanctuary or Asylum"

Climaxing the aliya campaign in Britain conducted jointly by the Zionist Federation and the Jewish Agency, Chief Rabbi Jakobovits delivered an address, "Zion: sanctuary or asylum". He called for "far-reaching adjustments in the patterns of Jewish life" both in Israel and in the diaspora to ensure the aliya of Jews living in free and prosperous countries such as Britain. Only if Israel became a sanctuary in the Jewish spiritual sense would she be able to attract voluntary emigrants in as significant numbers as she had attracted Jewish refugees in need of asylum.

New College Synagogue

A new synagogue has been consecrated at Polack's House, Clifton College, Bristol. Rev. Malcolm Weisman, who conducted the service, said he felt that the boys at Clifton College, both Jewish and non-Jewish, had the unique advantage and facilities to know, understand and respect each other's faith and beliefs, which would stand them in good stead in the future.

The service was also attended by parents of pupils who had come from all parts of the country, and by representatives of the Bristol Hebrew Congregation and the Progressive Synagogue.

Gorbals Synagogue Closed

The Great Central, Glasgow's last synagogue, is to close down. Attendances at daily and Sabbath services have been falling away and it has become difficult to achieve the necessary quorum for prayers. There was also the difficulty of securing continued insurance cover due to the deterioration of the building.

With the influx of the great immigration from Russia and the establishment of the Gorbals as the centre of Jewish life the synagogue, established in 1884, became the principal one in the Gorbals. It will now cease to function in its present building.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Double Standard Education?

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case involving Mr. Marco de Funis, Jr., a Jew, who was barred from entering the University of Washington's law school although his grades and aptitude tests were better than all except one of the 36 Negroes, Philippine-Americans and applicants with Spanish surnames who were admitted. Several white applicants whose grades were also below those of Mr. de Funis were admitted as well.

The case which had found Jewish defence and other agencies pitted against each other, is fundamentally whether there are to be two standards of admission to universities—a high one for white students, a lower one for Negroes, Puerto Ricans and other such minorities. Young Jews seeking to enter university would be hard hit by this double standard, because a greater percentage of Jews enter institutions of higher education than any other section of the population.

Those supporting Mr. de Funis include the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Rights League. Those of the university include the National Council of Jewish Women and the social actions committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, together with a number of national labour unions, defence organisations and national Negro groups. The Council of Jewish Women and the U.A.H.C. claim that the issue does not represent a case of discrimination on the part of the university, nor a quota case against the Jews.

Russian Immigrants

About 4,000 immigrants from the Soviet Union, most of them Jews, are expected to arrive in the United States this year. This compares with 450 in 1972 and 1,450 last year. To help immigrant scholars and writers to integrate themselves into American society, the Ford Foundation has allocated \$250,000 (about £115,000). The American Council for Emigrés in the Professions will administer the funds.

Miss Mary Mackler, who will head the aid programme, explains the reason for the increasing number of Jews going to the United States from the Soviet Union. Jews at the beginning of the exodus strongly identified themselves as Jews and went to Israel. Now more of them regard their exit visas for Israel only as a way of getting out of the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Stephen Wise Commemorated

To commemorate the centenary of the birth of Rabbi Stephen Wise, a meeting was held in the Hebrew Union College (New York). After introductory words by Professor Dr. Fritz Bamberger, Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz spoke about his meetings and discussions with Stephen Wise to whom he and his family owed their rescue as persecutees from Nazi Germany.

ARGENTINA

TV Antisemitism

The Argentinian official Channel 7 television service on two occasions broadcast features on the Middle East containing rabidly anti-Jewish propaganda. In the broadcasts Mr. Miguel Cosma, the President of the Arab-Latin American Institute and an editor of The Arab World, and other journalists, attacked Israel and Jews in terms similar to those used by Arab terrorists.

Daia, the representative organisation of Argentine Jews, has protested to the Argentine authorities about the broadcasts.

STATEMENT BY CHILEAN JEWISH LEADER

The president of the Representative Council of Chilean Jewry, Dr. Gil Sinay, stated in Buenos Aires that it was nonsense to suggest Chilean Jewish leaders were forced to declare that the Chilean military junta was not antisemitic. He emphasised that Zionist activities were functioning normally, emigration to Israel was not restricted, and there were high-ranking Jews in the military forces, to show that the present military junta in Chile was free from antisemitism. Naming several prominent Jews, he said all were active in Jewish communal affairs in contrast to the Jewish members of the Allende Government, who had maintained no links with Jewish life.

Dr. Sinay said that of the 35,000 Jews in Chile when Dr. Allende was elected President in 1970, between 7,000 and 8,000 had left. Some 2,000 had now returned and more are expected because the Government is returning expropriated properties to their former owners. Most of the emigrants now leaving for Israel are Left-wing supporters of the former Allende régime.

ITALY

Pius Defended

Robert Katz's book "Death in Rome" and the film "Reprisal", in which the actor Richard Burton appears, both imply that Pope Pius XII knew in advance of the Nazi Ardeantine Caves massacre in March, 1944.

In his weekly address to a Rome crowd in St. Peter's Square, Pope Paul VI replying to these controversial issues lauded his wartime predecessor. Pope Pius, he said, had totally rejected any attitude of conscious omission of any possible intervention on his part whenever life and justice were at stake.

The niece of Pope Pius has brought an action alleging that the book and the film libel the memory of her uncle.

Divorce Law

Italy's divorce law, passed in 1971 by a small margin, legalises divorce only in cases of extraordinary hardship. It was condemned by the Pope as soon as it was put on the statute book. Militant Roman Catholics collected more than 1,300,000 signatures for a petition to hold a national referendum, now due to be held on May 12. All the Left-wing political parties support the divorce law, as do the Right-of-centre liberal parties. The Christian Democrats and the neo-fascists oppose it. Italy's 35,000 Jews, as well as 200,000 Italian Protestants, have also become involved in the issue.

Professor Elio Toaff, the Chief Rabbi of Rome, has stated that for the Jews divorce has existed since Biblical times. For Judaism, marriage is not a sacrament, and it was not a sacrament for early Christianity. If the divorce law were abrogated, a grave injustice would be committed against those religious minorities who allow divorce. It was the right and duty of the religious minorities in Italy to join forces in defence of their moral and religious principles and their civil rights.

TUNISIAN ARRESTS

It is reported from Paris that 17 leading Tunisian Jews were recently arrested and accused of illegally smuggling money abroad through the South Korean Embassy in Tunis.

ISLE OF MAN

INTERNMENT 1914/18 & 1939/45

I buy envelopes and folded letter forms from these and other camps.

Please send to: PETER C. RICKENBACK,

14 Rossllyn Hill, London, N.W.3.

JEWRY IN THE EAST

PASSOVER ARRANGEMENTS

One of Israel's two Chief Rabbis, Rabbi Shlomo Goren, and Rabbi Yaacov Fishman, the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, spoke to each other over the telephone on the eve of Passover. Rabbi Fishman said that a yeshiva had recently begun a course in Moscow attended by about a dozen young students and 18 adults. He reported that the Moscow community had baked some 95 tons of matzot for Passover. About five tons of matzot flour had been received from the Soviet authorities and the rest had been contributed by individual members of the community.

According to Mr. Paul Quadrat, a London businessman who visited the synagogue bakery shortly before Passover, an insufficient amount of locally baked matzot was produced to meet the needs of the Leningrad Jewish community over the festivities. He was told that each member of the community who wanted matzot had been allocated only 1 lb. to last the entire festival.

ALIYA DECLINE

Speaking at a press conference called by the Board of Deputies Mr. Michael Fidler, MP., chairman of the foreign affairs committee, described as "alarmingly significant" the recent reduction in the number of Soviet Jews being allowed to emigrate to Israel. During the first quarter of the current year, he said, less than half the number who left in the last three months of 1973 had been allowed to go. Last year 3,000 Soviet Jews on average emigrated to Israel monthly, but since January the monthly average had been only 1,800. This was despite the fact that the Soviet authorities were still holding 130,000 emigration applications for Israel.

At a meeting of the Jewish Agency executive in London, great concern about a decline in the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel was also voiced. Mr. Arye Dultzin, the acting chairman of the executive, said after the meeting that the number of Soviet immigrants had dropped in February by 1,000 in comparison with the same month last year. He could not offer any explanation but pointed out that emigration from the Soviet Union had been unpredictable. However, the Jewish Agency was still budgeting for the arrival of 40,000 immigrants from the Soviet Union this year.

On his recent visit to Moscow Dr. Henry Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, carried a memorandum from United States Jewry listing grievances over the plight of Soviet Jews, for the attention of the Soviet leaders. The memorandum mentioned a 25 per cent decrease in the number of Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate so far this year, and protested that Jews usually were only permitted to leave from areas such as Georgia and the Baltic States.

PAVEL LITVINOV TO SETTLE IN U.S.A.

Mr. Pavel Litvinov, the 33-year-old dissident Soviet chemist and grandson of the late Maxim Litvinov, a former Soviet Foreign Minister, was interviewed in Rome before he and his family went to settle in the United States. Stating that Jewish emigration had a "great influence on the rest of the population" of the U.S.S.R., Mr. Litvinov said that it was causing a "chain reaction among other minorities, such as the Volga Germans, and among the Russians themselves who are seeking permission to emigrate in growing numbers". The possibility of emigration had caused a new situation to come into being.

Mr Litvinov was dismissed from his job and sentenced to five years' exile in Siberia together with other dissidents in August, 1968, for demonstrating in Moscow against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. He was given an exit permit for Israel but went to the United States instead to take up a university post there.

J. Maitlis

MEMOIRS OF A GREAT PIANIST

Artur Rubinstein's Reminiscences

The volume under review of Artur Rubinstein's reminiscences forms, as the title of the book "My Young Years"* suggests, the first part of a remarkable autobiography of the great pianist. His extensive narrative starts with his childhood, followed by a full account of his musical education in Berlin, and assisted by some good fortune it leads up to a spectacular career of the young prodigy. It thus covers the first three decades in the life of the artist until the outbreak of the First World War with all the socio-political changes which brought about the end of the glittering *belle époque* in Europe's social and cultural life.

Born in 1887 in Lodz, the Polish Manchester, into a middle-class Jewish, partly-assimilated family, his Jewish upbringing was rather perfunctory. He had the minimum of Jewish education and traditional life. As he reflects in his memoirs, his father took him once or twice to synagogue and then only "for musical reasons, to hear a famous cantor". Small wonder that already in his early boyhood his leanings tended toward the dominant Polish culture and he felt more of a Pole. In his nationalist fervour he hated the Tsarist rule in Poland which was oppressive and tyrannical. He notes that when as a young boy he came for the first time to Warsaw, he was more than ever enraged by the presence of Russians on Polish soil, in particular by "the monuments that had been erected in prominent places commemorating Russian victories and honouring Polish traitors". Polish society and assimilated Jews played no mean role in his gradually unfolding musical advancement.

From the outset young Rubinstein was a sort of a "Glückskind", favoured by fortune. At an early age he started his musical education in Berlin under the care of the great Joseph Joachim, who succeeded to get generous financial support for the boy's study and upkeep. It is interesting to note that his early patrons were well-known Berlin bankers, like Robert Mendelssohn, Robert Warschauer and Martin Levy. They were the first mæcenæ in the long chain of many other wealthy people who contributed handsomely to make the musical career of Rubinstein a startling success.

The artistic and cultural life in Berlin round 1900 was of the highest order and made a profound impact on young Rubinstein. The opera, theatre and above all the concerts fascinated him more than anything else. The famous conductor Nikisch introduced him to all the Beethoven and Mozart symphonies. "His performances of works by Tchaikowsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Cesar Franck and the young Strauss . . . were revelations to the sensitive ears of the boy I was." He also enjoyed immensely the famous

soloists such as Eugen D'Albert, Ferruccio Busoni, and a host of outstanding violinists and pianists of repute.

Alongside his musical training, young Rubinstein kept up with his general education which was entrusted to Theodor Altmann, a teacher whom he greatly admired. At that time, he reports, he joined a circle of young school boys (*Lesekränzchen*), a sort of a reading circle that met every Saturday evening to read classical drama, dividing up the roles. Among the young participants of the reading group, Rubinstein mentions in particular Richard Fuchs, later a high civil servant and a leading personality inside German Jewry. Rubinstein calls him "a remarkably intelligent fellow", who "at fourteen spoke like an old professor, deadly serious, always to the point".

In those days, Rubinstein notes, his social life expanded rapidly. He was beginning to be known in musical circles as "the talented little Rubinstein"—a protégé of Joachim. And so "little Rubinstein" started slowly but surely to advance in his career which brought him remarkable success and international fame.

Excellent Raconteur

Rubinstein in his old age is an excellent raconteur. He likes to recall in detail some poignant story, amusing episodes and charming anecdotes. His narrative depicts on a broad canvas the colourful, glorious days of yesterday's world, with its pleasures and gaiety, cultural and artistic life, gossip and slander, events and people at home and abroad at the turn of the century. He travelled extensively, giving performances to en-

thusiastic audiences. Impressed by his charm, good manners and wit, and above all by his musical accomplishments, he became very early the favourite of society people, being patronised by the wealthy who at that time to a large extent controlled the musical world. He succeeded in establishing excellent relations and even genuine friendship with Polish, Russian, English and French aristocrats, stayed in their palaces, lived in most luxurious hotels, and soon developed a taste for good living, enjoying culinary feasts and expensive clothing. It was a ravishing, glittering world of pleasure and sensuous gaiety, of affairs and adventures, a carefree, easy going life. Extreme extravagance and a squandering of money and great generosity towards friends landed him quite often in complete penury.

Popular Rubinstein knew everybody of note, in society, in the world of art and music. He met celebrities such as Joachim in Berlin, Saint-Saens and Colette in Paris, Pablo Casals, Kussevitsky, the Polish virtuoso pianist Paderewski (later president of re-nascent Poland), Stravinsky, Picasso and the adored Russian bass Chaliapin, to mention only a few of the great names of the European scene.

Rubinstein's early life-story, written in a debonair, lively and witty manner, is highly entertaining. In reflecting upon his young years, he is frank and outspoken. He recalls his struggles, perseverance and successes, inconsistencies and failings which are only too human. Occasionally it is an unflattering account of the young *bon viveur* with his extravagances and sheer recklessness, erotic experiences, adventures and escapades with a great deal of trivia which weary and bore at the end. All this forms, however, an integral part of the highly amusing life-story of Rubinstein's young years.

However, what the serious Jewish reader will miss in Rubinstein's memoirs with its panoramic view of the pre-1914 years, is the complete absence of the living, striving Jew in his own homeland. Rubinstein, the Polish Jew, probably due to some extent to his colourless, meagre Jewish background and strong affinity to Poland and its dominant culture, failed to see the dynamism and quality of inner life of the Jews in the Pale of Settlement. Their struggle and frustration, vicissitudes and achievements, vigour and aspirations were apparently alien to him. The coming Jewish historian will find in Rubinstein's reminiscences very little of the true spirit which prevailed in the congested towns and townlets, the sufferings and rejuvenation, the national revival and a re-nascent culture, which became after all the corner-stone in the pattern of life among the overseas communities, and above all in the newly established Jewish State. All this seemingly does not fit into the grand review of Rubinstein the great artist, albeit a proud Jew by race who describes with much detail events and personalities of the *belle époque* with its glitter and *joi de vivre*. It is to be hoped that his omission will be amended and he will return to deal more fully with the problem of East-European Jewry, its life and destiny, in the coming volumes of his highly interesting and exciting life-story of later years.

HOUSE OF HALLGARTEN

Specialist



Shippers

Fine Wines

Unique Liqueurs

If you enjoy wines

write for our latest free list

which is full of fascinating
information, maps, vintage reports
and charts, descriptions, wines
for laying down

HOUSE OF HALLGARTEN

53/79 Highgate Road, London, NW5 1RR

Choose Hallgarten—Choose Fine Wines

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, London, N.W.3

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

are held regularly on the Eve of Sabbath
and Festivals at 6.30 p.m. and on the day
at 11 a.m.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

BECHSTEIN STEINWAY BLUTHNER

Finest selection reconditioned PIANOS

Always interested in purchasing
well-preserved instruments.

JAQUES SAMUEL PIANOS LTD.

142 Edgware Road, W.2
Tel.: 723 8818/9.

* Artur Rubinstein: My Young Years. Jonathan Cape. £4.50.

Hans I. Bach

A MONUMENT TO MOSES MENDELSSOHN

The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization adds to its list of important publications on Jewish historical subjects this monumental biography of Moses Mendelssohn.* It is a volume of 900 pages including notes, references and indexes, 16 half-tone illustrations and, as frontispiece, an unpublished portrait of the philosopher in colour. Dr. Altmann, now professor of Jewish philosophy at Brandeis University and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, is known to many readers of this monthly as former Rabbi in Berlin and Manchester, where he also founded a Society for Jewish Study.

As the only previous scholarly biography of Mendelssohn, by Meyer Kayserling, is more than 100 years old and as in the meantime, in particular on the occasion of the bicentenary of his birth in 1929, over 700 books and papers relevant to his life and work have been published, a modern biography was urgently required. Dr. Altmann's, however, goes far beyond merely taking this material into account. He is able to include a very large amount of new findings. He was entrusted with the use and editing of Robert v. Mendelssohn's family archives and those of the New York Leo Baeck Institute and he received unpublished documents, mostly whole correspondences, from no fewer than 11 large libraries as well as many autographs, some from as far afield as the castle of a Portuguese duchess or tucked away among Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's "Green Books" at the Bodleian in Oxford (it was due to the latter's initiative that his grandfather's Collected Works were published in 1843-45, which Mendelssohn's widow had undertaken but could not achieve). As some editors of the 1929 edition of the Collected Works, especially Professor Fritz Bamberger and the late Professor Bruno Strauss, also put their own collections of Mendelssohniana at Dr. Altmann's disposal, he could in a way incorporate the work of a whole generation of scholars in this field.

With all these contributions, however, this book is very much his own. It is based on extensive earlier publications: his book of 1969, "Mendelssohn's Frühschriften zur Metaphysik untersucht und erläutert" (Mendelssohn's earlier writings on metaphysics analysed and explained), and quite a number of English, German and Hebrew articles in learned journals. Above all, however, as the general editor of the new edition of Mendelssohn's Collected Works, begun in 1971 and expected to cover 20 volumes, Dr. Altmann is co-ordinating all the research on Mendelssohn.

It is evidently impossible to do justice to a work of this scope for a review within the space available. Thus I have selected some points of view which might be of special interest to our readers.

Some idea of what is new in this biography may be gained by noticing the vista opened by the inclusion of hitherto unknown material in matters such as Mendelssohn's fight in defence of Lessing's memory with Jacobi who held Lessing to be a Spinozist (i.e., as it was then understood, an atheist) and Jacobi's own correspondence with Goethe, Herder and Hamann, which could naturally not have been known to Mendelssohn himself.

Similarly new is the insight into biographical links between Mendelssohn's writings. It had been known that, when requested by

Herz Cerfberr, the leader of the Alsatian Jews threatened with expulsion, to write a *mémoire* supporting their protection. Mendelssohn persuaded the counsellor in the department of foreign affairs in Berlin, "Kriegsrath" Dohm, to write the epoch-making treatise "On the Civil Improvement of the Jews" (1781), and co-operated with him. His own publication of "Vindiciae Judaearum" (In defence of Jews) by Manasse ben Israel (who achieved the admission of Jews to England) was, as Dr. Altmann has found, prompted by reviews of and replies to Dohm's pamphlet. Moreover Dr. Altmann discovered that an anonymous tract, "The Searching for Light and Right in a Letter to Herr Moses Mendelssohn, occasioned by his remarkable Preface to Manasse ben Israel", signed "Your most sincere admirer S***, Vienna, June 12, 1782", caused him to write "Jerusalem", in the mistaken belief that he was replying to Josef von Sonnenfels, the high-ranking politician and leader of the Viennese Enlightenment group, a converted grandson of a Berlin rabbi. The real author was a notorious scribbler, A. F. Cranz, who in this way secured maximum publicity for his tract. What Mendelssohn felt was at stake when writing "Jerusalem" was "the civil admission of the Jews as a matter of right and with no strings attached", whereas he suspected, as it turned out rightly, that the Austrian Emperor Joseph II's "Edict of Tolerance" aimed at their conversion.

Considering the world-wide renown of Mendelssohn's earlier book, "Phaedon or on the Immortality of the Soul", which won him the title "The German Socrates" it is amazing to learn now that it was originally planned as a Hebrew treatise on the immortality of the soul.

In his younger years Mendelssohn was tutor to the children of Isaac Bernhard. When they grew up he became a clerk in his employer's silk factory. On Bernhard's death he took charge of the enterprise with the widow and was very successful also in this field. His first biographer maintained that Frederick the Great had refused to confirm Mendelssohn's election to the Prussian Academy of Science because Mendelssohn had declined to open a silk factory of his own in Potsdam, which indicated strained relations with the government. However, Dr. Altmann tells us that later, in 1782, when owing to extraneous circumstances the silk trade receded, the government submitted an official exposé on the matter to Mendelssohn (and two Christians) for his comment. This shows that he was recognised as one of the leading experts.

Another subject on which his opinion was sought was the feasibility of a compulsory credit insurance scheme to protect business firms against losses from bankruptcy. The scheme was dropped after Mendelssohn had expressed many doubts.

In the academic field, Baron v. Zedlitz, a leading member of the cabinet, frequently took Mendelssohn's advice when he had to fill vacancies at the universities. Of lasting importance was his co-operation with the government in the reform of the procedure of oath-taking by Jews, a particularly degrading relic of ages past.

Altmann describes the astounding invitation to Sanssouci in soberly factual terms, without mentioning the many legends that came to surround it. The occasion was that a Saxonian minister, Baron v. Fritsche, wished to meet Mendelssohn, whereupon Frederick the Great suggested that he be invited, but remained invisible himself. One small detail is striking. To the question of the officer in charge at the gate of Potsdam, why the invitation described him as "famous", Mendelssohn, with his puckish humour, replied "Ich spiele aus der Tasche" (I am a conjurer). This also shows the inner freedom that allowed him to hide under the cloak of the ubiquitous Jewish underworld of travelling musicians, acrobats, conjurers, etc. when it suited him.

Another example of this inner freedom is Mendelssohn's understanding of a national feeling and pride of his environment which, "stemming from his Jewish consciousness, transcended the individualism particular to the Enlightenment", as Dr. Altmann shows us. On the occasion of Prussian victories in the Seven Years' War he wrote hymns and a sermon for the Berlin congregation.

Mendelssohn, "the brightest mind, the most excellent philosopher, and the best literary critic of our century", as Lessing characterised him, was yet capable of extending his inner freedom even to philosophy—such an achievement for a Jew emerging from the ghetto and one of his most intense concerns—as we can see from a letter written only a fortnight before his death:

"My reason must not act prudishly in spoiling my pleasure in the innocent enjoyments of this life. Philosophy is meant to make me happier than I would be without it. It must remain true to this vocation. I stay with her so long as she is a good companion; when she pulls supercilious, frosty, or even sour faces and gets into a bad mood, I leave her alone and play with my children . . . I also choose from the systems of the philosophers invariably that which can make me happier and better at the same time. A philosophy that makes me disgruntled or indifferent to other people, or to myself, or frosty towards the sentiment of the beautiful and good, is not my philosophy".

In the same letter Mendelssohn expresses his attitude to religion:

"I adhere to popular concepts of religion until my reason is strong enough to furnish, in some way, a replacement for the loss of those pleasant sentiments. I rejoice in every religious custom that does not lead to intolerance and hatred of men. Like my children, I am happy with every ceremony that has something true and good underlying it. I seek to cut out the untrue as much as I can, (but) I abolish nothing until I am able to substitute something better for its good effect. . . .

"The most common man, it seems to me, does not sing in order that God may hear him and be pleased with his melodies. We sing for our own sakes, and this the wise

Continued on page 7, column 1

Gorta Radiovision Service

(Member R.T.R.A.)

13 Frogal Parade,
Finchley Road, N.W.3

SALES REPAIRS

Agents for Bush, Pye, Philips, Ferranti,
Grundig, etc.

Quality, Colour, Rentals

Mr. Gort will always be pleased to
advise you

(435 8635)

* Alexander Altmann: *Moses Mendelssohn. A Biographical Study*. London (Routledge) 1973. £6.25.

A Monument to Moses Mendelssohn

Continued from page 6

man does just as the fool does. Have you ever read the Psalms with this idea in mind? . . . This much is certain: the Psalms have sweetened many a bitter hour for me, and I pray and sing them as often as I feel the urge to pray and sing."

Incidentally, he took piano lessons with the well-known composer J. Ph. Kirnberger and published (anonymously) a treatise on the best method of constructing a well-tempered pianoforte, which went into a second edition.

Some of the letters that have newly come to light offer charming more personal snapshots as it were. One, on Mendelssohn's first visit to the newly married Lessing, shows that he took a box of silk flowers ('Florblumen') to Madame Lessing, "in order to predispose her to a friendliness that she might otherwise not have towards a strange bearded face".

Personal Sidelights

Further, there are amusing sidelights on Mendelssohn's contact with Särchen Meyer, the daughter of Rösel Meyer, the owner of his house Spandauerstr. 68. In 1774, he accompanied both of them to Pyrmont. Särchen, a girl of eleven, was not at all surprised to learn that his wife, Fromet, was a little jealous of her: "Even if I were the frostiest Stoic", he wrote to Fromet, "she would still believe in her power to triumph over male frostiness and if you had the greatest illusions about your beauty, she would still believe in her power to triumph over female illusions".

Two years later, at the age of thirteen, Särchen had a romance with a very handsome man from Hamburg. He sent her Goethe's "Werther", "the solace of frustrated lovers" (incidentally, K. W. Jerusalem, the model of the novel, was probably a descendant of Dutch Jews). She returned it, "with a thousand passages marked, together with a glowing note". This was intercepted by her father. She was punished by being confined to her room. Obviously, he called in Mendelssohn, and he, "my mentor", she continues, "appeared"—he bitterly reproached her and threw the book out of the window. This reminiscence is contained in a letter to Goethe written thirty years later. She had now become Sara v. Grothus, the wife of a Prussian army officer, after being divorced from Lippman Wulff, to whom she had been unhappily married. She also told Goethe in this letter that all aspects in Lessing's "Nathan the Wise" were "familiar portraits: Nathan himself, a liberal merchant, representing my father, and as a thinker representing Mendelssohn" . . . !

To come to the end of this review, I would like to add the paradoxical wish that, in a second edition, this long book would become even longer, in two respects.

In his Introduction, Dr. Altmann states that he "does not attempt to assess his (Mendelssohn's) significance from the hindsight of historical perspective or to trace his image in subsequent generations". He adds an "Epilogue", however, which covers the obituaries to Mendelssohn and the biographies that appeared soon after his death. It is dearly to be wished that he would also include the outcome of one of the causes nearest to Mendelssohn's heart, the civic equality of Jews without strings attached. Soon after Mendelssohn's death the young French politician and writer Count de Mirabeau came to Berlin. Deeply impressed by the grief with which the philosopher was mourned by Jews and Gentiles alike, he read his chief works. The demand for the separation of State and Church in "Jerusa-

lem" inspired and clarified de Mirabeau's own thoughts. He wrote a book, "Sur Moses Mendelssohn et sur la Réforme Politique des Juifs". When a few years later the French Revolution proclaimed the Rights of Man, Mirabeau's book and influence were decisive in applying them also to Jews. Abbé Gregoire's motion of 1791 to the French National Assembly expressly justified the granting of full civic equality to Jews by their "force intérieure" as exemplified by Moses Mendelssohn. Should not this posthumous victory form part of his biography, quite as much as that of the medieval Spanish general Cid whose dead body, strapped to a horse as if it were still alive, decided the outcome of the battle?

Secondly, a summary of the essence of this book would be most desirable. Dr. Altmann says: "It is only in the aggregate of a multitude of accounts of experiences, reactions and statements on his part that his (Mendelssohn's) attitude becomes fully articulate. His reply to Lavater's challenge, his formidable Bible (translation) project, his tussles with the rabbis, the formulation of his view of Judaism in *Jerusalem*, his response to Lessing's *Nathan the Wise*, the way he educated his children—these and many more items in his biography" add up to "what his Judaism was like". Would it not seem the biographer's privilege to give readers the benefit of his unique knowledge of this vast material in formulating himself the comprehensive view of Mendelssohn?

It is unlikely that anything like the amount of important letters and documents on him of the last century will be found again, nor else a scholar of the all-round competence of Dr. Altmann, covering philosophy, Jewish tradition and European literature in equal depth. His work will thus probably be the definitive biography of Moses Mendelssohn.

We offer comprehensive advice on every type of domestic and commercial insurance, life assurance, house purchase finance, estate duty mitigation and pension schemes.

BREMAR INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED

Managing Director: C. F. Flesch

Members of the *Bremar Group*,
International Merchant Bankers

**Bremar House, 27, Sale Place,
London, W2 1PT.**

'Phone: 01-262 1198 Telex: 21969 BREMARCO LDN.

New light on Wagner

Bryan Magee's *Aspects of Wagner* (New Light on the most Controversial Composer of all Time), first published in 1968, is now available as a paperback (Panther Books; 35p).

A comprehensive review (by the present writer) had appeared in *AJR Information* in February 1971. It dealt especially with the book's second chapter, which is entitled *Jews—not least in music*.

Starting with a critical survey of Wagner's antisemitic theories, the author continues by presenting his own rather original views on European Jewry's contribution to Western civilisation. He emphasises that this has been of disproportionate magnitude and impact; at the same time, he insists that its greatest representatives, Spinoza, Marx, Einstein and Freud, had in common their break with the traditions of Judaism and that only this break enabled them to achieve what they did.

In another series of thoughts, he accepts Wagner's criticism of the Jewish composers of his time, especially of Mendelssohn, whose real absorption of German artistic ideals Wagner had questioned. Magee seeks the reason for this "failure" in the fact that these composers had still been too close to the beginnings of emancipation. When, in a later period, European culture had turned away from its traditions and had reached a stage of scepticism and self-criticism, the Jews, on the strength of their own insecure situation, were able to fit in more naturally and could now produce composers like Mahler and Schoenberg (both, significantly, admirers of Wagner) who would have disarmed the kind of criticism which Wagner levelled against Mendelssohn.

The author is himself free from any racial bias, and his theories, although in many respects one-sided and open to scholarly criticism, have the merit of making a thought-provoking contribution to the problem of the Jewish cultural position in the diaspora.

The remaining five chapters contain a fascinating evaluation of Wagner's art and its tremendous influence not only on later composers but also on the literature and philosophy of the late nineteenth and twentieth century.

H. W. FREYHAN

EMERGENCE OF JEWISH WRITERS

At the opening meeting of Jewish Week at Hillel House, London, Mr. Barnet Litvinoff, the historian and novelist, asserted that one of the major sources of future Jewish writing will be the Soviet Union. The general awakening of the Russian people would bring to the surface new voices of Jewish writers, who would probably totally by-pass the old clichés of writing on Jewish subjects. He pointed to literary items in the Moscow Sovietish Heimland, which indicated the existence of rich Jewish writing.

From Israel and from America, where the social tension was particularly beneficial to creative writing, interesting fiction on Jewish subjects could also be expected.

JEWS DEPICTED ON GERMAN STAMPS

A new series of post stamps in the German Democratic Republic includes a stamp depicting the author Lion Feuchtwanger, who died in California in 1958.

A short while ago, the West German postal authorities issued a stamp commemorating Rosa Luxemburg in a series of women significant in political life.

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD CROSSMAN

Richard Crossman's commitment to the cause of Zionism started in 1945 when, as a young Labour M.P., he was appointed by Ernest Bevin as one of the three British members of the Anglo-American Commission on Palestine. It was he who drafted the report of the Commission, which recommended the immediate admission of one hundred thousand Jewish refugees to Palestine, and stated that the Jewish National Home was rooted in the soil of Palestine. The Attlee Government rejected the report and Crossman became one of its most effective critics in regard to its Middle East policy. He retained his pro-Israel attitude up to the end and spoke at innumerable Jewish gatherings in this country and abroad. In his attitude to Zionism, he was a disciple of Chaim Weizmann, whom he once described as "the only great man and the only great Englishman I have ever met". At the time of his death, Crossman was in the middle of writing a biography of Weizmann. He was the author of "Palestine Mission" (1947) in which he described his work on the Committee of Inquiry, and "A Nation Reborn".

Richard Crossman was born in 1907, the son of a judge, and educated at Winchester and Oxford. In the 1930s he spent considerable time in Germany and Austria. This gave him an insight into the political climate of those countries during the rising of the Nazi movement and his first-hand experience became particularly valuable when, during the war, he was appointed Deputy Director of Psychological Warfare. At that time, he also enlisted the services of expert refugees, whose knowledge of German politics and economics was thus made available for the war effort. He also showed much sympathy and understanding for the Jewish refugees in general and, on various occasions, was helpful to the AJR both during the war, when we were "enemy aliens", and later, whenever we had to ask him for his support as an M.P.

RABBI DR. LOTHAR ROTHSCHILD

Rabbi Dr. Lothar Rothschild died in St. Gallen at the age of 64. After having completed his studies at the Breslau Theological Seminary and the Berlin Hochschule, he became rabbi of the Saarbruecken Jewish community in 1934. Four years later, he took charge of the Jewish refugee relief work in Basle and in 1943 he was appointed rabbi of St. Gallen. He retired prematurely in 1968 in order to devote himself mainly to Jewish scholarly work but, unfortunately, only a few more years were granted to him. He was a lecturer of Jewish history at the University of Zurich and also gave lectures in St. Gallen as well as at many other places, dealing frequently with the problem of Jewish-Christian relationship. He also regularly contributed to Jewish periodicals in Switzerland, Germany and Austria and spoke over Swiss and German broadcasting stations. By his death the German speaking Jews in Continental countries have lost one of their outstanding representatives, whose attitude was marked by a positive Jewish outlook linked with an open mind for the wider cultural issues.

E.G.L.

DR. FRITZ (FRED) GLASER

Dr. Fritz (Fred) Glaser passed away on April 12 at the age of 83. A lawyer of great reputation he built up a successful practice in Berlin after the First World War.

As early as in his student days he took an active part in Zionist work joining both the Zionist Students Association (V.J.ST.) and the K.J.V. Throughout his life he has taken a lively interest in all the aspects concerning the Jewish National Home in Eretz Israel and later the State of Israel.

The outbreak of the Second World War interrupted his preparations for emigration to Israel, and almost at the last minute he succeeded to come to England together with his wife and baby daughter.

From the outset he made an important contribution in England to the organisation of Jewish life among the newly arrived immigrants, first on the Isle of Man and later in Leeds where he joined the AJR serving as its local chairman for many years.

He acted for his numerous friends and clients in Leeds and London in matters of Restitution from Germany. Dr. Glaser leaves a widow in London and children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Israel. We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

DR. HANS SACHS

The dental surgeon, Dr. Hans Sachs, who died in New York in his 93rd year, was not only well known by his practical and scientific work in his profession but also as an expert in the graphic field. His collection of posters, comprising 12,500 items, was the greatest collection of this kind in the world. Though the Kunstgewerbeschule in Berlin, where it was displayed, was bombed during the war, the collection was saved and is now deposited in the Berlin Zeughaus, which has been converted into a museum. Dr. Sachs was also publisher and editor of the periodical "Das Plakat". After his emigration to the U.S.A., when he was already at an advanced age, he studied anew to obtain his American qualifications and resumed his work as a practising dental surgeon. Another hobby of his was the collection of toothpicks, and in 1914 he wrote a book about the history of the toothpick, which was republished in 1968, probably the only work on this subject.

PROF. DR. WALTER HIRSCH

The specialist in children's psychiatry, Professor Dr. Walter Hirsch, died in Berlin at the age of 75. He practised in Berlin until 1933 and, when the Nazis came to power, went to Palestine where he stayed until 1958.

When he lived in Israel, Professor Hirsch created the German language "Bibliothek Walter Hirsch", the core of which consisted of his own library. Meanwhile the library has been considerably extended and come under the custody of the West German Embassy.

HERTIE LIMITED

.....
TEXTILES
.....

★ ★ ★

**MIDDLESEX HOUSE,
34 CLEVELAND STREET,
LONDON, W1P 6JJ**

Telephone: 01-580 2189

*With
Compliments*



4 Gladstone Road
(off Queen's Road)
Southall, Middlesex

DUNBEE-COMBEX-MARX LTD.

Dunbee House
117 Great Portland Street,
London, W.1

Tel. 01-580 3264/0878 (P.B.X.)

Grams: FLEXATEX LONDON,
TELEX.

INT. TELEX 2-3540

FROM THE ISRAELI SCENE

"BACK HOME" MOVEMENT

The newly established Habayta (Back Home) movement is calling on Western Jews to emigrate to Israel. Announcing its programme in advertisements in the Israeli Press, the Movement issued its emigration call because, it claims, the economic situation overseas is deteriorating, there is rising anti-semitism against diaspora communities, and the Zionist organisations cannot stimulate emigration.

The signatories of the advertisement were Mr. Victor Ratner of Britain, the chairman of a committee in formation; Rabbi Baruch Robbins of the United States; and Mr. Stanley Goldfoot of South Africa. Rabbi Meir Kahane, the leader of the Jewish Defence League, said that the Habayta programme was expressing his ideas.

The opponents of the movement assert, however, that its appeal is premature because there are not as yet sufficient openings in the country. They feel that no Western Jews should be induced to emigrate before there are sufficient job opportunities available in Israel.

ALIYA FROM THE WEST

Ten special Israeli emissaries who met almost 10,000 Jews at more than 300 meetings all over Britain, have come to the conclusion that Israel's absorption policy of Western immigrants must be reorganised in favour of families. The campaign has revealed that, contrary to the Jewish Agency's current assertion of youth being the major source for aliya, the most likely settlers are the middle-class families in the 32-45 age group. Their major motivation in considering emigration to Israel is their concern for their children's future. This would mean a change in the policy on house buying and the enlargement of education facilities for immigrant children from Britain, principally to accept

the A level examination in English, thus making it easier for families to take their teenage children to Israel.

The four-week survey also revealed that the community is lacking basic information about living conditions in Israel, and that there is discontent with the slowness of replies from Israel to practical questions concerning immigration. Furthermore the survey indicated that many elderly people wanted to settle in Israel but the Jewish Agency has so far been able to offer little for their absorption.

EMIGRATION REPORTS

Against a background of reports that an unusually large percentage of Israelis had either decided to settle abroad or were thinking of doing so, Dr. Yosef Burg, the Minister of the Interior, issued a statement to the Israeli Cabinet. He said that the number of Israelis who left the country during the early part of this year or who have applied for passports, did not bear out the press reports that an increasing number now wanted to emigrate. A Ministry of Interior spokesman has said that the number of Israelis who left the country in January and February was similar to last year's figure.

The Central Bureau of Statistics' official returns, however, show that 5,800 more people left Israel for all purposes than the number who arrived during the first three months.

KREISKY AT YAD VASHEM

On the occasion of his visit to Israel as head of the Socialist International mission, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky also paid a visit to Yad Vashem near Jerusalem, the Memorial of the Holocaust. He was presented with a memorial scroll for his uncle, Ludwig Kreisky, who was killed by the Nazis, and offered to give details about 28 other members of his family who perished.

STAMPS OF ISRAEL

Those who collect Israel's postage stamps have sorely needed a detailed guide for 26 years: now that gap is filled with a finely produced and fully illustrated work by Meir Persoff, home news editor of *THE JEWISH CHRONICLE*.

The reader is taken through the earliest days of post in the Holy Land, from the times of King David and Nebuchadnezzar to the mid-19th century, when Austria opened post offices at Haifa, Jaffa and Jerusalem. Special stamps with values in soldi were used there, and German offices, first opened in 1898, used "Germania" type stamps surcharged with values in paras and piastres. Those and other European post offices were widely patronised by the Jews of Palestine in preference to the uncertain, dilatory Turkish posts, but after World War I they were all replaced by offices established by the British mandate authorities.

There is a good chapter on stamps of the mandate period and another on the provisional local issues of the interim days between the ending of the mandate and declaration of the State of Israel. Much of the romance and danger of the times just before the declaration can be felt from reading these pages, and the difficulties are vividly described. Designing stamps in an atmosphere such as that is neither easy nor pleasant.

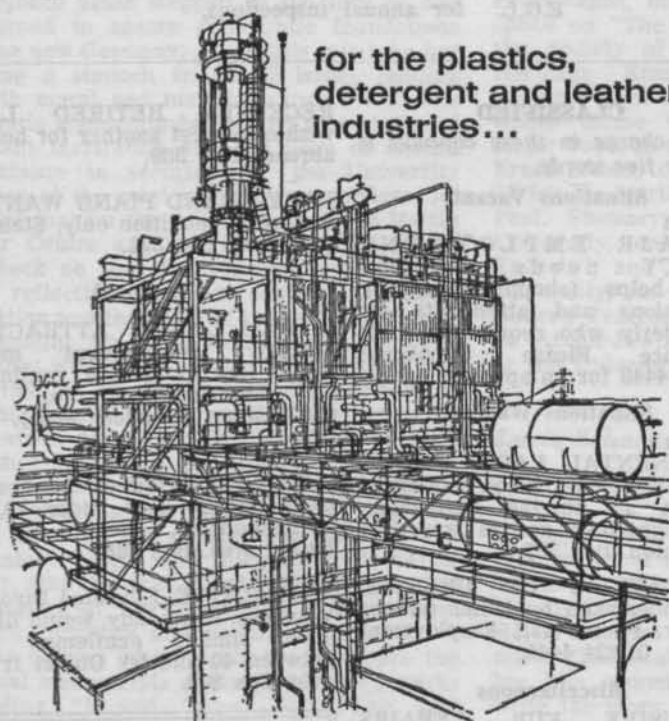
The latter part of the book contains many illustrations of essays (unadopted designs) which will be of special interest to philatelists, and there is a biography of every stamp designer from 1943 to 1970, including a number of fugitives from Germany and Austria. It is a most useful work and fully deserves the attention of every stamp collector.

MAURICE WILLIAMS

* *The Running Stag*. By Meir Persoff. Published by Robson Lowe, Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JZ. £3.00.

CHEMICALS...

for the plastics,
detergent and leather
industries...



Lankro
CHEMICALS LIMITED
ECCLES · MANCHESTER

HAMPSTEAD HOUSE

for the elderly, retired and slightly handicapped. Luxurious accommodation, central heating throughout. H/c in all rooms, lift to all floors, coloured TV, lounge and comfortable dining room, pleasant gardens. Kosher food. Modest terms. Telephone for appointment:

01-203 2692

SELECT RESIDENTIAL PRIVATE HOTEL

Exquisite Continental Cuisine
H/c. C/h. Telephone in every room. Large Colour TV. Lounges. Lovely Large Terrace & Gardens. Very Quiet Position.

North Finchley, near Woodhouse Grammar School.

MRS. M. COLDWELL
11 Fenstanton Avenue,
London, N.12
Tel.: 01-445 0061

ROSEMOUNT GUEST HOUSE

Excellent food. Colour TV.
Central heating. Large garden.
17 Parsifal Road, London,
N.W.6

Tel.: 01-435 5856 & 8565

YOUR FIGURE PROBLEMS SOLVED

... by a visit to our Salon, where ready-to-wear foundations are expertly fitted and altered if required.

Newest styles in Swim
and Beachwear

Mme H. LIEBERG

871 Finchley Rd., Golders Green,
N.W.11 (next to Post Office)
01-455 8673

Continental Boarding House

Well-appointed rooms, excellent food, TV. Garden. Congenial atmosphere. Reasonable rates. A permanent home for the elderly. Security and continuity of management assured by

Mrs. A. Wolff & Mrs. H. Wolff (Jnr)
3 Hemstal Road, London,
NW6 2AB. Tel.: 01-624 8521

Hotel Pension ARLET

MRS. L. SCHWARZ
77 St. Gabriel's Road, London, N.W.2.
Tel.: 452 4029
Exquisitely furnished rooms for visitors
and permanent guests.
Central heating. TV. Radios. Garden.

SWISS COTTAGE HOTEL

4 Adamson Road,
London, N.W.3
TEL.: 01-722 2281
Beautifully appointed—all modern
comforts.
1 minute from Swiss Cottage Tube Station

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

PROFESSOR ERNST SIMON 75

When, on the occasion of his 70th birthday on March 15, 1969, Professor Ernst Simon was awarded the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal, his publisher, the late Lambert Schneider, described him as a "bridge builder". "You are not a 'tolerant' man", Schneider said. "You have always taken sides and fought for what you considered right. Yet at the same time you have always looked for the chance of establishing contacts, where differences appear unsurmountable. In this spirit you look upon us Germans, who have separated ourselves from the Jews by unimaginable abysses, and in the same way you courageously approach the problem of the Palestinian Arabs in your country, Israel". These words still hold good now, after a lapse of a further five years, when, though belatedly, we extend to Ernst Simon our congratulations on his 75th birthday. He has continued his activities as a writer and speaker with undiminished vigour, and the numerous activities during the past lustrum include contributions to the fascinating phenomenon of Jews who, like Heine and Freud, were not committed to Judaism in a strictly religious sense but whose personalities were all the same shaped by their Jewishness. Ernst Simon himself, who comes from an "assimilated" (as the term runs) family, owes his return to the spiritual values of Judaism to the influence of Rabbi Nehemia Nobel and Franz Rosenzweig. He emigrated to Palestine as early as 1928 and was professor of pedagogics at the Hebrew University from 1955 until he retired in 1967. He has also been actively associated with the Leo Baeck Institute since its inception as a member of its Jerusalem Board.

STAATSEKRETAER a.D.BRECHT 90

Staatssekretaer a.D. Professor Dr. Arnold Brecht recently celebrated his 90th birthday in New York. He started his career as a high civil servant in October 1918, when Prinz Max von Baden put him in charge of the administration of the Reichskanzlei. In 1921, he became Ministerialrat in the Federal Ministry of the Interior, and in 1927, Otto Braun, Prime

Minister of Prussia, appointed him representative of Prussia in the Reichsrat. In this capacity, he represented Prussia before the Constitutional Court after von Papen's coup in 1932. When the Nazis came to power he delivered a courageous address on behalf of the Reichsrat, reminding Hitler of the duties incumbent on him under the democratic Weimar Constitution. He left Germany for the United States in July 1933 and, on the invitation of Alvin Johnson, became Professor at the newly established Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research, the "University in Exile". His main work of scholarship is a monograph on "Political Theory", and his reminiscences are recorded in two books, "Aus naechster Naeh" and "Mit der Kraft des Geistes".

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MARGARET JACOBY

On May 22, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby will celebrate her 92nd birthday. Her appearance and her vigour belie her age. As chairman of the AJR Club since its inception, she is as undaunted and energetic as she has always been, and her speeches, whether addressed to members of the Club or to the AJR Board at its annual meetings, continue to excel by their clarity and humorous interspersions. In gratitude and admiration we wish her many happy returns of the day.

THEODOR MARCUS 80

On April 20, the publisher Dr. Theodor Marcus (formerly Breslau, now Grono/Switzerland) celebrated his 80th birthday. He was the last principal of the firm of M. & H. Marcus which, among other things, published the Monatsschrift fuer Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums (founded in 1851 by Zacharias Frankel). The last (83rd) volume of the periodical, edited by Dr. Leo Baeck under most difficult circumstances in 1939 and confiscated by the Gestapo, was republished by the Leo Baeck Institute a short time ago. Until 1933, Dr. Marcus played an important and widely recognised role in the representative organisations of the German book trade. E.G.L.

DONATION IN MEMORY OF NORMAN BENTWICH

In 1971, a plaque in memory of the Richborough Transit Camp was unveiled in Sandwich. The preparatory work was carried out by an *ad hoc* committee of former inmates of the camp in co-operation with Professor Norman Bentwich who, however, unfortunately died a few months before the unveiling ceremony. The costs for the plaque were covered by voluntary donations received in response to an appeal by the committee. The money raised exceeded the actual expenses by £270. It was originally intended to donate the surplus to the Borough of Sandwich for a purpose to be decided by their Council. However, in spite of repeated reminders no progress could be made. As meanwhile three years have elapsed, the committee decided to transmit the surplus to the emergency book fund of the Hebrew University established for the benefit of student soldiers who were wounded in the October War and require multiple text books and teaching aids to catch up with their studies while still in hospital or convalescing. The donation is at the same time a tribute to the memory of Professor Norman Bentwich, who was equally devoted to the causes of the Hebrew University and of the refugees. He had also formulated the text of the plaque affixed to the Barbican in Sandwich.

In her letter of acknowledgement, the financial secretary of the Friends of the Hebrew University, Miss Charlotte Prince, writes: "I need not tell you how much we who were so closely connected with Professor Norman Bentwich appreciate this action. I think it is a splendid thought to dispose of the remaining funds and I am sure Norman Bentwich would have completely approved of the use to which it is being put. I am writing to the Hebrew University to find out whether books bought out of this fund can be specially commemorated, possibly by an *Ex Libris*." The committee also received a letter of thanks from Mr. David E. Franklin, the nephew of Professor Bentwich, on behalf of the family.

The committee will see to it that care is taken of the plaque, and will also arrange for annual inspections.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

The Members of the AJR Club extend their sincerest congratulations to their Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, who will celebrate her 92nd birthday on May 22. With gratitude and love.

Warmest congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Schurmann on the occasion of her 80th birthday on May 26, from the AJR Club.

Rose.—Miss Irma Rose, 20 Cecil Close, London, W.5. Congratulations to a wonderful person on the occasion of your 85th birthday, on May 7, from relatives and friends.

Thanks for Good Wishes

Bennett.—As I am unable to answer all the nice letters wishing me well after my accident, I want to express herewith my sincerest thanks to all who wrote to me.—Lotte Bennett, 91 Ruskin Park House, London, S.E.5.

Deaths

Cooper.—Mr. Harry Cooper, of 17 Queen Anne's Grove, Ealing, London, W.5 (formerly Harry Cohn, of Glogau/Schles), died peacefully after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his wife, sister and many friends.

Glaser.—Dr. Fred Glaser, 53 Brim Hill, London, N.2, passed away on April 12 at the age of 83 after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his wife, Freda, and his family living in Israel—Eva and Gideon, his daughter and son, his son-in-law and daughter-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Greenwood.—Mr. Adolf Greenwood of 19 Sarsfeld Road, London, S.W.12, passed away on March 8. Deeply mourned by his wife, son, family, relatives and friends.

Roos.—Mr. Samson Roos, aged 70 (son of the late Dr. Israel and Mrs. Auguste Roos of Frankfurt/Main) —our dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle, on April 10, peacefully at the Middlesex Hospital. Families in London, New York, Jerusalem.

CLASSIFIED

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

Situations Vacant

Women
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.

Situations Wanted

Women
CONTINENTAL LADY, German-speaking, seeks non-residential position as nursing companion. Also night duty and as travelling companion. Box 387.

ALTERATIONS OF DRESSES, etc., undertaken by ladies on our register. Phone AJR Employment Agency, 01-624 4449.

Miscellaneous

EXCLUSIVE FUR REPAIRS AND RESTYLING. All kinds of fur work undertaken by first-class renovator and stylist, many years' experience and best references. Phone 01-452 5867, after 5 p.m. for appointment, Mrs F. Philipp, 44 Ellesmere Road, Dollis Hill, London, N.W.10.

RECENTLY RETIRED LADY wishes to meet another for holiday abroad. Box 389.

BABY GRAND PIANO WANTED, first class condition only, Steinway preferred. Box 391.

Personal

MIDDLE-AGED ATTRACTIVE WIDOW, independent means, would like to meet a gentleman, also independent, for companionship. (London area). Box 386.

WIDOWER, retired, wishes to meet refined lady under 70, for companionship, living in the Ealing area. Box 388.

ATTRACTIVE, Educated Divorcee, Viennese, lively lady, would like to meet similar gentleman aged between 40 and 50. Object friendship. Box 390.

LUGGAGE

HANDBAGS, UMBRELLAS AND ALL LEATHER GOODS

TRAVEL GOODS

H. FUCHS
267 West End Lane, N.W.6
Phone 435 2602

Herbert Freedman

MARTIN BUBER ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE ON MOUNT SCOPUS

The dedication of the Martin Buber Adult Education Centre on the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus, in the presence of a group of 80 German personalities, who had come to attend the event, was a memorable occasion. Heading the group was Mr. Walter Hesselbach, a long-standing friend of Israel and President of the Trade Union Bank in Frankfurt, who received an Honorary Doctorate prior to the dedication ceremony. The ceremony was attended by members of the Buber family, including Martin's son Rafael Buber; Mr Sam Rothberg, Chairman of the University's Board of Governors; University President Avraham Harman; Rector Prof. Michael Rabin; Prof. Gershom Scholem, President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and Hebrew University faculty members.

The Adult Education Centre dates back to 1948 when the need to facilitate the cultural absorption of hundreds of thousands of immigrants required a programme more comprehensive than the extension classes which the University established during the 1930s. One of its founders was Buber himself, who for several years headed the Centre's school for teachers of adult education.

Preceding the dedication of the new premises, Mr Harman paid tribute to Mr Hesselbach, stating that "he serves to remind us here in Israel of human decency, of refusal to acquiesce to evil, and to restore our faith in humanity and the brotherhood of mankind." The Honorary Doctorate scroll said, in part: "Walter Hesselbach showed an early and courageous identification with the social democratic movement, and his illegal work on its behalf brought him into serious conflict with the Nazi régime which he constantly opposed. When sanity returned to Europe, Walter Hesselbach again stepped to the fore as one concerned to secure democratic foundations for the new Germany. . . . In this spirit, he has become a staunch friend of Israel, lending it both moral and material support. . . . His energetic leadership has served as a source of constant inspiration and has been of crucial importance in securing for the University support of the most generous proportions, including that for the construction of the Martin Buber Centre and the Peretz Naftali Building, both on the Mount Scopus campus, and both reflecting his own concern for adult education and the study of the social sciences." Responding, Mr Hesselbach recalled his many meetings with Martin Buber in Frankfurt and said that he considered himself a student of the late scholar. He referred to the important role which Martin Buber played in the field of adult education in Germany before the Nazi era, and to his decisive part in its development for the German Jews after the Nazis came to power. He then unveiled the dedicatory plaque and, together with Rafael Buber, was the first to enter the Buber room—a replica of Martin Buber's study containing his furniture and books.

In a display case outside the room are the original manuscripts of some of Buber's works including "I and Thou" and "Gog and Magog". The guests also saw the SS order of 40 years ago depriving Buber of his academic honours and forbidding him to teach in Germany. The building includes a library, which will serve as the central library on adult education in Israel, and facilities for lecture courses and study circles, seminars for groups

from abroad and research on adult education. It also contains a Jewish-Arab community centre and a multi-purpose auditorium for programmes involving different ethnic and inter-faith groups. Placed in the Centre is a bust of Buber, presented by the sculptor Abraham Burstein, as well as several sculptures by Erna Weill.

Since the Six-Day War in 1967, the Buber Centre, with the assistance of the Rothschild Foundation, has directed a social and cultural centre in East Jerusalem to foster better understanding between Jews and Arabs. More than 2,000 Arab and Jewish students have studied each other's languages within the framework of the Centre, which also serves as an informal meeting place where, through interpersonal and intercultural contacts, better mutual understanding is created and stereotyped concepts are modified. This year the Centre is running ten classes for a total of 300 students, of whom half are Arabs (Moslems and Christians) and half Jews.

"The mass immigration that has been taking place has shown that we need teachers for the people", Martin Buber once stated, "men and women whose main preoccupation is the teaching of adults, mainly among the newcomers to this country. We need people who are capable of realising that this is not a secondary occupation to be resorted to in default of anything better, but a calling of primary importance which makes no fewer demands than any other calling".

In connection with the dedication of the Buber Centre, an all-day German language symposium on adult education and on Buber's role as philosopher and educator was held with the participation of German and Israeli scholars. Speakers included Prof. Karl Erlinghagen, of Regensburg University, who spoke on "The Place of Adult Education in the Society of Today and Tomorrow"; Mr Hermann Kumpfmüller, Director of the People's High School Association of Bavaria, whose theme was "Adult Education as a Major Topic in the Educational System"; Prof. Ernst Simon, of the Hebrew University, on "What is Martin Buber's Message Today?"; Prof. Shemaryahu Talmon, of the Hebrew University, on "Martin Buber as a Bible Exegete", and Prof. Uriel Tal, of Tel Aviv University, on "Judaism and Christianity in Buber's Teaching". Following the symposium, an Arabic-Jewish folk-lore evening was held at the University's Wise Auditorium.

Lucie Schachne

KING DAVID'S DIFFERENT IMAGE

"The story of an intellectual who must face the conflict of his time and who is tormented by the limitations which are set to his writing the truth." This is how the author Stefan Heym sketches Ethan, the protagonist of his novel "The King David Report",* in which he has him commissioned by King Solomon to write the story of King David as we know it from the text in Samuel 1 and 2 and Kings 1.

Between the lines of Ethan's profile the author's own personal dilemma emerges: having served with distinction in the American army during the war, Stefan Heym, after becoming disillusioned with the United States in the McCarthy era (he sent back his

war medals to Eisenhower), returned to Germany and decided to settle in East Berlin.

Far from being given the VIP treatment awarded to other prodigal sons, his views and writings were dubbed "subversive" by Mr Honecker in 1966 and his books were banned in the GDR. There is no doubt that Heym has accepted this situation as a challenge to his literary talent and the political philosophy he chose to battle on. It is probably a measure of his standing that this book, an obvious illustration of his very fighting-spirit and "charged with political meaning", is to be published in East Germany after all.

Conceived and written on more than one level, "The King David Report" is not only an interpretation of the Biblical text but it is, first and foremost in my view, intended as an allegory of rewriting history in such a way that it may be digested and utilised for the purposes of the totalitarian state.

According to tradition, Ethan was one of the wisest men alive during King Solomon's reign. He is summoned to Jerusalem—family, concubine and all—to join the Royal Commission in the process of compiling "the one and only true and authoritative, historically correct and officially approved report on the amazing rise and Godfearing life, heroic deeds and wonderful achievements of David, the son of Jesse, King of Judah for seven years and of both, Judah and Israel, for 33 years, chosen of God and father of Solomon". Ethan is to be the editor of this vital report. It does not take him long to realise that all his editorial duties are under strict surveillance, and his detailed research among the annals, army reports, songs and interviews with surviving eyewitnesses are subject to censorship by his colleagues on the editorial committee. They are all there, our old acquaintances: Zadok, the Priest, Nathan, the Prophet, and Benaiah, Captain of the Host; influential powerful men, anxious to serve the King and not less anxious to look after their very own niche in the Establishment.

If Ethan struggles for truth, he has not really much of a chance. Here they are, determined to see the real assignment carried out without hitches. They feel responsible for the compilation of records that will prove King David's legitimate take-over from Saul's dynasty and therewith provide legitimacy to Solomon's claim to the throne of Judah and Israel. But Ethan does not capitulate immediately. Not until he has unearthed bits and pieces of information which somehow distort the picture of the benign, psalm singing David. Not until he has revealed the conflicting reports about King Saul's death or pried into the family tragedy surrounding Absalom's tragic life. He lets his colleagues know how unruly and unhappy the historian becomes who has to reshape and gloss over conflicting sources and to blend them simply into a mess of legendary plausibility, however beautifully put together. His honesty endangers his existence in Jerusalem. He is sent home.

An interesting book—although there are bound to be critics who will not find the author consistently up to his self-set task of having written an historical or Biblical novel. I was irritated on another count: stylistic tricks and gimmicks are too frequent and, in any case, do not produce or keep up the illusion of a "present-day story charged with political meaning" if the contents cannot create it in their own right.

But I am sure that many readers will be sufficiently stimulated to reach again (or for the first time?) for the original. A rewarding experience.

* The King David Report by Stefan Heym, Hodder and Stoughton, London, £2.25.

Letters to the Editor

RICHARD STRAUSS UNDER THE NAZIS

Sir.—The review of Mr. Del Mar's book, published in your March, 1974 issue, calls for comments in various respects.

1. In the opinion of your reviewer, the author's view of Strauss' position during the Nazi era deserves to be taken into account. Does not his interpretation of Strauss' refusal to have evacuees in his villa as an anti-Nazi deed disqualify Mr. Del Mar?

2. The reviewer refers to "the need to protect his Jewish daughter-in-law—he did this with only limited success." We know from Klaus Mann, to whom she complained about it, that Alice Strauss, née Grab, had to refrain from riding! ("Der Wendepunkt").

3. Furthermore: "The destruction of the German opera houses affected him more than anything else." This would seem an indictment rather than a vindication (see: "Richard Strauss: The Life of a Non-Hero", by George R. Marek, p.288).

And then Mr. Del Mar's "Epilogue"! There were men like Fritz Busch and Toscanini. Any whitewashing of Strauss is an insult to their memory. But to turn that whitewash into an attack on Israel is a tour de force. Should not all that generous forgiveness include the victims, even if they fail to appreciate that "it was at no time from malice" that Strauss lent "his enormous prestige" to their murderers? All in all, your reviewer's exertions on behalf of Mr. Del Mar are sadly misplaced.

(MRS.) ANNE BLOCH.

40 South Grove House,
London, N6 6LR.

* Reviewed in our November, 1968 issue.—The Ed.

Our reviewer, Mr. H. W. Freyhan, writes:

The three volumes of Norman del Mar's book are chiefly concerned with Strauss' music while the composer's biography occupies a very limited amount of space. My review, deliberately one-sided, has concentrated on the political aspects which have a special relevance for readers of this journal. I am fully aware of the diversity of opinions on this matter, but I felt that the views of the scholarly English author deserve to be taken into consideration.

On the points which Mrs. Bloch raises in her letter I would make these comments:

1. Strauss' refusal to take in evacuees has not been described as an act of resistance.

2. The fact that Strauss' attempts to protect his Jewish daughter-in-law met with only limited success is hardly surprising, considering the régime's extreme fanaticism. In this context: is it really worth mentioning that she was prevented from riding?

3. Nobody has suggested that Strauss' grief over the destruction of German opera houses is a "vindication". It just fits the image of the apolitical musician to whom his art matters more than anything else. Whether this attitude is defensible is quite another question.

It is true that men like F. Busch, Toscanini—and Casals!—acted differently. It must be mentioned, though, that Toscanini broke with Mussolini only after several years' collaboration.

Finally, the author's comment on the Israeli ban of Strauss' music is not an attack: it is rather a mild expression of regret. I myself know that many Israelis disapprove of the ban and respond to it by collecting records of the "forbidden" music. The lovers of Strauss' music in Israel include people who lost their nearest relations in the Holocaust.

With regard to Mrs. Bloch's final point: at the time of the holocaust (of which he certainly knew little) Strauss had long been out of favour with the régime. The chief reason for his break with the Nazis (1935!) was his collaboration with Stefan Zweig, the Jewish refugee author.

H. W. FREYHAN

IN MEMORY OF HANS REICHMANN

Ten years ago, the Jews from Germany lost one of their outstanding personalities, Dr. Hans Reichmann. The following tribute in his memory was sent to us by our friend Dr. Fritz Friedlaender, who now lives in Australia and who knew Hans Reichmann from the pre-war times in Berlin. Those of us, who worked with him at close quarters after the dispersion, recall his signal services to the German Jews in this country as chairman of the AJR from 1953 to 1963, to the remnants of German Jewry all over the world as Hon. Secretary of the Council of the Jews from Germany, and to all Jewish survivors of the catastrophe as General Secretary of the United Restitution Organisation. Many decisive achievements in these three spheres were due to his initiative, courage and imagination. They include not only the successful fight for material compensation to the individual victims of Nazi persecution but also the struggle for the restitution to the Jews from Germany of part of the heirless property, which enabled the member organisations of the Council to embark on widespread constructive social schemes. Yet his work was not restricted to these tasks, which stood in the foreground while he held office with the AJR. At the same time, he never tired of reminding his colleagues that we were bearers of a great tradition, and it was in this spirit that gestures beyond the "practical" day-to-day work were very near to his heart. One of the numerous examples is the "Thank You Britain" Fund, the implementation of which he did not live

to see but of which he was one of the first initiators.

Sir,—Ten years have passed since, in the afternoon of May 24, we lost with the death of Dr. Hans Reichmann, one of the leading champions for the cause of German Jewry in the darkest period of its history. He is enshrined in our memory on account of his fighting spirit, his deep loyalty towards his friends and fellow Jews, his fruitful legal work in their interest and, last but not least, his involvement in the great ideological struggle of his times.

To remain faithful to one's ideal in times of adversity and despair, that is the quality which makes a man great. Hans Reichmann firmly believed in the superiority of good over evil, and he did not abandon this belief even when Hitler seemed to be triumphing and everything seemed to be lost. His belief was vindicated when Adenauer's Germany acknowledged her moral obligation to make restitution to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Hans Reichmann rendered a most distinguished service in this field until the time of his premature death.

(DR.) FRITZ FRIEDLAENDER.

15 Airdrie Road, North Caulfield,
Victoria 3161, Australia.

AUSTRALIANS AND GOLDMANN

A reported statement by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the president of the World Jewish Congress, defending President Tito of Yugoslavia and describing the Israeli leadership as "intransigent", angered the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. At their annual conference in Sydney they passed a resolution stating that Dr. Goldmann no longer enjoyed their confidence in his role of leadership of the W.J.C.

In an angry cable to the E.C.A.J. Dr. Goldmann declared that the resolution was totally unfounded. "I said that President Tito is fundamentally a believer in the necessity for a Jewish State but is afraid that Israel may endanger her future by her intransigent policies." He had only quoted President Tito and would never personally have stated that Israel's policy endangered her existence. A responsible group like the E.C.A.J. "should have ascertained the facts before passing malicious resolutions."

W.J.C. CANCELS HAGUE MEETING

The decision of the World Jewish Congress not to hold its world assembly at The Hague has caused the Dutch Premier, Mr. Joop den Uyl, to express his regret. The Premier had been contemplating addressing the W.J.C. meeting and delegates would have been received by Queen Juliana.

The W.J.C. decided not to hold its meeting at The Hague because the number of delegates had turned out to be unexpectedly large from the viewpoint of security and there would not have been enough hotel accommodation in the city.

JEWISH BOOKS

of all kinds, new & second-hand. Whole libraries & single volumes bought. Talesim. Bookbinding.

M. SULZBACHER

JEWISH & HEBREW BOOKS (also Purchase)
4 Sneath Avenue, Golders Green Road,
London, N.W.11. Tel: 455 1694.

B. L. WEISS

PRINTERS · STATIONERS

ST ALBANS LANE · LONDON · NW11
Telephone: 01-458 3220

Catering with a difference

Food of all nations for formal or informal occasions—in your own home or any venue.

LONDON AND COUNTRY

Mrs. ILLY LIEBERMAN

01-937 2872

THE DORICE

Continental Cuisine—Licensed

169a Finchley Road, N.W.3

(624 6301)

PARTIES CATERED FOR

MADE-TO-MEASURE

Double knit Jersey wool and washable drip-dry coats, dresses, suits and trouser-suits. Outside our speciality. From £5.25p. Inclusive material. Also customers' own material made up.

'Phone: 01-459 5817

Mrs. L. Rudolfer.

HIGHEST PRICES

paid for

Gentlemen's cast-off Clothing
WE GO ANYWHERE, ANY TIME

S. DIENSTAG

(01-272 4484)

PHOTOCOPIES

QUICK AND RELIABLE

GOLDERSTAT

'Phone: 01-254 5464 (5 lines)

25 DOWNHAM ROAD, N.1

R. & G. (ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS) LTD.

199b Belsize Road, N.W.6
624 2646/328 2646

Electrical Contractors & Stockists
of all Electrical Appliances
OFFICIALLY APPOINTED HOOVER
SERVICE DEALERS