

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Robert Weltsch

FROM THE EXODUS TO THE PRESENT

Meditations on Pessach

Jewish history, starting with the story of Exodus, is certainly not a logically progressing sequence of events from the birth of the nation to the latest manifestations of destiny. It is a series of ups and downs, of ascents and catastrophes, of successes and failures; also of trial and error, of faith and betrayal—briefly, the unfolding of the multifarious life of an empirical people. It is presented to us in a unique wrapping of significant theological dialectics, which provide it with timeless meaning and lift it above trivial concepts. This age-old inveterate approach has paved the way to what became the Jewish custom all over the world, namely, to discuss these events—or myths—on the evening of Pessach and to comment on them in relation to more contemporary affairs. I think it would be a weakening of the original intention if we restricted our meditations to one prepared medieval text which to some extent is not even very profound. It is conceived as an opportunity for adding ideas and comments that come into one's mind, similar perhaps to the method of modern psychology, which relies on free mental associations in connection with various facets of happenings and thoughts as the starting point.

In a general way, the subject of these ponderings has always been the same throughout the ages, namely the position and fate of the Jewish people, its past and the present prospects for its future. This was most uncertain and precarious in ancient Egypt, although that country was one of the most advanced cultural nations of antiquity, and the same was the case on innumerable later occasions in the course of history. In our own time, we were condemned to face the unspeakable and unforgettable tragedy of the Holocaust, and much—albeit inconclusive—speculation has been devoted to the problem of survival and faith after such a catastrophe. Though we have hardly had time to recover from that shock, we are finding ourselves again confronted with many dangers. Contemporary Jewry must be excused, if it looks at such a perspective with a disturbed mind. In view of the frequent proclamation of high human ideals by all kinds of representative bodies one cannot help being deeply disappointed that, after the defeat of what was generally acknowledged as revolting amoral forces, mankind has not succeeded in building a world more in accord with these proclamations, and that we are confronted with a frightening crisis in world affairs. Although we have still to be grateful that, in spite of the galloping race of inventing increasingly "perfect" devilish weapons, the present equilibrium of the superpowers' armaments has

prevented a fatal conflagration, we cannot ignore the mental unrest of the generation from which constantly growing predictions of doom and doubts about the future of civilisation emerge.

As far as the Jewish world is concerned, it is hardly necessary to stress the different climate in which we have to live. Not only has the bulk of European Jewry been destroyed, but the ideas and categories which dominated Jewish thought in Germany—notwithstanding all divisions—have become obsolete. On the other hand, against the expectations of a hundred or even 50 years ago, the most conspicuous internal differences of those days have lost their impact and also their emotional pathos. There is no longer a split into a Zionist and an anti-Zionist or non-Zionist camp. Outside the Communist orbit almost all Jews—except naturally the vocal New Left—now declare themselves supporters of the Jewish State. It is hardly surprising that the victories of the Israel Army in 1948, 1956, and especially in 1967, were hailed by the masses of Jews, humiliated for so long, as a sort of rehabilitation. All official Jewish bodies in the Diaspora declared their solidarity with Israel and were also eager to help as far as they could, many youths even as active military volunteers.

Nobody bothered to examine the deeper context or to analyse seriously the crucial political and military problems, nor did any Diaspora body feel entitled to scrutinise the principles and calculations of Israel's governing bodies. Any critical approach on the part of Jewish sections not directly involved in the fighting would have appeared as a sort of insolence. There was also some apprehension that public criticism might give encouragement to the enemy. The deplorable result of this attitude was a kind of inflation of identical declarations of support and solidarity, which, as inflation always does, diminished their value. Instead of expressing meaningful opinions, resolutions became a matter of routine, procured by a bureaucratic machine and pronounced even when it was no secret that eminent members of the organisation in question were not the usual yes-men but actually serious dissenters from the policy which they were said to approve. Only a very small circle took the view that the duty of true friends is a policy of constructive criticism and even warning, as exemplified in Zionist history already at its very beginning by one great man, Ahad Haam, who in 1889 published his famous article "Lo seh haderech", "Not this is the way", in spite of the anger this was bound to arouse.

The manipulated identification of the whole Jewish people not only with the idea of Israel (which is unassailable) but also with all actions and statements of Israel's leaders became most spectacular after the series of victorious wars, often in defiance of the attitude of mighty world powers as well as of the body to whom the establishment of the State itself owed its legal foundations. The result was the juridical non-recognition by such powers of certain *de facto* situations created by Israel, and also a number of United Nations resolutions condemning Israel, which in the given conditions Israel believed she could afford to disregard, especially after the U.N. Organisation, in its new composition, indulged in arbitrary decisions regardless of the merits.

As for the time being this passed without serious consequences and as certain *faits accomplis* seemed to have been accepted, many believed that this policy had been vindicated as the only possible procedure in a hostile world. Occasionally, circumstances were—or seemed—favourable to Israel, such as in the Suez affair in 1956 thanks to the collaboration with France and Britain, although this was frustrated by the combined veto of the super powers. Nevertheless, Israel's impressive military strength had been demonstrated and became a factor to be reckoned with—though, in the view of the so-called Third World, associated with old-fashioned imperialism. Yet, when in 1957 Israel was in peril of forfeiting the support of her main sympathiser, the United States, the then Prime Minister, Ben-Gurion, had the good sense to abide by the objection and to evacuate the territories occupied by military force. On the other hand, this was the beginning of an ever growing supply of military equipment to the Arabs by the Soviet Union which from then onwards made it a point of prestige not to tolerate a complete Arab defeat—a fact that could not be ignored.

The wisdom of 1957, alas, was absent in 1967 when, after a surprising and brilliant bravura campaign, Israel was able to occupy practically the whole of mandatory Palestine, with the addition of the Sinai desert, and established a military régime in a region inhabited by about a million Arabs. True, on the eve of this war the Prime Minister Levi Eshkol had solemnly declared that Israel was acting solely in defence against the unbearable threats of her enemies and had no intention of territorial expansion. But after the event the will of the military and of chauvinist—including "religious"—public opinion prevailed. In the preceding 20 years of almost uninterrupted struggle and local skirmishes the attitude had hardened, and there was no inclination to return to the previous insecure condition. Moreover, with the emergence of a new generation, mostly composed of indigenous native Israelis, the character of Zionism had changed. In a new book published

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FROM THE EXODUS TO THE PRESENT

Continued from page 1

a few weeks ago, "The Modern History of Israel", the author, Professor Noah Lucas, of Sheffield University, while fully acknowledging the merits of Ben-Gurion who "will endure for posterity, cherished or reviled, as the indispensable creator of the State", also observes that Ben-Gurion and Jabotinsky "had developed a sneaking admiration for each other" (p. 132), and later Ben-Gurion "silenced his [Jabotinsky's] voice as an alternative centre of leadership by adopting his political strategy in all its essentials" (p. 244). Almost inadvertently, the revisionist ideology with its overall stake on military power, whose inherent pitfalls in the long run had been well understood at earlier stages, had become the predominant trend, irrespective of formal party allegiance.

The Israeli victory of 1967 won over practically the whole of Jewry to the Zionist cause. Paradoxically, many of those Jews who in the past had resolutely repudiated Zionism, became most ardent Zionists revelling in the idea of Jewish military power. On the other hand, this victory and the ruthless attitude necessarily following from the situation alienated large parts of world opinion, including many elements who had been genuine friends of Israel. There is some irony and paradox in the fact, often commented upon, that the sympathies of a great part of the world for the Jews struggling, after the Holocaust, for a new form of existence and for fulfilment of their national identity, lasted only as long as the Jews were considered an object of compassion, and vanished when they had proved themselves a superior force able to look after themselves. The aversion against "military arrogance", combined with the subconscious feeling that the—perhaps unavoidable—injury to the Arabs had been overdone, had an impact on a large section of the Western world (not to speak of the Communist countries where the condemnation of Israel was commanded from above). Moreover, some sincere friends of Israel expected a different attitude after victory both for moral and for political reasons. This is not the place to go into the dialectics of this development, but the facts were obvious and they were effectively exploited by tens of thousands of Arabs, mostly students and intellectuals grown up in the past quarter of the century and now spread over all parts of the world. They even succeeded in persuading the world that acts of most abhorrent terror, described as deeds of patriotic heroism, were a legitimate means of national struggle for liberation.

What in the view of many of us was absent on the Jewish side was a sober understanding of the likely consequences of some actions such as the evacuation of a million Arabs from the territory claimed for the Jewish State, with the strict prohibition to return to their homes. This carried the seed of future trouble. A generation of avengers, well educated at U.N. (i.e., mainly U.S.) cost, grew up in the camps—a threat for the future. Doubts of this sort could not prevail in the mood which had seized the Jewish

world and gave the Diaspora a feeling of exuberant pride they had never before experienced.

Tens of thousands of Jewish tourists from all over the world streamed to Israel in order to see the results of the victory. There were conducted tours through the occupied Arab territories (not bothering about the humiliation inflicted on the inhabitants). Sightseeing in the romantic Sinai desert with a fancy new and very costly bathing resort at the Red Sea, skiing on the Hermon, etc., became great entertainment for Israelis and foreign visitors alike. Immense crowds came to watch boasting military demonstrations, parading new formidable weapons, marching, of all places, through the Arab quarters of Jerusalem. All this sprang perhaps not from provocative intention; it was an act of naïve pleasure which primarily foreign Jews enjoyed, while some old Zionists and Israelis were less attracted. The policy of occupation, says Noah Lucas, "was not only uncritically accepted by foreign Jewries but had become the very source of their enthusiasm" (p. 423). This conformism was apparently regarded as the sublime expression of identification and solidarity with Israel. Actually, real concern for Israel's cause should have been manifested more thoughtfully.

Sensitive young Israelis, many intellectuals, university teachers and writers among them, were worried by the rapidly changing image of Zionism and Israel, and by the careless neglect of moral values, which also manifested itself in the economic sphere. First of all, however, the existential situation in Israel, which appears so different from what Zionism had envisaged and which is facing the young generation with the permanent danger of death, does not correspond to the display of pride and solidarity by the Hinterland. This also becomes evident in a collection of interviews on "The Price of Zionism" which a native Israeli (born in Petah Tikva in 1936), Ehud Ben Ezer, conducted with a number of prominent Israelis, all strong believers in the Jewish destiny in Zion. Some of the interviews were first published in a Hebrew monthly, but after the Yom Kippur war they appeared in their entirety in English**. It is a very moving and indeed stirring document, which testifies to the urge of rethinking basic ideas and values in honest confrontation with reality. This is the kind of stuff suitable for reflection and discussion at the Seder, a test of true solidarity with some alert brains of the most exposed people in their quandary.

**Unease in Zion. Edited by Ehud Ben Ezer. With a Foreword by Robert Alter (Professor at the University of California). Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co. 10 East 53rd Street, New York. (Jerusalem Academic Press, P.O.B. 2390, Jerusalem). 352 pp. \$12.50.

After the shock of the Yom Kippur War, public opinion, the frustrated soldiers and the bereaved families accused the authorities of negligence and blunders. A commission of enquiry after 14 months delivered a report hardly suitable to give the angry people satisfaction. Yet, contrary to expectations, public life returned more or less to the old routine, with fossilised political parties again dominating the scene. High publicity is being given in the whole world to Dr Kissinger's endeavour. While these lines are written, in the middle of March, a new—and perhaps decisive—stage of high level negotiations is in the offing. The Geneva Conference may be reconvened, and shrewd observers give it a better prospect. All signs indicate that the major factors in this drama regard Israel's withdrawal from territories conquered in 1967 and the implementation of UN Resolution 242 as a likely outcome, if peace is to be achieved. From the point of view of future relations with the neighbours, with whom Israel in any case will have to live, it would have been preferable, if a result could have been reached on Israel's initiative and not under duress from foe and friend. Belatedly, this view can now often be heard, but lack of foresight had blocked it in the past. However, the task is now to make the best of it, and in this respect the whole people can stand together and build up a new, more realistic structure, relying on the abundance of good will and talent available in the Jewish world.

True, there is no cause for particular rejoicing this Pessach, neither in Israel nor here; but we can learn from history that this "stiff-necked people" has mastered many difficult situations and has also overcome downheartedness.

(As we went to press on the day when Dr. Kissinger's negotiations broke down, it was not possible to assess the impact of the latest developments in this issue.—The Ed.)

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT VISITS JEWISH OLD AGE HOME

The Federal President of Austria, Dr. Rudolf Kirchschlaeger, recently paid a visit to the Home for the Aged of the Vienna Jewish community in the Bauernfeldgasse. He was welcomed by the president of the community, Dr. Anton Pick and shown round the newly erected building.

BUBER-ROSENZWEIG MEDAL

Two Christian clergymen, closely associated with work in Jerusalem, were the recipients of this year's Buber-Rosenzweig Medal, annually awarded by the German Federation of Societies for Christian-Jewish Co-operation during Brotherhood Week. They are German born Benedictine Abbot Laurentius Klein, since 1969 Abbot of "Maria Heimgang" (Mount Zion), and the Anglican Archbishop, George Appleton, until 1974 Archbishop in Jerusalem.

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*Noah Lucas: *The Modern History of Israel*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London. 500 pp. £6. This comprehensive and informative book will be regarded as controversial by many readers as it openly describes the occupation of 1967 as a "political error" and thinks that in the fifties Sharett's comparatively moderate policy and objection to Ben Gurion's policy of reprisals would have stood a better prospect in the long run. Of the Golda Meir government he says it "came to believe in the myth of its own military infallibility" and "after 1967 Israel developed its imperial personality to correspond with the Arab stereotype of it".

HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

BRITISH-EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT DEAL

A £100 million aircraft deal is about to be concluded, involving the establishment in Egypt of factories producing Westland's military Lynx helicopter and the Hawker-Siddeley Hawk trainer and combat jet, both powered by Rolls-Royce engines. The Anglo-Egyptian deal will be the largest arms contract for many years to be concluded by Britain with any Arab State directly involved in the military conflict with Israel.

In approving the deal, the British Government appears to have taken into account not only financial and economic consideration, but also the political argument that arms supplies by Western countries will make Egypt less dependent on the Soviet Union.

FASCIST DANGER

"Democratic Defence" was inaugurated at a meeting in Manchester. Mr. Paul Rose, the Labour M.P., who presided, spoke of the aims of the organisation, which would be to fight fascism wherever and whenever possible. Violence, he said, was sometimes justified in resisting the threat to democracy. Although the main weapon must be the truth, fascism was a virus that must be destroyed and which could not always be fought with reason.

Mr. Eddie Loyden, M.P., spoke of the danger in trades unions which had been infiltrated by members of the National Front. Asserting that we are on the brink of a takeover by fascist forces, Mr. Loyden said there was a need for an organisation such as Democratic Defence to alert the public to the numerous problems appertaining to fascism.

GERMAN PASTORS' VISIT

Twelve Protestant pastors from the Hamburg area came to Britain to attend a week's study course on Judaism at the Leo Baeck College. The visit was the result of contacts made over the years by Rabbi Dow Marmur, minister of the North-Western Reform Synagogue, Golders Green, with Pastor Dieter Schoeneich, who led the group. This was the second time German pastors have visited London to exchange views with Progressive rabbis, some of whom in turn have been to Germany.

Members of the group expressed concern that many young West Germans are being influenced by Arab propaganda, and are changing their hitherto pro-Israel attitudes in the Middle East controversy. The older generation in Germany—particularly practising Christians—still felt a sense of guilt over the Holocaust and churchmen were striving to create a better feeling between the Christian and Jewish communities.

FORMER REFUGEE MAKES THE GRADE

There are many cases of former refugee children, whose education was cut short in Nazi Germany and who, against great odds and with unsurpassable energy, made up for the lost time and found their niche in the academic sphere. An outstanding example was recently reported in the *Jewish Chronicle*. It refers to Mr. Ernest Sandberg, father of eleven children, who has obtained a bachelor of arts degree from the Open University. Aged 52 and a parks superintendent for Ogwr Borough Council, Wales, he had to interrupt his schooling when he left Germany. He made a promise that one day he would complete his education. "To have done so with his eleven children around him makes him one of the special wonders of the world," writes the *Jewish Chronicle*.

MEMORIAL MEETINGS

London

Readers are reminded that, as announced in the previous issue, this year's meeting in memory of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Martyrs will be held on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. in the New London Theatre, Parker Street, Drury Lane, London, W.C.2. It can now be announced that the main speaker will be the Rt. Hon. Samuel Silkin, Q.C., M.P., Attorney-General.

Manchester

Under the auspices of the Council of Manchester and Salford Jews and other major local organisations a Martyrs' Memorial Service will be held at the South Manchester Synagogue, Wilbraham Road, on Sunday, April 13, at 8.15. The programme includes Scriptural Readings by the Lord Mayor, and the address will be delivered by Rabbi Felix F. Carlebach, M.A.

TUBE DISASTER

Among those killed in the Moorgate Station Underground disaster was Mr. Bernard Marks, a founder member of the Finsbury Park Synagogue. The funeral at Waltham Abbey was attended by more than 200 people.

Mr. Sidney Kane, a St. John Ambulance Brigade divisional superintendent, helped underground on the day of the crash, assisting a team of doctors and ambulance men from the London Hospital and working among casualties brought on to the platform.

ISRAELI ENVOY TO IRELAND

Israel last December established diplomatic relations with the Irish Republic, at first on a non-residential basis. Mr. Gideon Rafael, Israel's Ambassador to Britain, is to be accredited as non-resident Ambassador. The Irish non-resident envoy to Israel will be the Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr. William Warnock.

C.B.F. AMALGAMATION WITH O.S.E.

After having worked in closest co-operation for a great number of years, the C.B.F. and British O.S.E. amalgamated on March 1. The action has been taken in order to effect economies in administration, and to reduce the number of charitable organisations working in closely related fields.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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Wembley Inter-marriage Survey

As part of a wider inquiry involving a random sample of 40 Jewish families resident in two Wembley districts, a sociological survey of Jewish attitudes to intermarriage in a "typical" London suburb has been published in the *Jewish Journal of Sociology*. The survey by Dr. Gerald Cromer—a former tutor in sociology at Nottingham University and now a criminology lecturer in Israel—shows that 56.5 per cent of the youngsters in the sample would be prepared to marry out of the fold, and that only 15 per cent of parents would take forceful action to prevent it. The findings represent a reliable guide to what has become a growing concern in most Jewish communities in the West.

Dr. Cromer views the growth of intermarriage as a result and symptom, rather than a cause, of the decline in communal cohesion. The problem, he states, must be tackled at its source—in the home, with emphasis on the declining concern with religious observance in particular and Jewish identity in general. Hence the determination of both spiritual and lay leaders of Anglo-Jewry to make education the community's prime concern and to improve on the present low standards.

Terrorists: Two Yardsticks

The annual civic service held at Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham, was attended by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, the Anglican Bishop of Birmingham, and representatives of the Catholic and Free Churches amongst others. The Rev. Sidney Gold contrasted the fate of the I.R.A. terrorists who bombed the centre of Birmingham towards the end of last year with the Arab terrorists in Israel who, he said, were welcomed with open arms at the United Nations Assembly in New York.

Mr. Gold also cited Birmingham as an example to the world of racial tolerance and understanding. There had certainly been attempts to stir up prejudice against the immigrants to the city from all over the world, "but such voices were overwhelmed by the responsible and liberal local leadership". He considered it crucial that Birmingham's example be emulated throughout the world.

Norwood Aid

The Norwood Homes for Jewish Children has been under criticism over plans to devote some of its £2 million wealth towards the cost of a child and family development and rehabilitation centre in Jerusalem. Views were expressed that the money should be used for home charities. Lord Hirschfield, president of the Norwood Charitable Trust, has now given an assurance that its investment holdings will be used to help Jewish children's charities in Britain. A new fund for overseas projects (including the Israeli scheme) would be enhanced by £25,000 now being held in a separate account and specifically earmarked by donors to aid Jewish children abroad.

Hampstead "Retirement Hotel"

A non-profit-making "retirement hotel" accommodating 30 elderly Jewish people is due to open in Fortune Green Road, Hampstead, in May, under the auspices of Westmount Housing Association. Fees charged to residents will cover the cost of maintenance and repayment of a mortgage loan. Residents will each be provided with an attractively furnished bed-sitting room and bathroom. Kosher meals will be served in a communal dining-room and there are lounges, a lift and a garden, with a qualified resident matron in overall charge. Facilities will be for the provision of normal care only.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

ARAB BLACKLIST

United States

The Treasury Department has warned that American companies co-operating with the Arab boycott of Israel would find legal action being taken against them by the United States Government if their compliance is based on religious or ethnic discrimination.

In a guideline to America's 4,700 nationally chartered banks, the Comptroller of the Currency instructed them "scrupulously to avoid" any Arab business in "the form of loans or deposits conditional on discrimination of any kind against Jews."

Germany

According to informed circles, leading West German banks, including the Deutsche Bank and the Dresdner Bank, have successfully resisted attempts by the Arab Boycott Office to exclude Jewish banking institutions from international operations involving Arab money. However, it is admitted that Arab investors are responsible for increasing difficulties in transactions involving concerns with Jewish or Israeli links. One of the West German organisations reported to have been blacklisted by the Arabs is the trade union-owned Bank fuer Gemeinwirtschaft, which makes no secret of its special relations with Israel.

Britain

Bankers N. M. Rothschild and Sons and S. G. Warburg, who have been blacklisted by Kuwaiti and Libyan moneylenders, have stated that it would not be productive to transform the controversy into a wider conflict which would range either the Jewish banking community or the City against the Arab financial world. Informal and discreet talks were, however, held in the City to resist the blatant Arab attempt at what a representative of Rothschild described as "bringing racial and political strife into the international financial market place where the overriding factor should be international interdependence".

France

As their price for participating in an issue to raise money for two French State-owned companies, a number of Arab banks earlier this year insisted on the exclusion of three Jewish-owned banks. The French Government, apparently embarrassed by the criticism levelled at it for having allowed this exclusion, has announced a new bond issue whose managers include the three blacklisted banks. In addition to all three nationalised banks, the co-managers will also include Lazard Freres, Banque Rothschild and S. G. Warburg.

OIL FROM IRAN

The Shah of Iran has hinted that Iran will sell additional supplies of oil to Israel if she gives up the Abu Rhodeis oilfield in Sinai in the next stage of negotiations for a withdrawal in the peninsula. At an impromptu press conference in Zurich after a working luncheon with Dr Kissinger, when questioned on this point, the Shah replied "Our policy is to sell oil to those who will buy it". The Shah also reaffirmed that his country will not take part in any new oil embargo arising from a new Middle East war.

Abu Rhodeis is believed to produce 47 to 53 per cent of Israel's daily requirements of about 23,000 tons of oil, the rest coming from Iran.

U.S. AID FOR ISRAEL

The United States Government is asking Congress to approve an increase in aid for Israel for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30. The House of Representatives sub-committee voting on the laws to fund the foreign aid was told that Israel's situation justified the increase in suggested aid from the original £20½ million to £141 million.

U.N. RESOLUTIONS

The 32-nation United Nations Commission on Human Rights meeting in Geneva passed two anti-Israel resolutions. Israel was accused of violating "the basic norms of international Law" and of the "desecration of Moslem and Christian shrines" in the occupied territories, as well as "disrespect for religious leaders and violation of rights of worship". Only the United States voted against both resolutions, and Britain, France, Holland, Italy and West Germany voted against the second. The first resolution was carried by 22 votes to 1, with 9 abstentions, the second by 21 to 6, with 5 abstentions.

UNESCO BAN

Menuhin Opposition

After the refusal by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to admit Israel to any regional activities and its decision to withhold assistance from Israel in deference to Arab-sponsored resolutions, many intellectuals, scientists and educationists in Western countries announced that they were cutting links with Unesco.

Yehudi Menuhin the violinist, together with the executive committee of the International Music Council which is affiliated with Unesco, have declined a request to join in the boycott. In letters to the press in Britain and elsewhere, Mr. Menuhin deplored any intrusion of politics in Unesco. He wrote that if human cultures are to be hounded out and others in their turn obliged to disown Unesco, it will inevitably collapse to the great disadvantage of all nations, our joint future and the world as a whole.

The president and secretary of the Argentinian writers' organisation, Sade, have cabled the director-general of Unesco protesting against Unesco's exclusion of Israel. The American International Music Fund, whose president is the widow of the conductor Serge Koussevitzky, has joined the boycott of Unesco.

JERUSALEM PASTOR'S PROTEST TO U.N.

In an Open Letter to Dr. K. Waldheim, Secretary-General of the U.N., an Evangelical Pastor in Jerusalem since 1962. Dr. theol. Claude Duvernoy, describes the attitude taken at the General Assembly of the United Nations as "more detestable than the disgusting diplomacy of Munich in 1938". "It is pretty obvious," he writes, "that Messrs. Arafat and Co. could never have had such a resounding success had they not murdered women and children, hijacked and destroyed civilian aircraft and committed the most abominable crime: the cold blooded murder of hostages. In short, as far as the United Nations are concerned, crime does pay." The writer also refers to the destruction of the Jewish quarters of Jerusalem by the Arab Legion in 1948, when "not a single voice was raised by either diplomats, representatives of the Church or, indeed, by representatives of the United Nations". Dr. Duvernoy strongly refutes the allegations of Unesco that the archaeological activities along the city wall are deliberately designed to destroy places which are sacrosanct to the Moslems. He suggests that the democratic nations should contract out of what he calls the "Manhattan Circus" and establish themselves in a less compromised environment. "For you, as an Austrian," the letter ends, "it seems hardly possible that you wish to remain associated with a body which bows to the demands of the heirs of the Nazis."

BOMB IN BUENOS AIRES

Anti-Jewish attacks in Buenos Aires, by unknown perpetrators, are on the increase. Recently, an anonymous bomb attack virtually destroyed a Jewish bookshop, which also sold religious appurtenances supplying almost the entire needs of the Argentine community.

FRANCE

Antisemitic Campaign

A resurgence of antisemitism has been noticeable in France, coinciding with the steep rises in oil prices by the Arab States and their attempts to blackmail the West in their anti-Israel Campaign in an atmosphere of international crisis. In this campaign, the extreme Right is mainly concerned with religious antisemitism, with the extreme Left waging its fight against Israel on political and ideological grounds.

Arab Loan Vetoed

M. Jean-Pierre Bloch, the president of the International League against Antisemitism and Racism (Lica), has disclosed that Mrs. Simone Veil, the French Minister of Health, vetoed an Arab loan for the construction of a general hospital in the industrial town of Romans, near Grenoble. M. Bloch said that a number of Arab financiers in Geneva had offered to make the loan to the Romans municipal council. They insisted, however, that when the hospital was built it should not admit Jewish patients before the loan had been repaid.

TRIALS AND SENTENCES

Paris

The Court of Cassation, France's highest tribunal, has ruled that Paul Touvier, the French Nazi collaborator, is to stand trial. Touvier, sentenced to death *in absentia* for war crimes in 1946 and 1947, was pardoned by President Pompidou in 1972 following the lapsing of the death sentence after the statutory period of 20 years. The pardon met with angry protests all over France. Touvier was the assistant of Klaus Barbie, the wartime Lyons Gestapo chief now living in Bolivia under the name of Altmann. Bolivia has refused France's request for Altmann's extradition.

The ruling of the court was given after new charges were proffered by Mrs Fanny Vogel accusing Touvier of crimes against humanity, including deportations and slavery, of which she was a victim. She also accused Touvier of having been involved in murder and the extermination of people.

Trieste

A Trieste magistrate has committed two former SS officers for trial on charges of killing thousands of innocent victims, including Jews and other hostages and political prisoners, in the crematorium established by the Nazis in a warehouse near the city during the Second World War. The accused now work as a Hamburg lawyer and a Munich beer hall employee respectively.

INDIAN AWARD

India's highest police award for bravery, the President's Police and Fire Services Medal, has been given to Inspector Samson of the Greater Bombay police, for his role in quelling a riot in September, 1972, and for giving first aid to the injured, disregarding the risks to his life. Inspector Samson is the first officer of the Bombay force in 27 years to survive and receive this award.

SACK FOR HITLER SYMPATHISER

A Toronto arbitrator has ruled that Mr. Henry Zett, of the Nu-Mode Dress Company in Toronto, acted within his rights in dismissing a member of his staff who had pinned up a picture of Adolf Hitler beside his workplace. Mr. Zett, a concentration camp survivor, on return from holiday found that the picture had been on display while he was away and immediately dismissed the man responsible.

RABBINICAL TRAINING IN BUDAPEST

Two students from the Soviet Union are, for the first time, receiving rabbinical training at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Budapest, the only such institution in Eastern Europe. The students are expected to be joined in September by two other East European students, one from Bulgaria and the other from Romania.

Hans Liebeschütz

CLASSICAL SCHOLAR AND OBSERVANT JEW

Biography of Jacob Bernays

The lasting fame of Jacob Bernays is based on his classical scholarship. His comprehensive and penetrating studies of primary sources aimed at the interpretation of the Hellenic mind. On the other hand, his life remained determined by the fact that he was the eldest son of Chacham Isaac Bernays, who in 1821 had become in Hamburg the first Orthodox rabbi combining talmudic and university education. A certain contact with the romantic movement of his days had made this synthesis productive. The son never resigned his inheritance. While carrying on his academic vocation he emphasised his loyalty to the law and the life-style of his ancestors, not only in his conduct but also in his outward appearance.

Hans Bach's book on Jacob Bernays, his circle and his writings is a work of love which has accompanied its author through many years.* It was started in Germany, when the Nazi movement had blocked his academic work in the field of German literature. Consequently, he was still able to consult unprinted diaries and drafts of reflections which were destroyed during the Second World War. He also consulted letter collections preserved in different parts of the world. Verbal quotations from this source material form a valuable part of the book, offering intimate insight into Bernays' thought and moods.

The circumstances, under which this biography originated, necessarily fostered a strong reaction against the optimistic belief of the emancipation period that Jews could identify themselves with their German surroundings. Some passages on the Jewish reform movement and on developments in Imperial Germany show traces of this feeling which was not alien to Bernays' attitude. But the fact, suggested by the book's subtitle, that Bernays' work was in giving and taking a part of both German and Jewish intellectual history determines the basic problems of his existence. His belief in the human values of the classical legacy has connected him with the German tradition from the age of Goethe and Wilhelm v. Humboldt. On the other hand, this choice of his life's profession was also motivated by the feeling that, as a Jew, he remained a natural outsider in his modern surroundings. As a classical scholar he felt able to see the whole of Western civilisation shaped by forms of thought coming from a distant past, in which also Judaism had its origin. Bernays saw Christianity as a second outside force in the world of European nations. Like Leo Baeck, he considered the core of the Gospels' teaching as a part of the Hebrew tradition. He was even ready to consider Paul's polemics against the Pharisees with understanding (pp. 49; 85; 131). But he passionately refused any compromises with the ecclesiastical doctrine. Once a good friend, a high-ranking diplomat with romantic leanings, suggested to him in a carefully composed letter that for a man of his religious seriousness baptism was feasible. Bernays answered that Jesus himself, born into the contemporary world, would be the last to consider such a step (p.116).

*Hans I. Bach: Jacob Bernays. Ein Beitrag zur Emanzipationsgeschichte der Juden und zur Geschichte des deutschen Geistes im neunzehnten Jahrhundert. XV, 251 Seiten. (Schriftenreihe wissenschaftl. Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts) Tübingen, 1974. J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck). D.M.72

For five years, Bernays had to face, without private means, the oppressive financial difficulties of a non-established lecturer at Bonn University. His appointment to the post at the first modern rabbinical college in Breslau relieved him from this situation in 1853. There he was only responsible for the general education of the students. He disliked the atmosphere of the city, which in his opinion was dominated, especially in Jewish circles, by narrow business interests. But during this period his position as a classical scholar was fully established; he became a collaborator and friend of Theodor Mommsen.

In 1866, his academic colleagues succeeded in persuading the Prussian government to recall him to Bonn as chief librarian and professor extraordinary at the university; his salary was that of a full professor. It was a great paradox in his biography that the fifteen final years of his life, which followed, were a time of increasing disappointment. He had a feeling that the impetus behind his research was weakening. It was more important that by and by he lost contact with his students; teaching meant much to him and originally had been very successful. Bernays considered this deterioration as a consequence of a change in the cultural atmosphere. Jacob Burckhardt inserted similar observations in the introductory notes of his lecture course on Ancient history in the sixties. Nietzsche's disagreement with his time also seems to confirm such judgment. But studies on the borderline of philosophy and religion, such as Bernays had cultivated, continued to flourish during the last decades of the nineteenth century; they became a factor spreading German influence throughout the world.

In retrospect, the impression prevails that the ageing bachelor's alienation from his surroundings was essentially an interior process. His success as researcher was mainly derived from his capacity for analytical thought. Compendia from Late Antiquity offered him the source material, in which he traced and characterised fragments as parts of lost writings from a more productive earlier period. In this way, he rediscovered the dialogues of Aristotle, a labour which forty years after his death became a starting-point of stimulating discussions on the transition from Plato to his most eminent pupil.

Bernays was very conscious of the fact that this critical method of understanding literature from its historical context would not be compatible with his belief when applied to the Hebrew Bible. Therefore his Jewishness and his approach to European civilisation through classical studies remained finally separated in two compartments of his mind. In this way he anticipated in some respects Franz Rosenzweig's ultimate position. But the thinker of the later generation had given up the vocation of an historian when he recognised its contrast to the basic idea of Judaism. However, for Bernays this modern form of understanding the world of man re-

mained one of the two dominating forces of his life. The lack of co-ordination in depth necessarily caused tensions under the pressure of his official position and early ageing.

Besides some photographs of places, the book offers 37 portraits of Bernays' teachers, friends and pupils, well chosen to illustrate the mentality of the nineteenth century. But the reader will seek in vain for a picture of Bernays himself, until he learns (p.194) that he has prevented the survival of any lasting memorial of his appearance.

At the end of this instructive and readable book there is a full bibliography and two good indices of names and objects.

GERMAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Assurance by Foreign Minister

The West German Government has announced that it will provide Israel with 140 million marks (about £15½ million) in capital aid this year, the same as in 1974 and previous years. The Government announced this at the end of a three-day official visit by Mr. Yigal Allon, the Israeli Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister.

At a reception in Mr. Allon's honour, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said that West Germany would support a just and durable peace settlement in the Middle East and would continue to stress that recognition of Israel's existence within secure borders must be an integral part of any Middle East peace agreement.

Mr. Allon visited Dachau and laid wreaths at the memorials to the many thousands of Jews and others murdered at the concentration camp there.

Statement by Brandt

At a two-day meeting of the Socialist International in West Berlin its president, Mr. Willy Brandt, who is chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party and former Chancellor, stressed Israel's right to live within secure borders and the need for guarantees for her future existence. Mr. Brandt also emphasised the delegates' "positive interest" in the attempts of Dr. Kissinger to achieve a peace settlement.

NEW MEMBER OF POUR LE MERITE

Nobel Prize Winner F. A. Lipmann

Professor Fritz Albert Lipmann (New York) was appointed a foreign member of the Chapter of the German Order "Pour le Mérite". Born in Königsberg in 1899, Professor Lipmann started his career at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut in Berlin. Jointly with Professor Sir Hans A. Krebs (Oxford) he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology in 1953. He now holds a position at the Rockefeller University in New York.

NO FUNDS FOR GERMAN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION

The Federal German Government has stopped funds for the German-African Association, apparently in view of the persistent anti-Israeli statements of the Association.

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Hebrew University there will be a number of functions both in this country and in Jerusalem. The main ceremonies in Jerusalem will take place between June 29 and July 2. A special tour at reduced charges for British visitors has been provided for, covering the period June 26-July 6 (ten nights) with optional extensions to 14 or 17 nights. Any interested readers are advised to ask for particulars from: Friends of the Hebrew University, 3 St. John's Wood Road, London, NW8 8RB (Tel.: 01-286 1176).

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STAATSDIENST ALS WILLE UND VORSTELLUNG

Vor einigen Monaten erschien als Veröffentlichung des Leo Baeck Institutes in New York, und finanziell durch eine Hilfe der Axel Springer Stiftung in Berlin gefördert, die lange erwartete Biographie des deutschen Staatssekretärs Hans Schäffer.* Der Verfasser ist Assistent am wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Seminar der Universität Tübingen, 1942 dort geboren, und gehört also der jüngeren Generation an, die jetzt in so erfreulicher Zusammenarbeit mit dem Leo Baeck Institut die Fragen der deutsch-jüdischen Beziehungen aufzuhellen versucht.

Schon das Vorwort, mit der Aufzählung der noch lebenden Zeitgenossen Schäffers, die befragt wurden, lässt die Gewissenhaftigkeit erkennen, mit der Dr. Wandel versucht hat, sich mit dem Lebensgefühl einer früheren Generation vertraut zu machen. Unterstützt wird die Arbeit durch eine von Professor Karl Erich Born geschriebene Einführung, die das Recht auf eine Biographie mit einer bis ins klassische Altertum zurückgehende Betrachtung überzeugend und lehrreich umschreibt.

Das Buch ist in vieler Hinsicht sehr ungewöhnlicher Natur. In Ergänzung von Professor Borns Einführung darf doch gesagt werden, dass Staatssekretären nur höchst selten das Recht auf eine eigene Biographie zuerkannt worden ist. So entsteht die Frage: warum gerade Hans Schäffer? Er war in einem gewissen Sinne ein *primus inter pares*. Es gab, um wenigstens einige zu nennen, seinen nahen Freund Hans Staudinger, den helläugigen und zielbewussten späteren Staatssekretär im preussischen Handelsministerium, der die unterelbischen Hafensfragen zu einer für Preussen und Hamburg gleich günstigen Lösung brachte. Es gab Ernst Trendelenburg, Nachkomme einer berühmten Gelehrtenfamilie, den skeptischklugen Adolf Löwe, der 1928 Universitätsprofessor in Kiel wurde, es gab die unvergessene und mutige Cora Berliner, auch sie später Hochschulprofessor, und, als einen nahen Mitarbeiter von Schäffer, den jungen Staatssekretar B.W. von Bülow im Auswärtigen Amt, dessen zarte und feinfühligke Natur im "Dritten Reich" der bewusst übernommenen Widerstandsaufgabe im Dienst sehr bald durch Krankheit erlag. Noch andere Namen könnten genannt werden. Die vielgeschmähte Weimarer Republik hatte in der Verwaltung eine gewisse Elite, die den neuen, nach parlamentarischen Formen gewählten Ministern durch ihre Erfahrung und ihre relative Unablösbarkeit weit überlegen war.

Ein kritisches Wort muss über die Anmerkungen gesagt werden. Einem modernen Missbrauch folgend, stehen sie nicht unter den Seiten, sondern am Ende des Buches, und für jedes Kapitel mit neuer Zählung beginnend. Wenn aber nicht durchgezählt wird, gehört am Kopf jeder Seite der Anmerkungen ein Hinweis auf die zugehörigen Textseiten oder zum Mindesten auf den betreffenden Abschnitt des Buches: das fehlt bei dieser ersten Auflage, sollte aber nachgeholt werden.

Nach diesen Einschränkungen kann gesagt werden, was das vorliegende Buch wirklich ist, nämlich genau das, was es sein soll: die Biographie eines sehr ungewöhnlichen Menschen. Zugleich wird damit die Bedeutung des Buches für die allgemeine Geschichte etwas eingeschränkt. Die gesamte Reparationsfrage, die überwiegend Schäffers Tätigkeit

beanspruchte, ist für alle beteiligten Staaten kein Ruhmesblatt. Die geschichtlich wichtigen Einzelheiten sind monographisch hinreichend verarbeitet, zum Teil gestützt auf Schäffers Aufzeichnungen, die er hilfreich zur Verfügung gestellt hat. Was für das Weltgedächtnis nach 50 bis 100 Jahren bleiben wird, ist das Buch des 35 jährigen John Maynard Keynes "The Economic Consequences of the Peace" (London 1920), ergänzt durch die postum veröffentlichte Betrachtung "Dr. Melchior: A Defeated Enemy" (London 1949), sowie der Entschluss des Kongresses in Washington, den Vertrag von Versailles nicht zu unterzeichnen und dem Präsidenten-Professor nicht in den Irrgarten seiner verwässerten Ideologien zu folgen. Daran hängt sich dann mit ein paar Kausalketten, die durch den Ruhrkampf schleifen, das Dritte Reich.

Wir sind zurück bei Hans Schäffer und fragen, was hob ihn aus der Elite, zu der auch noch Herbert Dorn, Johannes Popitz, Alexander Rüstow, Ernst Wagemann und Leopold v. Hösch zu zählen sind, so heraus, dass eine eigene Biographie gerechtfertigt ist.

Unter den persönlichen Anlagen des geschulten Juristen, der 1919, nach Kriegsende, 33 Jahre alt, als "Aussenseiter" in das Wirtschaftsministerium eintrat, sind einmal die hohe intellektuelle Begabung als solche hervorzuheben, sodann ein intensiver methodischer Fleiß, eine Fähigkeit des Umgangs mit Menschen, die man im heutigen Deutsch "Kontaktfreude" nennen würde, dazu ein Selbstbewusstsein, das Abstand zu halten weiss, dies alles aber zusammengefasst in eine totale Hingabe an den Beruf des Staatsdienstes, ohne darüber den Freiheitsbereich der nichtberuflichen Bildung zu vergessen.

Zu diesen Eigenschaften des Charakters kam nun, nach dem frühen Tod des Vaters, eine von der Mutter ererbte, fast manische Vorliebe für die Stenographie, in der er für die Kundigen sogar private Briefe zu schreiben pflegte. Diese Fähigkeit der raschen Festhaltung des flüchtigen Wortes bestimmte ihn, über alle für wichtig gehaltenen Gespräche Aufzeichnungen in Kurzschrift zu machen, die jetzt, zum erheblichen Teil in Maschinschrift übertragen, für die Zeit von 1924 bis 1933 in 24 Bänden von je etwa 200 Seiten vorliegen. Darüber gibt ein besonderes Kapitel bei Wandel (S. 291 ff.) genaue Auskunft. Diese Aufzeichnungen wurden als Eigentum der "Wiener Library" in London vermacht, sind jedoch unter gewissen Bedingungen beim Institut für Zeitgeschichte in München hinterlegt und für das Studium zugänglich. Sie bilden die Grundlage der biographischen Darstellung, dazu andere Quellen, die teils beim Leo Baeck Institut in New York, teils noch bei der Familie und im Archiv des einstmaligen Zündholztrust in Schweden liegen.

Dieses Material schuf die technische Möglichkeit, eine Biographie zu schreiben, die, wie mir scheint, als Beitrag zur Charakterologie noch einen höheren Wert hat, denn als Beitrag zu einer an sich kümmerlichen Episode unserer Geschichte, die eigentlich jetzt hinreichend durchgekaut sein dürfte. Schäffer selbst unterstützt diese Auffassung durch eine Reihe von Bemerkungen über die persönlichen Gründe des Verfahrens (S. 293 ff.). Sie dienten ihm, wie er schon 1921 niederschreibt, im pausenlosen Wandel des taktischen Verhaltens einmal als Protokoll und also greifbares Gedächtnis, aber auch als Kontrolle: "Selbständige Aufzeichnungen sollen die Kontinuität der Arbeit stärken und dafür sorgen, dass ich mir in

späterer Zeit über die Gründe meines Verhaltens in dieser oder jener Frage keine von der Wahrheit abweichende Vorstellung mache."

Im gleichen Zusammenhang betont Schäffer aber, dass er nie an die Veröffentlichung oder an die Abfassung eigener Erinnerungen gedacht habe. Sie mögen aber geeignet sein, "den späteren Historikern den wahren Sachverhalt zu zeigen. Ein alter Mensch, der über weit zurückliegende Dinge schreibt, ist ein anderer, als der sie erlebt hat. Die inzwischen eingetretenen Ereignisse, beeinflussen sein Urteil. . ." (S. 296). Das ist gewiss richtig, aber dieser gleiche Zeitwandel beeinflusst auch den Leser einer späteren Generation und erschwert die Möglichkeit, die Worte genau so auszulegen, wie sie im Augenblick der Niederschrift gemeint waren.

Wenn Robert Musil am Anfang seines Romans "Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften" etwa 140 Worte braucht, um die Wetterlage und die astronomische Konstellation zu Beginn der "Parallel-Aktion" genau zu bezeichnen, so ist dies nicht nur ein literarischer Scherz, sondern die Erkenntnis, dass kein historisches Ereignis, nach wechselnden Monden, genau so erfasst werden kann, wie es "wirklich" war.

Als Weiteres kommt hinzu, dass diese Stenogramme immer nach einem Zeitabstand, wenn auch zuweilen schon nach einer Stunde, geschrieben wurden, dass sie notwendige Kürzungen enthalten, und dass sie also ohne die sogenannte "persönliche Gleichung" des Schreibenden nicht richtig verstanden werden können. Wenn Schäffer selbst schon in sich den Wandel dieses Faktors spürte, was soll man dann von dem Leser nach Jahrzehnten erwarten?

Brüning konnte nur langsam, wie Wandel anschaulich beschreibt (S. 144), ein "regelrechtes Grauen" über die Existenz der Tagebücher überwinden. Mir scheint dieses Unbehagen durchaus berechtigt. Denn die Aufzeichnungen eines Gespräches, das an sich die geistigste und lebendigste Form des sich gegenseitig anregenden Gedankenaustausches ist, kann das Gespräch in eine bedrohliche Nähe zu seinem Gegenteil, dem protokollierten Verhör, bringen. Ich würde es sehr begreiflich gefunden haben, wenn sich Brüning, aber auch andere Gesprächspartner, in gewissen Fällen die Aufzeichnung verboten, oder eine Vorlegung des so entstandenen Textes verlangt hätten.

Wandel bringt ein gutes Beispiel, indem er — ohne es kritisch zu kommentieren — aus Schäffers Tagebuch ein Gespräch abdruckt (S. 3;5 ff.), das Schäffer am Abend des 20. November 1931 mit Reichskanzler Brüning führte, an einem Zeitpunkt also, wo Schäffers Zweifel an der Reichspolitik schon begonnen hatten. Ueber diesem Gespräch liegt für den heutigen Leser etwas Gezwungenes und Lauerndes. Denn Schäffer wollte ohne ausdrückliche Frage erfahren, wie lange Brüning ihn noch im Staatsdienst zu behalten wünschte, und Brüning wollte sich offenbar in keiner Weise festlegen. Das Ergebnis war eine schwebende Unsicherheit, und das spätere Ausweichen in eine mehr unbefangene geistige Unterhaltung wirkt etwas gezwungen.

Man denkt daran, dass Schäffer nach eigenem Geständnis (S. 237) kleine Tricks und versteckte Testfragen nicht ablehnte, und zuweilen auch Dinge "streng vertraulich" erzählte, um zu prüfen, ob und wie schnell sie trotzdem in Umlauf gesetzt wurden. In diesen Hilfsmitteln liegt nichts moralisch Unerlaubtes. Kein Politiker oder politischer Beamter kann ohne solche seiner schwierigen Aufgabe gerecht werden. Und Schäffer erörtert diese notwendigen Verhaltensformen in seinen Tagebüchern, dies besonders durch ein "Vademecum für Staatssekretäre und solche, die es werden wollen", das Wandel mit

Continued on page 7, column 1

* Ekehard Wandel: Hans Schäffer, Steuermann in wirtschaftlichen und politischen Krisen, 1886-1967. Deutsche Verlagsanstalt Stuttgart 1974. 378 Seiten. DM 98.

Staatsdienst als Wille und Vorstellung

Continued from page 6

sicherem Griff gleichfalls in den uns vorliegenden Band (S. 298 ff.) aufgenommen hat. Die Einteilungen: 1. Wer etwas tun soll, 2. Wann etwas getan werden soll, 3. Einige Einzelerfahrungen, und die ausgezeichneten Bemerkungen, wie politische Verhandlungen zu führen seien, erinnern im Stil etwas an Schopenhauers Betrachtungen zur Ethik, und können auch jetzt noch als eine wertvolle "Handreichung" gelten.

Aber Schäffer ging in seinen Bemühungen, ein genaues Bild der Kräfte zu gewinnen, mit denen er zu rechnen hatte, noch einen Schritt weiter: er fertigte für seinen Gebrauch eine "Eigenschaftskartothek", in der für acht Eigenschaften, von "Wille" bis "allgemeine Bildung" reichend, Bewertungen von 1 bis 9 eingesetzt wurden. Das Buch bringt (S. 238) die Ergebnisse für Briand, Hindenburg, Severing und Schleicher. Leider wird bei dieser Probe gesagt: "Solange einige der darin enthaltenen Personen noch leben, soll diese Kartei noch nicht veröffentlicht werden". Das erscheint mir eine bedauerliche und auch im Ziel falsche Rücksichtnahme. Denn da das Ganze, wie gleich zu erläutern ist, nur ein Gedankenspiel sein kann, das von den Betroffenen mit Humor aufzunehmen wäre, scheint mir eine baldige Bekanntgabe richtiger und amüsanter.

Eine in irgendeinem Sinne herabsetzende Bewertung ist für den noch Lebenden viel erträglicher, als wenn den Nachkommen später gesagt wird, dass der verehrte Tote in mancher Hinsicht eine "Niete" war. Denn die Bedeutung dieses charakterologischen Versuchs geht über den subjektiven Wert, den er — wieder als Stenogramm — für Schäffer gehabt haben mag, nicht hinaus. Die acht Eigenschaftsgruppen lassen sich weder einheitlich definieren, noch lassen sie sich gültig quantifizieren.

Natürlich gibt es Gruppen von Eigenschaften, um die sich auch die Graphologie bemüht. Aber der genaue Grad dieser "Eigenschaften", der für solch detektivisches Bemühen wichtig wäre, lässt sich trotz Quetelets oder Julius Bahnsens oder auch Klages Bemühungen, nicht gültig und in Zahlen festlegen. Der Philosoph Ernst Cassirer sagte gern, dass er keine der "Intelligenzprüfungen" des Psychologen Hermann Ebbinghaus hätte bestehen können.

Wandel sagt nicht, ob auch das Bestehen dieser Eigenschaftskartothek in Schäffers Umwelt bekannt war. Wenn aber doch, so hätte leicht, und in Verbindung mit dem Stenographieren, das eintreten können, was jetzt als "Heisenbergeffekt" bezeichnet wird: die Veränderung des Objektes unter dem Einfluss der zu seiner Erkenntnis verwendeten Methoden.

Wir sind hiermit an der Grenze dessen angelangt, was im Rahmen einer Besprechung über diese höchst anregende Biographie gesagt werden kann. Jedoch sei für die Leser dieser Zeitschrift noch hinzugefügt, dass Schäffer auch nach seiner Auswanderung nach Schweden seine geistigen Kräfte und seine weitgespannten Beziehungen der Mitarbeit an den schweren Problemen des deutschen Judentums zur Verfügung stellte, nachdem er vorher schon an der Gründung und den Arbeiten der Reichsvertretung der Deutschen Juden in Berlin mitgewirkt hatte. Und bis zu seinem Tode am 20. März 1967 in Jönköping hielt er auch die Beziehungen zu dem sich neu formenden Deutschland aufrecht, denn er sah in seiner Lebenserfahrung nicht nur ein jüdisches, sondern auch ein deutsches Schicksal.

ROUND AND ABOUT

LOOKING BACK IN EQUANIMITY

Works of Two Artists

Both *Fred Kormis*, whose sculptures are shown at the Fieldborne Galleries in St. John's Wood, and *Maud Wethered*, whose "Drawings of the Twenties" complete the exhibition and extend its scope, are in their late seventies. Mr. Kormis is German (born 1897 in Frankfurt), Miss Wethered as English as they come with the Englishwomen's traditional love for Europe and the South and her aversion to drama and solemnity.

Kormis, a prisoner of war in Siberia from 1915 to 1920 (and best known in this country for his "Prisoner Memorial" in Gladstone Park) fought his way—probably under Epstein's influence—to a restrained and controlled impetuosity without losing his original impetus and force. Miss Wethered seems to have set out as a gentle and timid observer, developing her notes into statements and images of great clarity. There could have been no greater difference of approach and advance between any two artists, and only slowly one perceives that both look in the same direction, namely back to sanity. Neither is "academic" but both are excellent craftsmen; neither is resigned, but both are calm and sagacious.

To choose, and call attention to one or two or a dozen of Mr. Kormis's fifty exhibits and Miss Wethered's twenty must remain a matter of one's personal taste and sensibilities. However, the life-size "Seated Figure", probably an earlier work of Kormis's (no dates are given), and with the marvellous texture of spontaneous application, the loving and understanding portrait of the legendary Ludwig Koch and the "Reclining Figure" among the splendid array of "Kleinplastik" can be called outstanding and full of compassionate humanity. The very moving relationship of figures, both formal and emotional, is one of Kormis's recurrent themes. Three "Couples" in this exhibition, all of them reliefs, show his austere treatment without a trace of the common or sentimental.

Of Miss Wethered's wanderings all over Southern Europe, the Italian sketches produced the most rewarding harvest: the "Appian Way, Rome" and sober pen and ink drawings from Urbino, Syracuse and Siena show her as an observer combining two conflicting virtues, utter objectivity and great love.

F. THORN.

JOE ROSE'S RECENT WORKS

Here we have a "committed" painter. Joe Rose is trying to tackle some of the problems of our time under which he suffers: tyranny, violence in East and West, discrimination against the Jews in the Soviet Union, and the perverted instincts of crowds. We all remember Goya, Daumier and George Grosz, caricaturing mercilessly cruelty and injustice in their own times. Mr Rose is a kind man, personally and as an artist. The milk of his kindness overflows to a certain degree into his critical art. He does not sting and whip, he chides. This is his dilemma. Perhaps the best canvases in the exhibition at the Nicholas Treadwell Gallery, which ended in February, were two portraits, one of Solzhenitsyn and another of his friend, the writer George Mikes. Here he is in sympathy with his subjects. His admiration and loving empathy fire his considerable talent to produce impressive images.

A.R.

GABRIELE TERGIT'S NOVEL ON GERMAN RADIO

"Kaesebier erobert den Kurfuerstendam", the novel by Gabriele Tergit (Rowohlt, 1931), with the Berlin of the late 'twenties thrown in, was the subject of a one hour radio feature by Frank Gruetzbach. It was broadcast by the Westdeutsche Rundfunk and repeated by the Sender Freies Berlin. The social climate of the time was brought to life by dialogues from the novel—dialogues of seedy and worthy journalists, of seedy and worthy businessmen, of seedy and worthy developers. Gabriele Tergit, who now lives in London and is the hon. secretary of the PEN Centre of German Speaking Authors Abroad, wrote her novel, when she was a well-known journalist of the Berliner Tageblatt. Apart from tape recordings of herself, the programme included contributions by other personalities who could speak about that period from first hand knowledge. Alfred Braun, the first announcer of the "Funkstunde", spoke with his old clarity and vigour. Willy Rose of the Rose Theatre dynasty gave reminiscences. The "Betrieb" of that period was captivated for a new generation of listeners.

PORTRAITS BY DOLBIN IN DORTMUND

The Institut fuer Zeitungsforschung in Dortmund has acquired part of the estate of B. F. Dolbin (Vienna 1883-New York 1971). It consists of about 400 portraits of well-known publicists, which are now exhibited in the Institute. In the preface to a brochure, published on the occasion of the exhibition, the director of the Institute, Professor Dr. Kurt Koscyk, expresses the hope that the Dolbin originals may feel at home in the company of works by Daumier, Gulbransson and others. Until 1933, Dolbin was a contributor to the Berliner Tageblatt and the Literarische Welt, edited by Willy Haas. After his enforced emigration, he worked in the U.S.A. from 1935 onwards. In co-operation with Willy Haas, he published "Gesicht einer Epoche" in 1962.

KAMINSKA FOR NEW YIDDISH THEATRE

Ida Kaminska, the Yiddish actress and director from Poland, and her actor husband, Meir Melman, have announced that they will settle in Israel, where they will join the newly formed Yiddish Theatre in Tel Aviv.

The actress and her husband left Poland in late 1968 at the height of the anti-Jewish campaign, going first to Israel and later to the U.S.A. In Poland she was the star of the Polish Oscar-winning film, *The Shop on Main Street*. Mrs. Kaminska is apparently disappointed with the American Jewish community because it provided no adequate opportunity for her to re-establish herself there.

YIDDISH PUBLICATION PROJECT

In 1957, the Argentine Yiddish writer, journalist and critic, Samuel Rozhansky, devised and initiated a project for the publication of a series of 100 volumes of Yiddish master works in prose and poetry. Mr. Joseph Lipshitz, a South African active in Jewish cultural affairs in Johannesburg, established a fund to produce the books, and the British Museum is among institutional subscribers to the project.

Sixty-two volumes have appeared, many of the earlier having gone into two or three editions. The works of Sholem Aleichem, Mendele Mosher Seferim and Y. L. Peretz are included in the publications.

A MAN OF MANY PARTS

80th Birthday of Dr. Charles Kapralik

On the occasion of his 80th birthday on April 24, Dr. Charles Kapralik will receive congratulations from a variety of friends and colleagues, who have been associated with him in the course of a full and still active life. His close relationship with the AJR started more than 20 years ago, when the work for the elderly in our midst could be put on a firm basis by the establishment of the Old Age Homes. From the very beginning, Dr. Kapralik was a member of the Management Committee, under whose auspices the C.B.F. and the AJR jointly conduct the current business and determine the policy concerning the running of the Homes. It was only natural that the team work of this committee also resulted in bonds of personal friendship between its members. Dr. Kapralik was not only a capable administrator, who carried out the decisions of the committee as long as he was a senior official and, later, joint secretary of the C.B.F. but fortunately continued his co-operation, after he retired from his office six years ago. In his contribution to the deliberations of the Management Committee, he combines vision and understanding of the wider issues involved with a strong sense of detail. Yet, above all, he excels by the human approach to the well-being of those whose fate he had to share as a refugee.

The establishment of the Homes would not have been possible without the funds derived from the heirless and communal Jewish property in the British zone of Germany. The complicated work of recovering these assets was carried out by the Jewish Trust Corporation (J.T.C.) under the guidance of Dr. Kapralik as general secretary and Dr. Reinhold Lachs, now also a member of the Management Committee, as the first general manager of the field operations in Germany. There, Dr. Kapralik could prove his mettle as

a capable jurist and experienced negotiator. Yet when the major part of the work was finished, another proficiency of his came to the fore. He also turned out to be an historian, recording the work of the J.T.C. under the heading "Reclaiming the Nazi Loot" (1962), followed by a second volume about the subsequent period in 1971.

His activities as a senior Jewish civil servant also gained him the recognition of the representatives of the major Jewish organisations abroad, with whom he is on personal terms. The weight his views carry became evident to me again when, as a newly elected member, I recently attended for the first time a board meeting of U.R.O. in Frankfurt.

Last but not least, there is his work for the refugees from Austria. It has been stated time and again, how badly the attitude of that country to the compensation of Nazi victims compares with that of the German Federal Republic. It has also been repeatedly explained that this is in the first place due to political circumstances: Austria considers herself as a country annexed by Nazi Germany and does not wish to have payments to Nazi victims interpreted as an admission of her share in the Nazi crimes. Thus, other ways had to be found to mitigate, at least to some extent, the plight of the Jews from Austria. Towards this goal, Dr. Kapralik showed much imagination, tenacity and skill, and if, in one way or another, some measure of relief could be obtained, it is to a high degree due to his efforts. He holds office with the representative bodies which safeguard the interests of the Nazi victims from Austria. The arrangement, published in this issue, by which recipients of Austrian pensions will receive certifications required for their British tax returns, is also due to his intervention and testifies to the good relationship he has been able to establish with the Austrian authorities concerned.

Sometimes, one has to describe the achievements of an octogenarian in the past tense. Yet in the case of Dr. Kapralik we can fortunately state that the relief from the daily office routine has not been identical with retirement. He is as active and committed as he always was, and that this may go on for a very long time to come is our heartfelt wish on the occasion of his birthday.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK.

FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

Partnerships are notoriously difficult and one would think that a partnership between a lawyer and a social worker-cum-fund raiser might be fraught with problems. Only wisdom, patience and understanding could ensure harmonious co-operation and as I may have a little of the latter but not much of either of the others, it becomes clear that my partnership with Charles Kapralik as joint secretary of the C.B.F. was a smooth and delightful experience in team work because he had all three qualities, and many more.

We first worked together directly after the war and immediately became friends. When I was depressed because an appeal I had started was not doing well, he cheered me up; when I had a problem on the fund-raising front he would say: "I know nothing

about fund raising, but . . ." and out would come a sound common-sense solution. If differences sprang up within our office he would arbitrate or advise wisely. He was prepared to listen to interminable explanations and, as we say today, still "keep his cool".

But it was—and still is—in the field of human relations that his character and compassion show most clearly. For him everyone is an individual and it is his pleasure and privilege to give help wherever he can.

His work for those who found refuge here will be commended in other parts of this tribute but I, who know many of the people who have benefited through his work on restitution, realise just what it has meant, not as an amorphous whole translated into millions of Deutschmarks, but in terms of the individual who, as a result, is able to spend often the declining years of his life free, at least, from financial anxiety. This work of reclamation of heirless property enabled the Allocations Committee (J.T.C. Funds) of the C.B.F. not only to provide capital sums for the establishment of Old Age Homes for refugees and to contribute towards their maintenance, but also to make grants to organisations which benefited refugees either through cash grants or through the provision of various services. But this was only a small part of the massive aid which his efforts helped provide, not only for those in this country but for others in far-flung lands.

All this has brought great satisfaction to Charles Kapralik and I am sure he must survey this work happily as he continues to serve in one capacity or another.

On this, his 80th birthday, on behalf not only of our colleagues in the Central British Fund and myself, but also of the many thousands of those his work has helped, I want to wish him a happy birthday and many more to come together with his wife Camilla, who is his constant companion.

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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

OESTERREICHISCHE SOZIAL- VERSICHERUNG

Nachweis der Verfolgten-Eigenschaft

Wie in AJR Information wiederholt berichtet wurde (zuletzt in der Maerz-Ausgabe, S.2), hat der Finance Act 1974 willkommene Verbesserungen zu Gunsten der Opfer der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung gebracht. Insbesondere unterliegen Sozialversicherungen nunmehr nur zur Haelfte der britischen Einkommensteuer.

Um dieser Beguenstigung teilhaft zu werden, wird es notwendig sein, nachzuweisen, dass der Pensionist als Opfer des Nazismus durch die oesterreichische Sozialversicherungs-Gesetzgebung beguenstigt wurde. Dies kann durch Vorlage der Bescheide der Pensionsanstalt ueber beguenstigte Anrechnung der Emigrationszeit erfolgen. Da jedoch viele, insbesondere aeltere Personen, diese vor Jahren erhaltenen Bescheide verloren oder verlegt haben, hat das oesterreichische Bundesministerium fuer Soziale Fuersorge in dankenswerter Hilfsbereitschaft die Pensionsanstalt fuer Angestellte und die Sozialversicherungsanstalt der gewerblichen Wirtschaft ersucht, von Amts wegen den in England lebenden Pensionsempfaengern, bei deren Pensionsbemessung die sozialrechtlichen Beguenstigungen angewendet wurden, diesbeuegliche Bestaetigungen in englischer Sprache zuzusenden.

Diese Bestaetigungen, die sorgfaeltig aufbewahrt werden sollten, werden ueber Verlangen der hiesigen Steuerbehoerde vorzulegen sein.

C.I.K.

DR. GUSTAV JELLINEK 90

Dr. Gustav Jellinek (New York), president of the American Federation of Jews from Austria, celebrated his 90th birthday on March 24. Prior to his enforced emigration, Dr. Jellinek was a well-known and highly respected physician in Vienna and a co-founder and vice-chairman of the "Association of Jewish Doctors in Vienna". He resumed his professional work in New York and, until 1972, was in charge of the medical department of the "Hospital of the Daughters of Israel". In addition to his presidency of the American Federation of Jews from Austria his work for his fellow immigrants includes the membership with the Committee for Jewish Claims against Austria (a sister body of the Claims Conference), at which he represents the World Council of Jews from Austria. He belonged to the Kuratoria of the now dissolved Austrian Abgeltungsfonds and the Sammelstelle "A", the collecting agency for Jewish heirless property, and he is still a member of the Kuratorium of the Austrian Hilfsfonds as well as of the board of directors of the "United Help for Nazi Victims" in New York.

It is not a conventional phrase if we refer to the full physical health and mental vigour of the nonagenarian. He is indeed a most remarkable and admirable personality, endowed with a stupendous power of eloquence and freshness of mind and argument, astonishing everybody who happens to learn his true age. We wish him to continue with undiminished vigour ad multos annos.

AWARD FOR PROF. FRANZ BOEHM

On the occasion of his recent 80th birthday, Professor Franz Boehm was awarded the Grand Cross of Merit with Star and Shoulderband. Professor Boehm played a leading part in the Hague negotiations between the German Federal Republic and the representatives of Israel and the Claims Conference and in the promulgation of the compensation laws resulting from them. For many years, he was chairman of the Federal Parliamentary Committee on Compensation for Nazi victims. He has also always been a prominent protagonist of the establishment of a new relationship between Germany and Jewry. Jointly with Walter Dirks and the late Professor Walter Gottschalk, he edited a symposium "Judentum: Schicksal, Wesen und Gegenwart". His career as a professor of law was interrupted in 1938, when he was dismissed by the Nazis for political reasons. In 1970 he was awarded the Leo Baeck Prize. By his activities Professor Boehm has also established personal bonds with former German Jews in this country who join his other friends and fellow workers in extending their heartfelt birthday wishes to him.

MEMBERS OF SHADOW CABINET

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's Shadow Cabinet includes Sir Keith Joseph as the third highest-ranking member, with overall responsibility for policy and research in economic and social affairs. Sir Keith was the only Jewish Minister in post-war Conservative Governments.

Also appointed to the Shadow Cabinet is Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, 44, who "shadows" Mrs. Shirley Williams on prices and consumer affairs.

FUTURE FRENCH PREMIER?

Mrs. Simone Veil, the French Minister of Health, is now being mentioned as a possible future Premier. Aged 48 and a grandmother, Mrs. Veil is a survivor of Auschwitz, where her parents and brother perished.

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IN MEMORIAM

MRS. KATE KHONK

The AJR Club deeply mourns the death of its beloved and admired Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Kate Khonk. Handicapped through the loss of a leg she stood up to this ordeal never complaining, always in high spirits, a shining example to everyone. Her last great achievement was the organisation of the Club's Bring-and-Buy sale. Wheeling around, she gave advice to the helpers how best to arrange their stalls. The marvellous result gave her great satisfaction.

Her private life was a very happy one. Cared for by her adored daughter, Susan Samson and her husband Peter, she was "Mutti" to her four grandchildren, two boys and two girls, seeing them growing up and to her great delight being in touch with them and never failing to communicate to them her love for the arts, literature and especially music.

She was a true and devoted friend to so many. I will miss my beloved neighbour through a span of 25 years in friendly togetherness. For me she will remain unforgettable and irreplaceable.

MARGARET JACOBY.

PROFESSOR HYMAN LEVY

Professor Hyman Levy recently died at the age of 86 in London. The son of Jewish parents driven out of Tsarist Russia by anti-Semitic persecution Levy became one of the leading mathematicians in this country and was for many years Dean of the Royal College of Science. Awareness of poverty and persecution made him a Socialist in his early youth and he remained faithful to these ideas and to the "fight for the emancipation of mankind" to the end of his life. As an independent thinker and rationalist he was unable to fit into the pattern of any "establishment", be it Tory, Communist or Zionist. A prominent member of the British Communist Party for many years he was expelled from the party when he dared to speak out against anti-Jewish crimes committed in the Soviet Union during the Stalin régime which he discovered during a journey to that country.

He studied for some time in Göttingen which he had to leave on the outbreak of the First World War, and from those days he retained a particular interest in Heine and the recent efforts to honour his memory. His many friends—to whom he was simply "Hymie"—will never forget his sparkling humanism and humanity.

Dr. David Diring, the authority on the alphabet and its development, has died in Cambridge at the age of 74. He was born in Tlumacz (Galicia) and studied in Jerusalem and at the University and the Rabbinical Institute in Florence, where he was appointed a university professor. As a result of Mussolini's anti-Jewish policy, he left for England, teaching Semitic epigraphy (the interpretation and classification of inscriptions) at Cambridge University. He was later elevated to a readership on the subject. In 1959, he founded in the garden of his Cambridge residence a unique museum devoted to the history of writing systems. In 1965, the museum was transferred to Tel Aviv. Dr Diring became its director but continued to spend part of the year in Cambridge. His writings include the standard work "The Alphabet".

CONSUL CHARLES LUTZ

The Swiss diplomat, Charles Lutz, who recently died in Berne at the age of 80, will be gratefully remembered by Jews for his rescue work during the Second World War, when he was consul in Budapest. He issued almost 60,000 "letters of protection" to persecutees, most of them Jews, and thus saved them from deportation. A street in Haifa bears his name.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

Meyer-Michael.—Wolfgang Meyer-Michael of 11 Reynolds Close, London, N.W.11, will celebrate his 85th birthday on April 14. Family and friends wish "Päppi" a happy birthday and good health.

Moos.—Mrs. Ella Moos, of 9 Park Farm Close, London, N.2, will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 17.

Wedding Anniversary

Philipp.—Mr. Richard J. Philipp (formerly Hamburg) and Mrs. Fanny Philipp (née Jeckel) (formerly Gelsenkirchen), of 44 Ellesmere Road, Dollis Hill, London, NW10 1JR, will celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary on April 5.

Deaths

Kann.—Ellen Kann (née Walter) passed away suddenly on February 24. Deeply mourned by Peter, Annette and Rachel Kann, of 16a Brookmans Avenue, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Herts; and Erna and Marion Walter, of 987 Finchley Road, London, N.W.11.

Khonk.—Mrs. Kate Khonk, of 23 Belsize Avenue, London, N.W.3, passed away peacefully on March 10. Deeply mourned by her family and all her friends.

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Lewin.—Mrs. Johanna (née Heldt, 1890-1975). Died February 22 at the Grosvenor Medical Nursing Home—thus reuniting her in death with her beloved husband, the late chemist, Mr. Adolph Lewin. Sadly missed. May she now rest in peace.

Maier-Philips.—Ria Maier-Philips died in February in Berlin after a short illness. Sadly missed by her many friends.

Steindler.—Dr. Ferdinand Maximilian Steindler, of 33 Rydal Road, Streatham, London, S.W.16, passed away peacefully on February 24, aged 69, after a long illness courageously borne. Deeply mourned by his wife, Beryl, daughter, Jacqueline, and all his family and friends.

Thanks for Condolences

Kingston.—I wish to thank all our many friends and members of the AJR who cared so much during the long illness of my dear wife, Rita, and for the warm sympathies on her passing away. Special thanks to Dr. Rosenstock, the committee and all the staff of the AJR.—B. L. Kingston, 2/167 West End Lane, London, NW6 2LG.

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Personal

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CONTINENTAL LADY, early 40, would like to meet gentleman. View friendship. Box 479.

Missing Persons

AJR Enquiries

Harris.—Mrs. Fanny Alexandra Harris, last known address 4 Rothar Field Road, Oxford.

Saalfeld.—Ruth Saalfeld (Salfeld) born 1913/14, last known German address: Berlin - Charlottenburg, Goethe-Str. 72. Stepdaughter of Dr. med. Pakuscher.

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THEATRE NEWS

Henrik Ibsen Renaissance. While some of Ibsen's most famous works, such as "Peer Gynt", "Hedda Gabler" and "A Doll's House" are performed at regular intervals, both in Britain and on the Continent, this year appears to add some noteworthy revivals. Among new productions of Ibsen plays are "John Gabriel Borkman" by the London National Theatre at the Old Vic, and an Italian performance of "Enemy of the People" ("Volksfeind") under the direction of Giorgio Strehler will figure among the World Theatre plays at the Aldwych Theatre. Several German theatres include "Rosmersholm" in their repertory, and the Vienna "Burg" plans a new production of "Ghosts" with Paula Wessey in the part of Frau Alving. Oswald will be played by Vienna's youthful Kaspar Maria Brandauer, and Pastor Manders by Ewald Balsler, member of the "Burg" Ensemble since 1928.

Berlin. The former Berlin theatre chief Boleslaw Barlog is responsible for the Renaissance Theatre production of Bjoernson's "Wenn der junge Wein blüht" (first shown in 1909). Critics, praising the performance, call the play "less antiquated than we first thought".

Salzburg. Fritz Hochwaiders' new play "Lazaretti" is to have its world-première at this year's festival. Curd Jurgens will again appear in the title role of Hofmannsthal's "Jedermann".

Vienna. The "Josefstadt" Ensemble will shortly visit the United States. Under the direction of Ernst Haeussermann they will play in New York and five other cities, presenting Pirandello's "Six Persons in Search

of an Author" and "Konzert" by Hermann Bahr.

London-Vienna. The Sondheim-Musical "A Little Night Music", due to open at the London Adelphi with Hermione Gingold in one of the main parts, has been enjoying a successful run in Vienna since February. The musical is presented under the title "Das Laecheln einer Sommernacht" and stars the by now almost legendary Zarah Leander.

Hamburg. When German actresses turn to novel writing, they seem to be doing it on a grand scale. The latest to join the book market is Elisabeth Flickenschildt. Following her autobiographical book "Kind mit roten Haaren", her second book "Pflaumen am Hut" is reviewed as a work of intuition and flowering imagination, as expected of that highly individualistic star of stage and film.

S.B.

WIENER LIBRARY

Executive Committee Elections

At the executive committee meeting of the Wiener Library and the Institute of Contemporary History, held in London on February 19, Mr Werner M. Behr, O.B.E., was elected chairman. He succeeds Mr. David Kessler, who will, however, remain a member of the executive committee. The meeting also confirmed the resignations of Dr. Robert Weltsch, Professor Julius Gould and Professor Leonard Schapiro, and co-opted the following new executive committee members: Professor Uriel Tal, Professor Zvi Yavetz and Professor Shlomo Simonsohn as representatives of the Tel Aviv University, and Dr. Harry Levitt and Professor George Mosse.

SUCCESSFUL BAZAAR AT AJR CLUB

More than £550 were raised at the Bring and Buy Sale of the AJR Club, held on February 23 at Hannah Karminski House. The proceeds will be divided between the Gertrud Schachne Fund and the Margaret Jacoby Orgler Fund, to be used for holiday grants and other assistance in this country, and the Ahavah Children's home in Israel. There was a great demand for the variety of attractive goods on display, ranging from paintings to children's and adults' clothing, from practical household goods to gift articles. The function was equally enjoyable as a social event, a constant coming and going of altogether about 250 people, and thus serving also as a meeting ground for old acquaintances. While the sale went on in the Hall, refreshments were provided for the visitors in the club rooms. Thanks are due to all those who, under the guidance of the indomitable Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, helped to make the event such a success.

WOLFGANG MEYER-MICHAEL 85

The sculptor and painter, Wolfgang Meyer-Michael (London), will celebrate his 85th birthday on April 14. Born in Berlin, he settled in Rheda (Westphalia) after the First World War. In 1936, he emigrated to Palestine. After the death of his wife, he came to London in 1963 to join his two daughters and their families. His works include a relief "Rollender Taler" in the hall of the Bielefeld Savings Bank and a bronze sculpture of a woman, originally exhibited in the Tel Aviv Museum and now placed in the Haifa Gan ha-Em (Park of the Mother). In spite of his great age, Mr. Meyer-Michael is still active in his studio in Hampstead Garden Suburb, where he lives with his daughter and her family.

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Letters to the Editor

A HISTORY OF INDEMNIFICATION

Sir.—Your February issue carried a detailed review of the book by Walter Schwarz, "Rückerstattung nach den Gesetzen der Alliierten Mächte". The book is indeed the most remarkable legal publication I have seen for a long while. Hundreds of clauses of the various statutes and probably more than a thousand judgments are reported on, always full of understanding of the underlying facts and with a sharp and unbiased assessment of the findings of the courts. As the reviewer, himself very well known as an expert in the field, in the first three columns of his article comes to practically the same conclusions on the value of Schwarz's work as a law book, I need not go into further details. Objections are, however, in my view to be raised against the fourth column of the review. There the reviewer blames the author that his work is deficient, not as far as the legalistic aspects are concerned, but from the point of view of historiography. In his opinion the author should have given more details about the personalities of the legislators and judges concerned, their own personal history, etc. In my view this would have been a task which the author could not and should not have undertaken for the following reasons:

As regards the legislation, the author has named three German lawyers who effectively worked in the field so that the Allied authorities were enabled to create a remarkable legal work (with the exception of that of the French Restitution Law, on the faults of which the author and the reviewer justly agree). By a small error the reviewer has omitted one of the three names and replaced it by the name of another German lawyer and Deputy, whose work for many years was indeed most meritorious but referred essentially or entirely to the German indemnification legislation and not to the laws of the Allied Governments. Owing to the prohibition by the laws of the Allied states, the author could, however, not yet name those who were decisive for the definite formulation of the Allied restitution laws. At least some of them were also German lawyers by upbringing, and it would have been most unfair to name only the two or three German fellow-workers and not to mention the deciding authors of the statutes.

In this respect the wishes of the reviewer could possibly be fulfilled in four years' time, when the legal secrecy imposed by the American and British legislations expires. What can, however, not be fulfilled are his demands as far as the judges are concerned. The four restitution courts alone each had 5 and 7 judges respectively, and the number of these 22 judges was, of course, increased by reserves and by changes during the years of the proceedings. Furthermore, the author quoted the decisions of several hundred judges of the courts of appeal, and some of these judges as well as their findings were also outstanding. In accordance with German practice as opposed to that of the British, judgments of the resti-

tution courts only state the unanimous or majority decisions of the court and not the views of the individual judges. Consequently, it is very seldom that the parties and lawyers concerned know who was really decisive for the judgment in question. In many, perhaps the majority of the cases it might have been the president of the court, but every practising lawyer knows also of cases, where one of the other judges is a stronger personality than the president and dominates the court. It would, therefore, lead to a great number of unjust comments, if one were to enumerate all the judges and censor their personal activities. It might also not always be just to mention, as your reviewer suggests, the former and later activities of the individual judges.

The best one can do and what the author has done and might have been amplified in one or two cases, was to state that the Berlin Supreme Restitution Court deserves mention as one of particular distinction.

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VERSAILLES TREATY AND NAZISM

Sir.—With reference to Mr. J. W. Bruegel's review of the Hitler biography by J. Fest (published in your February issue) I should like to state that, in my view, the Treaty of Versailles was quite reasonable and justified after Germany's defeat in 1918. But—and this but is the decisive mistake committed by the Western Allies—at the time of Locarno it should have been totally revised, the payments by Germany should have been stopped and any other humiliating conditions should, without exception, have been altered. Unfortunately, this was not done. Stresemann, already a sick man, failed in his efforts, and this contributed to his untimely death. If the Allies had revised the treaty in about 1927, Hitler would never have come to power, because he would have lost his main propaganda weapon apart from the Jewish question, the reference to the "Schandvertrag" of Versailles.

Furthermore, the Weimar Republic was not supported by the foreign powers and the first visit to Germany by a British statesman (Lord Halifax) after the First World War was paid after Hitler had become Chancellor. Many Germans then asked: "How can we be expected to take a stand against Hitler, if the British support him in such a manifest way?" Understandably, but wrongly, Britain's attitude at that time was determined by the idea that Germany should be used as a bulwark against the USSR.

These examples show that the circumstances, which helped to bring Hitler to power and eventually led to the Second World War, included many instances, on which the German people had no influence.

(Dr.) P. OESTREICHER, senior.

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THE VOYAGE OF THE ST. LOUIS

Sir.—In her otherwise excellent review of our book "Voyage of the Damned" (your February issue), Margot Pottlitzer complains that we do not reveal the "sources of information" which she casts doubt on. There are 11 pages of sources and bibliography listed in the book. Of course we realise the inherent dangers when extracting information from eye witnesses; therefore we applied the basic rule that, if at all possible, each story had to be corroborated by at least two independent sources.

Mrs. Pottlitzer's doubts about the likelihood of several incidents referred to in our book are, in our submission, unjustified. Whilst space in your columns does not permit us to deal with all specific points, we feel we have to comment on Mrs. Pottlitzer's remark that "it is conceivable that (the Oberrat) got hold of the spurious Cuban visas, but it is not likely". Our source for this was a person who worked in the office of the Oberrat at the time, and who personally helped to purchase the visas by bribery (a not uncommon occurrence). She also seems to think it unlikely that the Gestapo shared the offices of the Oberrat. We have it from sources we believe reliable that this was a fact—one of whom stated: "Jews came to us at the Oberrat for briefings before going on to the U.S. Consulate . . . We got Cuban visas for a large number of passengers on the St. Louis . . . We were not exactly friendly with the two S.D. men (intelligence unit of the Gestapo) who shared our offices, but we had the common goal of getting Jews out of Germany . . ."

MAX MORGAN-WITTS.

GORDON THOMAS.

c/o Jonathan Clowes Ltd.,
19 Jeffrey's Place, London, NW1 9PP.

Sir.—With reference to the review of "The Voyage of the Damned" in your February issue, the following incident may be of interest to your readers:

My late husband, who had all the necessary papers, tickets, etc. for the voyage, was the only one who did not join the ship. The reason was that at the Hamburg Dock from where the ship was going to sail a stranger approached him and told him in a Cologne dialect: "If you can go somewhere else do not go on this ship, the whole thing is a swindle." As it happened my husband also had a temporary entrance visa for Britain, so instead of embarking he came to this country.

(Mrs.) L. BRUCE.

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GERMAN HONoured AS "RIGHTEOUS GENTILE"

Mr. Ludwig Walz, Mayor of Riedlingen near Stuttgart, has become the 71st German citizen to be honoured as a "Righteous Gentile" by the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. Between 1934 and 1942, when he was arrested by the Nazis, he risked his life many times to save the lives of German Jews.

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