

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

PROGRESS AND NEW PROBLEMS

General Meeting of the AJR

The variety of tasks to be fulfilled by the AJR and the changes it has to undergo lest it becomes stagnant became evident anew at this year's Annual General Meeting, held on June 17 at Hannah Karminski House.

After his welcoming address, Mr. W. M. Behr, OBE, chairman of the AJR paid tribute to the memory of the honorary officers who had passed away during the year. The Executive sustained severe losses by the deaths of Mr. F. W. Ury, who was also a member of the Management Committee for the Homes and chairman of the House Committee of Leo Baeck House, and of Mr. Richard Schneider, who had been associated with the work of the AJR since its inception. The AJR also lost its Board members Dr. L. Eschwege and Mr. P. Mosbacher.

In his general report, Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary) stated that one of the outstanding successes of the AJR during the year under review was the introduction of a special clause in the Finance Act 1974, reducing the taxability of pensions to Nazi victims by 50 per cent. This was to a high extent due to a memorandum submitted by the AJR when the Finance Bill was under consideration. The deduction clause mainly concerns German pensions to former civil servants and Jewish communal workers and German and Austrian Social Insurance pensions. Special thanks were due to Dr. F. E. Falk and Dr. C. I. Kapralik and also to the Members of Parliament, who had endorsed our plea, especially Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, Mr. Greville Janner and Mr. Peter Rees. The speaker stressed that the regulations of the Finance Act 1974 did not affect the annuities under the German Federal Indemnification Law (BEG), which, as before, are entirely exempt from taxation.

Spokesman for Community

The success achieved in this particular matter has also re-affirmed the important role to be played by the AJR as the recognised and effective spokesman of the former refugees.

AJR Information has now entered its 30th year of publication. Beyond informing members on questions of restitution and related subjects, it also carried general news on Jewish events and articles on themes of special relevance for readers of Continental Jewish background. Sometimes editorial problems arise from the risk that comments on important happenings in Jewish life may be superseded by the time the issue reaches its readers. Yet the indispensable function of our Monthly always becomes evident anew, if for reasons beyond our control the printing or posting takes more time than usual and members anxiously enquire why they have not yet received their copies.

The speaker then gave a detailed report about the policy concerning the Homes, jointly administered by the AJR and the CBF. The work in this field commenced 20 years ago, when the first residential Home for the Aged, *Otto Schiff House*, was opened. It was followed by the establishment of *Leo Baeck House* and *Otto Hirsch House* in 1958 and *Heinrich Stahl House* in 1962. Altogether these Homes comprise 152 single rooms and 17 double rooms. During the first years there were long waiting lists. Yet gradually the situation changed and the admission policy could be relaxed. As a first step, most of those double rooms which were not required by married couples were used as single rooms. Several years ago it also became possible to lift the barrier which originally excluded applicants with comparatively larger incomes or assets.

In the course of the last two years the situation, however, underwent even further changes. There was an increasing number of cases in which applicants showed a certain reluctance, once a room was offered to them. This attitude is in keeping with the general trend in the field of care for the aged. The elderly want to keep their independence as long as possible.

Homes: Changed Priorities

Under this aspect, sheltered accommodation in self-contained flatlets, as provided at *Eleanor Rathbone House*, becomes increasingly important, and the waiting list for this Flatlet Home is very long. On the other hand, candidates for the Old Age Homes often make up their minds only after their health has deteriorated to such an extent that they can no longer be properly looked after in one of the ordinary Homes, but need the care provided for at *Osmond House*, the Home for the infirm.

This gradual change in the situation has now reached a state where practical conclusions have to be drawn from it, and as it is now possible to accommodate all applicants who are in a reasonable state of health in three instead of four ordinary residential Homes, the closure of one of the Homes, *Otto Hirsch House*, has been considered as necessary and justified. This Home had been under-occupied for a considerable time, partly also due to the fact that a high proportion of applicants always preferred to move into one of the Homes in the North Western districts where many of their relatives and friends lived. The effect of the under-occupancy was a considerable deficit, because the overhead expenses had to be spread over a smaller number of residents. The transfer of the residents to other Homes has already started and will be completed soon.

The speaker stressed that those responsible for the Home were well aware of the human problems arising for elderly people when they

had to change their abode. Judging from past experience it was, however, to be expected that they would soon overcome initial difficulties and settle down well in their new environment. It was also a source of deep regret that the House Committee of *Otto Hirsch House* would cease to function. All of its members had been deeply attached to the Home and done wonderful teamwork under their successive chairmen, Dr. Walter Dux, Mr. H. C. Mayer and Dr. Laura Stein. Special thanks were due to all House Committee members.

Dealing with the finances of the Homes, the speaker reported that during the nine months July 1974 to April 1975 the total deficits of the four ordinary Homes amounted to £15,000, of which *Otto Hirsch House* had the proportionally highest share, and for *Osmond House* to £22,500. The costs for the total year, ending June 1975, which were not yet worked out at the time of the meeting, would, however, be considerably higher, especially in view of the new wage scales for nurses and auxiliaries which came into force on April 1. Under this aspect, the closure of *Otto Hirsch House* was a step in the right direction. The decrease of the current deficits and, above all, the proceeds from the sale of the Home would extend the time for which the reserves of the funds would remain available. This will be of special benefit for the facilities of *Osmond House* which renders help to those in our midst who need it most and whose maintenance, due to the amount of staff required, costs substantially more than the residents can afford. To provide privacy to more residents the number of single rooms at *Osmond House* will be increased by the partitioning of three of the five four-bedded wards into two single rooms each.

The speaker then briefly summarised the work of the Social Services Department, the most effective and essential Meals-on-Wheels Service and the wonderful community work of the AJR Club at Hannah Karminski House.

"Thank You Britain" Fund

A recent incident which, though strictly speaking is outside the orbit of the AJR, has some bearing on our community concerns the 'Thank-You Britain' Fund. This Fund, raised mainly among members of the AJR, had been put at the disposal of the British Academy to be used for research work on subjects relating to the well-being of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom. Accordingly, a number of important and useful studies have been published with the help of fellowships granted by a Selection Committee of the British Academy, and the annual lectures by well-known speakers have always been attended by many of our friends.

A few years ago a grant was awarded to a scholar, Robert Skidelsky, for research work on Mosley and British fascism. The result of these studies forms the middle section of the recently published Mosley biography by Mr. Skidelsky. When the matter came to the notice of the AJR Executive, all Executive members

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PROGRESS AND NEW PROBLEMS

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were outraged about the use of money raised by the victims of Nazi persecution for a publication on this subject, and the following letter, drafted by the Vice-Chairman of the AJR, Mr. C. T. Marx, was written over the signature of the AJR General Secretary to the Secretary of the British Academy.

"The recent publication of Mr. R. Skidelsky's biography of Sir Oswald Mosley was raised at the May meeting of the Executive Committee of this Association. I have been asked to express to you formally the Committee's deep concern at the allocation of funds to this project from our thanks offering.

Your members will undoubtedly recall that the Thank-Offering to Britain Fund derives from donations mainly from Jewish refugees who came to the United Kingdom as victims of Nazi persecution and who created this Fund as a token of their appreciation to the British people.

Members of our Executive Committee remain dismayed that so highly respected an institution as your Academy should have seen fit to provide from a Fund of this nature financial support for the writing of the biography of a personality whose philosophy and active teaching caused our members profound grief over many years. They wish to express the earnest hope that the British Academy, and particularly the members of the committee concerned, will display a greater degree of consideration and thoughtfulness when selecting future fellowships associated with the Thank-Offering to Britain Fund."

In his reply the Secretary of the British Academy states that the members of his Committee fully understand the feelings of the members of the AJR in this matter. To explain the circumstances in which the research fellowship for a study of Mosley and British fascism was awarded, he points out that Dr. Skidelsky's application was very strongly supported by two eminent Oxford professors. "The work which Dr. Skidelsky had already published, including a book on the second Labour Government ("Politicians in the Slump", 1967) . . . gave the Committee every reason to believe that he would produce an objective and impartial historical account . . . Once a grant to a scholar is made, the Academy would regard it as wholly improper to seek to influence the scholar's judgement. This naturally involves certain risks, which is the price of academic freedom." In conclusion, the Secretary writes: "I shall, of course, make members of our committee aware of your executive committee's criticisms and its hopes for the future which, in view of the deep sympathy with your very natural feeling shown by individual members, will I am sure be taken to heart". (A review of R. Skidelsky's book, especially as far as it

concerns the Jewish aspects, will be published in one of our next issues.—The Ed.)

At the end of his report, the speaker briefly dealt with the work of the Council of Jews from Germany, of which the AJR is the British constituent.

Taxation of Pensions

Dr. F. E. Falk, supplementing the report by Dr. Rosenstock on taxation, stated that after the passing of the Finance Act 1974 a further Memorandum had been submitted to the authorities giving full details of the German and Austrian laws concerning pensions payable to Nazi victims. This had assisted the Inland Revenue in applying the new clause, and guide lines based on it had been issued to Inspectors of Taxes. He also mentioned efforts made to have German and Austrian Social Insurance Invalidity Pensions completely exempted from UK tax. Our representatives, supported by MPs Geoffrey Finsberg and Greville Janner, QC, recently had a meeting with the Treasury Chief Secretary, Mr. Joel Barnett, MP, in this matter at which representations concerning certain Austrian private pensions were also made. (On going to press, we are advised that the foreign Invalidity Pensions, which correspond to British National Insurance Invalidity Benefits, will be exempt from U.K. tax from the tax year 1974/5 onwards. More information will be published in our next issue.—The Ed.)

Dr. Falk further mentioned an Inland Revenue ruling under which double tax relief was allowable for the whole of the German tax deducted from public service pensions (within the ordinary limits for double tax relief), notwithstanding that only one-half of these pensions would be liable to UK tax.

Financial Report

In his capacity as hon. treasurer Dr F. E. Falk then gave the Financial Report for the year 1974. He stated that, thanks to the helpfulness and understanding of the members, the income had gone up from £19,500 in 1973 to £22,000 in 1974. On the other hand, the expenditure rose from £27,400 to about £32,000. The major part of the deficit was covered by an allocation out of the funds of the Jewish Trust Corporation, administered by the CBF. The net expenses for AJR Information (i.e., after deduction of income from advertisements) amounted to £5,000. However, this only represented the actual payments for printing and despatch, and to these the apportioned overhead expenses had to be added, which amounted to £3,500. The speaker appealed to members who run business enterprises of one kind or another to help in decreasing the costs by advertising in our monthly. He also referred

to the benefits arising from payments under deeds of covenant to the AJR Charitable Trust; however, in view of the administrative work involved covenants should, in the first place, only be made out by those members whose annual payments exceed £10. It would also be most gratifying if members bequeathed legacies for the AJR Charitable Trust in their wills. The speaker stressed that the funds from which so far the deficits could be covered were gradually decreasing. To secure the continuity of the work of the AJR all members should, therefore, render their financial support to the AJR to the best of their ability.

During the discussion Dr. Eric Dux pleaded for a reconsideration of the decision to close Otto Hirsch House. The chairman replied that the decision had been taken after very careful consideration. Efforts to preserve the Home as a Jewish Home, not specifically run for Jewish former refugees, had also failed, because none of the Jewish welfare organisations had felt in a position of acquiring the house. Mr. L. Spiro, member of the AJR Executive, pointed out that after initial misgivings he too had reluctantly come to the conclusion that it was not possible to retain the Home. The position was similar to that now often experienced in other spheres, where the alternative was either to close one work or to risk bankruptcy of five.

Mr. Egon Larsen reported about a resolution recently passed in London by the PEN Centre of German language authors abroad concerning the possibility of avoiding the envisaged transfer of the Wiener Library to Tel Aviv in some years' time by using proceeds from the "Thank-You Britain" Fund for its maintenance. Mr. Behr, who is also chairman of the Wiener Library, stated that he did not consider it feasible to follow up this suggestion and that, apart from this, the sums required would anyhow considerably exceed the payments which might become available in this way.

In the ensuing elections, the members of the Executive and Board, listed in our June issue, were re-elected and the following new Board members were co-opted: Mr. A. E. Lieberman (Chairman of the House Committee of Heinrich Stahl House), Dr. L. Nelken (Chairman of the K.C. in Great Britain and Vice-Chairman of the Theodor Herzl Society), and Mr. F. Worms (Hon. District President of B'nai B'rith).

In the second part of the meeting, Miss Lucie Schachne gave a most interesting talk under the heading "Striking New Roots", the contents of which are reported on page 12 of this issue. Mr. C. T. Marx, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, moved a vote of thanks to the speaker.

AGAIN AN EXTREME RIGHT-WING TREND?

German Land Minister's Warning

In his annual report about questions of internal security, the Minister of the Interior of the Land Rhineland-Palatinate, Heinz Schwarz (CDU), referred to increasing activities by Right-wing groups. He especially mentioned the "Junge Nationaldemokraten", who disagreed with the national conservative ideology of the NPD and sympathised with social revolutionary tendencies. "A certain, though small number of people join hands with militant neo-Nazi groups, which do not shrink from threats of assassination, arson and similar crimes." Their aim, the report states, is the destruction of democracy. Nazi crimes are played down, antisemitic hatred is propagated, and the taking of hostages approved. "Though," the Minister stated, "there is no acute danger, further developments in extreme Right- and Left-wing groups will have to be watched with particular carefulness".

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HOME NEWS

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The Queen's birthday honours list of life peers includes Sir Leslie Lever, former MP for Manchester, Ardwick, and brother of Mr. Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; and Mr. Sydney Jacobson, until recently editorial director and deputy chairman of the International Publishing Corporation. Dr Peter Bernard Hirsch, FRS, Isaac Wolfson Professor of Metallurgy, Oxford University, and Mr. Anthony Baruh Lousada, former chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Tate Gallery, are among the new knights.

The CB has been awarded to John Moss Woolf, deputy chairman, Board of Customs and Excise; and the CBE to Mrs. Marie Jahoda Abu, emeritus professor of social psychology at Sussex University, for services to psychology.

The list also includes the following awards: OBE to Lt-Col. Harold Isaac Charkham, Royal Corps of Transport (retired); Professor Ernst Joseph Cohn (as already reported in our previous issue); Miss Miriam Karlin (Samuels) the actress; Mr. F. P. Korn, a former refugee and member of the AJR, for services to export; Mr. Jacques Rotenberg, a diamond merchant, who advises the Board of Customs and Excise on diamonds and precious stones; Mr. Alfred Woolf, president of the United Synagogue; and to Mr. David Alexander Lyons for services to the Southwark community.

MBE to Mr. John Montagu Carter, formerly managing director of a Nottingham firm of quilting and sewing machinery makers, for services to export; Mr. Colin Craster, director of Craster's Military Tailors, Catterick Garrison, Yorkshire; Mrs. Hannah Glucksmann, health visitor, Croydon Area Health Authority, who was born in Berlin and came to this country as a refugee from Nazism; and Mrs. Rika Rixi Markus, the former bridge correspondent of the "Jewish Chronicle".

ARAB TRADE BOYCOTT PROTESTS

Parliament

In the House of Commons further protests at the Arab trade boycott were made in the form of questions to Mr. Eric Deakins, Under-Secretary for Trade. Mr. Leslie Huckfield called for a statement on Government policy, protesting that the boycott was continuing and that pressure was mounting all the time. Mr. Deakins replied that it had always been made clear that the Government were opposed to and deplored the Arab trade boycott.

Mr. Greville Janner, QC, asked for an assurance that neither British Leyland nor any other concern in which the public held a substantial part would bow to "this deplorable boycott". He was told by Mr. Deakins that the commercial policy of firms, whether or not there was a public element, was a matter primarily for the managements concerned. Previously having answered questions with regard to British Leyland, he believed he had been able to satisfy the House that British Leyland's policies were correct.

Commerce

The merchant bankers, Kleinwort Benson, adhering to Arab demands earlier this year, excluded prominent Jewish-owned banks from a Eurobond transaction it was managing. The bank's then chairman, Mr. Gerald Thompson, made it clear at the time that his company would respect the "restrictions" and "limitations" imposed by its Arab clients. Tesco, the chain-store giant, has now dropped Kleinwort as registrar and financial adviser. Sir John Cohen, 77-year-old founder and life president of Tesco, explained that "he did not want to do business with such a bank".

Refusing to comment on Tesco's withdrawal, a spokesman for Kleinwort said that the "firm as a whole is totally opposed to any form of discrimination wherever it comes from" and that, as far as he knew, none of the firm's other clients had severed links.

RACE RELATIONS ACT

Following an invitation issued by the Home Office to interested organisations to send advice and recommendations on improving race relations legislation and machinery prior to the publication in the autumn of a Government White Paper on race relations policy, the Board of Deputies has sent a memorandum to Mr. Roy Jenkins and the House of Commons select committee on race relations, urging the strengthening of the Race Relations Act.

The memorandum calls for the deletion of the intent provision in regard to incitement to racial hatred contained in Section 6 of the Act. The board points out that this provision has been a major stumbling block in initiating prosecutions, allowing some of the most vicious types of racist provocations to go unpunished.

Accompanied by a selection of antisemitic literature, the memorandum draws attention to "the difficult economic situation facing this country and the experience gleaned from recent history that racial hatred can be inflamed in times of economic stress and political uncertainty".

CHIEF RABBI CONDEMNS HOMAGE TO MOYNE KILLERS

Anglo-Jewish communal leaders, led by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, and including a number of prominent Zionists and benefactors of Israeli causes have expressed their anguish over the public honours paid in Israel to the killers of Lord Moyne. In a personal letter to the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Itzhak Rabin, the Chief Rabbi said that Jewish law had always demanded that every respect be accorded to the dead, especially to judicially executed criminals. "There is, however, a patent difference between respect for executed persons and that which might be understood as glorifying the act for which they were condemned".

Similar sentiments were expressed by a number of other Jewish leaders, among them members of the Sieff, Sacher and Rothschild families as well as Dr. S. Levenberg, the representative of the Jewish Agency in London and a vice-president of the Board of Deputies.

RICHARD CROSSMAN MEMORIAL FOREST

At a ceremony, held in the House of Commons, a certificate denoting the planting of Yishi of 13,000 trees in the Richard Crossman Forest was presented to the widow of the late Cabinet Minister, Mrs. Anne Crossman. In a warm reference to Israel, the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson, spoke of his unforgettable visit to the Weizmann Memorial Museum, which commemorated the considerable British contribution to the upbuilding of Israel, in which the late Richard Crossman had played such an important role. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher said that though she was politically opposed to Crossman: "We were both on the same side when it came to Israel". Lord Byers, the Liberal peer, also spoke, and Lord Boothby was in the chair. The vote of thanks was moved by Lord Janner. The historical significance of the event was highlighted by the presence, among others, of Winston Churchill, MP, grandson of the great Prime Minister.—(JTA)

APPOINTMENTS

Dame Rose Heilbron, a High Court judge in the family division, has been appointed by the Home Secretary to head an inquiry into possible changes in the law on rape.

Mr. Robert Sheldon, MP for Ashton-under-Lyne, has been promoted from Minister of State to Financial Secretary at the Treasury. Mr. Gerald Kaufman has been appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Department of Industry. He held a similar rank in the Department of the Environment since March, 1974.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Antisemitism Warning

At a council meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Association Mr. Victor Lucas, the president, referred to the current economic situation. He warned that we must be ever alert to "the need for protecting the Jewish community, even in this country, from the type of antisemitic attacks which history has taught us always become part of the scene when inflation and unemployment bring general dissatisfaction with life and which taint normal attitudes of fair play and democracy".

Youth Problems and Assimilation

Delegates of provincial representative councils who met in Southport were addressed by Mr. A. Infeld, director of the youth and hechalutz department of the Jewish Agency, who spoke on "Youth Problems and Assimilation". Over 30 per cent of Jewish youth in this country, said Mr. Infeld, had just ceased to be Jews.

Mr. Infeld, who is Orthodox, in a scathing attack on "traditional" Judaism, declared that "Shabbat and kashrut are not the be-all and end-all of being Jewish". Without an inner sense of commitment this was empty and mechanical. True Jews were those who could criticise their communal institutions, but there was an inability in young Jews today to express themselves out aloud. They preferred to "drop out" rather than fight for what they believed in.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Victor Mishcon said that the youth of today were appalled by the dropping standards of Jewish adults.

First Woman Rabbi

Twenty-six-year-old Mrs. Jacqueline Tabick (née Acker) is Britain's first woman rabbi and the third in the world (two have been ordained in the United States). She made her debut at a thanksgiving service held recently at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St. John's Wood, London, together with six fellow graduates from the Leo Baeck College.

ZF Schools Support

Supporters of the Zionist Federation day school network in Britain who attended the ZF Educational Trust's annual supper party in London, donated £60,000. The schools were necessary, they were told, to "save as many children as possible from the assimilation that is around the corner, that is threatening our very existence".

Communal Rights for Women

A seminar on "Jewish Feminism"—the first of its kind—was held at Carmel College in Wallingford, Berkshire, organised under the Jewish Women's Group and attended by some 20 women from London and the provinces who have been involved in various aspects of the struggle to assert the rights and individuality of Jewish women.

Addressing the opening session Rabbi Jeremy Rosen, headmaster of the college, condemned the attitude of those who treated women as second-class citizens in Jewish law, but expressed reservations as to whether it was worth fighting men on such issues as synagogue board representation.

Addressing an "Ask the Chief Rabbi" evening at the Stanmore Synagogue, Chief Rabbi Jakobovits indicated that he sees "no reason why there should not be a speedy and favourable conclusion" to the question of greater representation of women on synagogue boards of management. He hoped that the previous restrictions which had hitherto prevented women from taking part in the decision-making process in communal affairs would be removed.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

New York's Financial Crisis

The economy measures of the City of New York also affect many Jews, who are employed in almost all sections of municipal services. The number of Jewish policemen alone is estimated at about 3,000. Most of them are organised in a special society, "Shomrim", founded 50 years ago. A short while ago, the society established an employment agency for members whose dismissal is imminent and whose number is estimated at about 500.

President Scheel Visits New York LBI

In spite of his crowded time-table during his State visit to the United States, German Federal President, Walter Scheel, made a point of being the guest of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, which is the most comprehensive collection centre of the German-Jewish heritage. The President was welcomed by Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald, president of the LBI, and Professor Ernest Hamburger. In his reply, President Scheel paid tribute to the "great and humane" task of the LBI. His visit, he said, was not just a matter of courtesy. "I want to express by it, how much we in the German Federal Republic are aware of the long, uniquely shining, but also uniquely dark history of German Jewry. . . . Every German with feelings of loyalty to his spiritual past must consider this building as part of his own history." The President was presented with leather-bound copies of two publications of the LBI, the work by Ernest Hamburger on the Jews in German public life and the biography of Secretary of State, Hans Schaeffer. He in turn handed over to the Institute a specially encased precious first edition of Heine's Collected Works.

'Joint' Help

The American Joint Distribution Committee in its annual report states that during the past year it helped 400,000 needy Jews in 25 countries at a cost of \$30½ million (about £12½ million). The major areas of aid continued to be Israel, North Africa, Iran and Europe.

Old Age Home Extended

According to a report, published in the "Aufbau", the two new "Health Related Facility" floors of the "Margaret Tietz Center for Nursing Care" (until now called "Kew Gardens Nursing Home" in Queens, NY) are nearing completion. They will provide accommodation for 80 persons (mainly in single rooms), who, without requiring the services of a nursing home, are no longer able to look after themselves. The Home has been declared as qualifying for the "Medicaid" programme. It provides the facilities rendered until its closure a few years ago at Newark House under the guidance of the late Margaret Tietz.

Soviet Immigrants

During April and May of this year, some 1,800 Jews from the Soviet Union arrived in the United States, the largest number in any two-month period since the immigration began in 1968. According to United Hias Service, which helps Jewish immigrants, the total so far has been 9,000.

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

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

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

THE ARGENTINE

Suspected Nazi

In Buenos Aires a businessman called Pedro Ricardo Olmos was arrested on suspicion of being Walter Kutschmann, a former Nazi SS lieutenant responsible for the execution of more than 1,500 Jews in Poland during the Second World War. After questioning, he was released. It is learned that he afterwards disappeared and can no longer be traced.

The Argentine magazine, Vision, has published an old and a recent photograph of Kutschmann, claiming that they prove that "the businessman Pedro Ricardo Olmos and the former SS Lieutenant Walter Kutschmann are the same person". Olmos, a sales manager for the Argentine subsidiary of the Osram electrical company, entered Argentina in 1947.

The information leading to the arrest of Olmos was given to the Argentine police by Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, who heads the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna. It is claimed that Kutschmann, who was serving with the SS in France at the end of the war in 1945, deserted to Spain and went to Argentina from there.

Rising Antisemitism

The Argentinian Jewish community of some 475,000 is on guard in these times of political and economic difficulties, when antisemitic elements in Argentina are only too eager to denigrate Jews. Three groups, two on the extreme Left and one on the extreme Right, appear to be mainly involved in the campaign which claimed more than 200 victims last year and about 40 in the early part of 1975.

Members of the Left groups will murder anyone they believe to be against them and are not fighting Jews or other groups in particular. To obtain money, they will kidnap or murder wealthy people irrespective of their religion or origin. They have also killed Jewish and other doctors reluctant to treat wounded people specified by the terrorists. The third group on the extreme Right, the so-called Anti-Communist Alliance, is rabidly antisemitic and is actively supported by Arabs and fascist and Nazi groups, both at home and abroad.

Daia, the representative council of Argentine Jews, in denouncing the antisemitic campaign has pointed out that certain overseas oil interests, with the co-operation of local groups, are only too ready to denigrate the Argentine Jewish community and its image overseas. Such a campaign, Daia feels, damages Argentina's national interests.

ITALIAN COMMUNIST GAINS

Communal leaders of Italy's 35,000 Jews have abstained comments on the Communist gains in the recent regional, provincial and municipal elections. The community's political inclinations range from the Right to the extra-Parliamentary Left and, like other middle-class Italians, many are believed to have voted for the Right-of-centre Liberals or the Left-of-centre Social Democrats, Socialists or Republicans. Some among the young voted Communist, mainly as a means of electing more efficient, less corrupt administrations.

It is generally acknowledged that the Italian Communist Party has a record of adopting an independent attitude towards Moscow. It took a firm stand against the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, has repeatedly affirmed its support for the idea of a pluralistic society and for religious freedom, and has reportedly intervened discreetly on behalf of Soviet Jews. On the Arabi-Israeli conflict, however, the Italian party follows the Soviet line, advocating the creation of a Palestinian State and often sharply critical of Israeli policies. If there were to be a new Middle East war, it is believed that the Italian Communist Party would lead the opposition to the use of Italian bases for the sending of American assistance to Israel.

GISCARD AT AUSCHWITZ

The French President, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, whilst on his recent official visit to Poland, visited the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp. He was shown round the Auschwitz museum and visited the martyrs' monument at the site.

BELGIAN NAZI REMEMBERED

In memory of Dr. August Borms, a Nazi collaborator who was found guilty of war crimes after the Second World War and executed, Flemish nationalists organised a meeting in the Merksem suburbs of Antwerp. A mass was held in Merksem church, where a priest recalled Borms' "idealism for the rebirth of Flanders".

NEWS FROM GERMANY

KNESSET MEMBERS VISIT DACHAU

On the occasion of a visit to the German Federal Republic, an Israeli parliamentary delegation also travelled to the site of the former Dachau concentration camp. Kaddish was recited by the Speaker of the Knesset, Israel Yeshayahu. The delegation included the Knesset Member Avraham Melamed, one of the 30,000 inmates who were still alive when the Allies liberated Dachau. Melamed wrote in the guest book: "I have returned to Dachau after 30 years as a Member of the Knesset of the free State of Israel. It was my good fortune that I was able to do so. My heart grieves for my fellow-inmates of the concentration camp who were unable to do so."—(JTA).

RILKE EXHIBITION IN MARBACH

To mark the centenary of the birth of Rainer Maria Rilke, an exhibition is held in the Schiller-Nationalmuseum, Marbach (Neckar). The opening address was delivered by Dr Kaete Hamburger, Professor of Germanistics in Stuttgart. Before 1933, Dr. Hamburger was assistant to Professor Dr. P. Hofmann in Berlin. From 1934 to 1956, she lived in Goeteborg (Sweden).

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Marianne Awerbach, for many years lecturer of Judaistic and Medieval Jewish History at the Free University Berlin, was appointed a full professor. Prague-born Vilem Fried, until now lecturer in London and Portsmouth, was appointed professor of English at the Gesamthochschule Duisburg.

CENTENARY OF A. WERTHEIM

This summer, 100 years have passed since Abraham Wertheim opened a linen shop in Stralsund, which was the nucleus of the chain of department stores of A. Wertheim. The history of the enterprise was publicly mentioned in Berlin on this anniversary. The first shop in Stralsund was followed by establishments in Rostock and Breslau. In Berlin, the firm started in the Rosenthaler Strasse (1885), to be followed by the department stores in the Oranienstrasse (1894) and Koenigstrasse. The climax was the erection of the modern building designed by Alfred Messel in the Leipziger Strasse (1904). It was destroyed during the Second World War. In 1952, the first post-war department store was opened in Berlin-Steglitz, and about four years ago the new large house at the Kurfuerstendamm was completed. Of Abraham Wertheim's four sons, Georg (1857-1939) played the most decisive part in the development of the firm. His name is commemorated in the "Wertheim-Weg" in Berlin-Spandau.—(EGL.)

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Herbert Freedman

JERUSALEM—AN ARAB VIEW

Never in history have the holy places in Jerusalem been as open and as secure as during Israel's rule. Yigal Allon, Israel's Foreign Minister said the other day. Yet when peace comes, he added, a religious solution will have to be found for the Moslem holy places. Jordan held East Jerusalem—though by token of aggression and not through international law on historic rights—but since Israel took East Jerusalem from Jordan, it is in the view of the Minister only natural that Israel will have to seek a solution to the problem of the Moslem holy places through Jordan.

How does an East Jerusalemite see the problem? A well-known Arab writer, Muhammad Abu Shilbaya, has mixed feelings both with regard to the previous Arab rule and to the present Israel administration. In his view, the Jordanians did everything to turn Jerusalem into a mere village and to divert all the means for making Amman a metropolitan capital. They transferred everything to Amman—the newspapers, the larger enterprises, the institutions of learning—even the Friday prayers were broadcast from the Great Hussein Mosque in Amman instead of from the venerated Mosque of Al Aqsa in Jerusalem. Moreover, Jordanian rule left Jerusalem without any political or trade union organisation, without social services, kindergartens and organised tourism. It also prevented the building of housing units in the city's suburbs.

Shilbaya calls the Jordanian policy in Jerusalem an attempt at creating a vacuum, accentuated by terror and suppression, whereby Bedouin soldiers were let loose against the city's inhabitants. As compared with this sweeping damnation, Israel's administration fares somehow better but, nevertheless, it comes under heavy criticism. Though the vacuum was filled this was done so far as to safeguard Israel's interests rather than those of the Arab inhabitants, the writer alleges. The first step in that direction was the annexation of East Jerusalem, adopted by the Knesset in the summer of 1967. It was from this that subsequent measures sprung such as the appropriation of thousands of dunams of Arab-owned lands. Despite the assertion that those lands would be used for public services—hospitals, schools, parks—they were used to build housing units for Israelis and Jewish immigrants. What worries Shilbaya most, is the question of identity. The Arab inhabitant of Jerusalem carries an Israeli identity card which gives him the right to vote in municipal elections but not in parliamentary ones; at the same time, he carries a Jordanian passport. He is treated like an Israeli as far as taxation and schooling goes, and he is treated as a Jordanian if he breaks security laws: instead of being brought to trial, he is deported to Jordan.

The author maintains that being put on the same footing as the Israeli tax payer, does grave injustice to the Arab citizen who has no one to offer him assistance in educating his children or building him apartments on the instalment plan provided for Israelis, whose State helps him in everything. In the same way as the application of Israeli tax laws was a political decision, the imposition of Israeli curricula on Arab schools in the city is a political measure, the Arab writer continues. No heed is being paid to the inhabitants' special personality and their

historical and cultural links with the Arab people. But even on technical grounds, so he complains, the new curricula are indefensible, because the Israel matriculation certificate does not qualify the graduate for enrolment in Arab universities—for this, the Arab pupil needs an Arab secondary school certificate. As most pupils do not know enough Hebrew, they cannot enrol in Israeli universities either, and are thus deprived of pursuing studies in any institutions of higher learning.

As a compromise, Shilbaya suggests that the Israelis should set up a separate municipality for Arab Jerusalem to work in close cooperation and coordination with that of Jewish Jerusalem. He concedes that despite all the foregoing, Israeli rule did nothing comparable to the Jordanian rule of terror and suppression. However, if any comparison were to be made, it ought not to be one between Israeli and Jordanian administration but rather between the Jerusalem Arabs' actual situation, past and present, and their aspirations for some measure of greater independence.

Egon Larsen

JEW IN THE SHADOW OF THE VATICAN

"Surprising though it may appear, this is the first history of the Jews in Italy to be written in any language," wrote Cecil Roth, the eminent Jewish historian, in the preface of his books on that subject, published in 1946. Since then, a good deal more has appeared, especially in the wake of Rolf Hochhuth's controversial play *The Representative*, but mainly in German and Italian. Now we have a new work of nearly 500 pages and with many excellent illustrations, *The Pope's Jews*, whose credentials look at first sight, slightly odd: printed in the U.S.A. under the copyright of "Circle Film Enterprises Inc." and published in London by Alcove Press, which is an offshoot of the American-backed monthly *Encounter*, it has been written by a Dutch-born journalist and photographer, Sam Waagenaar, who lives in Rome; he entered Paris on Liberation Day, 1944, as a war correspondent, reported from Berlin in 1945-46, and published picture volumes about the women of Rome, and the women of Israel, as well as a biography of Mata Hari. Yet there is hardly anything superficially journalistic about his new book; it is the work of a serious student of history who is not afraid of controversy (there has already been much of it after the publication of the Italian edition). It is painstakingly researched and worth every penny of the £4.95 it costs.

The first half of Waagenaar's book covers most of the ground of Cecil Roth's work, with only occasional lapses into feuilletonistic style—such as describing Judas Maccabaeus as the "Moshe Dayan of those days who thoroughly trounced the enemy". But the extensive latter part of *The Pope's Jews* deals with the last half-century and therefore with events and developments which still concern us very much: with Jewish Fascists and anti-Fascists, Mussolini's racial laws, the German occupation, and very thoroughly with the behaviour of Pope Pius XII, né Pacelli, all in the light of recent revelations and of documents which the author has dug up and studied.

There is, for instance, the story of how Herbert Kappler, head of the SS in Rome, offered in September, 1943, a strange deal to the leaders of the Jewish community in Rome: the lives of 200 Jews for fifty kilograms of gold, to be handed over to him within 36 hours. Otherwise these Jews would be deported to German-occupied Eastern Europe, or "rendered innocuous in a different manner". The Jewish leaders managed to collect, in desperate hurry, gold coins and wedding rings, spoons and bracelets from the community, but as word spread through Rome of the Jews' dilemma, a great number of Catholics also came to the Temple on the Tiber where the ransom was being collected, offering what they could. More than fifty kilograms were handed over to Kappler, who sent it dutifully to Berlin. The Jews of Rome felt safe—until that Sabbath in October when German trucks sealed off the Jewish quarter, and troops rounded up 1,127 Jews. They were deported, and few were ever again seen alive.

No help to Jewish victims

Could the Italian Jews have been saved by some intervention on the part of the Vatican? This is a burning question that has often been asked, even before Hochhuth pointed his accusing finger at Pope Pius XII. Waagenaar, relying mainly on Catholic sources, publishes material which not only undermines the various counter-claims and apologies that have emanated from Vatican sources during the last decade or so; he seeks to prove that the Pope was, without doubt, fully aware of what was happening to the Jews in Germany and Italy, and did practically nothing to help them. Considering his good relations with Hitler, he might at least have tried. It is all the more praiseworthy that some individual lowly clerics acted in the true Christian spirit, helping the Jews in every way they could think of, particularly a self-sacrificing Capuchin friar, Father Benedetto. Waagenaar devotes a whole chapter to him.

Then there is the case of \$125,000 which, only a week before the outbreak of the war, Bishop Bernard Sheil of Chicago offered as a gift from the Chicago section of the United Jewish Appeal to the Vatican, "for distribution through Christian agencies to help victims of persecution without regard to race or religion". A cardinal informed Bishop Sheil that the Pope was pleased with the "conspicuous charitable offering", but \$50,000 of the money should be given to American Catholic charities. So the Bishop transferred the remaining \$75,000 to Rome, where \$30,000 were put at the disposal of the St. Raphael organisation (the *Raphaelsverein*, founded in Germany in 1871)—not to assist the Jews, but to "facilitate the emigration of German Catholic refugees to Brazil". There seems to be no evidence that any of the money was ever used for saving Jewish lives.

Still, Waagenaar gives due credit to those Popes who "behaved like Christians in the full sense of the word", such as Pacelli's predecessor Pius XI and John XXIII. "Antisemitism is a repugnant movement," said Pius in 1938, "a movement in which we Christians can have no share. Through Christ and in Christ we descend spiritually from Abraham". And John, when he was still Papal Nuncio Roncalli in Turkey during the war, replied to the German Ambassador von Papen who said that the Poles now better turn to the Germans instead of placing their hopes in their eastern neighbours: "Before anything else it would be necessary to make the world forget the millions of Jews sent to Poland and exterminated there."

Erich Gottgreu

A JEWISH FORERUNNER OF SOLZHENITSYN

It is not generally known that one of Solzhenitsyn's most influential forerunners in exposing the horror of the Soviet labour camps was a Russian-born Jew, the late Dr. Julij Margolin, who lived in Israel for many years. His excellently written account of his ordeal as Stalin's prisoner was not only one of the first, but also one of the most detailed and factual books on the subject. The first edition of the book, written by him in Russian, appeared in 1949 in a French translation under the title "La Condition Inhumaine". The original Russian version, named "The Journey into the Country of the Concentration Camps", was printed in 1952 in New York and it seems that quite a number of copies found their underground way into the USSR. A German edition, "Ueberleben ist Alles", was published in 1965 in Munich.

As early as 1950, Dr. Margolin was given the opportunity to testify on the conditions in Stalin's slave camps at the Paris trial of the French socialist writer and former anti-Nazi resistance fighter David Rousset. Based on his own documentation, Rousset, writing in the "Figaro Littéraire", had demanded the establishment of an international inquiry commission to investigate the "Labour Camps" in the Soviet Union and other totalitarian countries. The Communist periodical "Les Lettres Françaises" had denied that such camps still existed in the USSR and denounced Rousset's documents as "forgeries". Now, Dr. Margolin, called as a witness, was able to confirm that Rousset had said nothing but the truth.

Julij Margolin was born in 1900 in Pinsk, where Chaim Weizmann had gone to school and Golda Meir spent part of her early childhood. After the First World War he studied philosophy at Berlin University, where he got his doctorate. On the Nazis' rise to power in 1933, he first returned to his home town (which was Polish between the two World Wars) and later, in 1936, settled in Tel Aviv as a writer. It was in summer 1939 that he once more went back to Poland to deal with some family affairs and visit his old mother in Pinsk. Surprised there by the outbreak of the Second World War, he was arrested by the Russians, whose troops had entered Eastern Poland, and refused permission to return to his family in Palestine. Instead, as the bearer of a Polish passport which the Russians did not recognise, he was sentenced to 5 years in a labour camp.

It is at this point that Margolin's description of his journey through hell starts. Many of the details he revealed were previously unknown but have since been confirmed by thousands of other survivors. He was not able to state the exact number of political and other prisoners who were worked to death in Stalin's camps during the period of his imprisonment from 1940 to 1945 and the subsequent two years of banishment in Siberia, but he estimated that, during this period, there were always some ten to fifteen million inmates in all the Soviet camps put together. There was some relaxation after Stalin's death in 1953 but the system was never totally abolished. According to Solzhenitsyn's estimate, there are at present still a million prisoners in the labour camps, but there seems to be an increase in the number of those exiled to Siberia or interned in lunatic asylums.

In line with an earlier theory by Witfogel, Margolin compares the enforced labour, allegedly designed to contribute to the in-

dustrial and general development of the USSR, to the slave system, under which the Chinese Wall or the Pyramids were built. Yet the difference is, in his view, that now the exploitation is not conducted by old-style tyrants greedy for power but by a cruel state bureaucracy which pretends to act in the name of an ideal. Whilst Lenin may have started the system on the assumption that it would be of limited duration, Stalin elevated it into a permanent feature of Soviet society, and the present leadership also seems to believe in its continued usefulness.

Margolin did not dare to make notes during his stay in the camps, yet relying on his fantastic memory, he wrote in those years, under the most difficult conditions and with many precautions, three fully-fledged philosophical treatises "The Theory of the Lie", "The Doctrine of Hate" and "About Freedom"—which were certainly not flattering to the Stalin system. But just when he was to be released from the last camp where he had been interned for his "passport crime", a ruthless Soviet soldier took away his manuscripts and destroyed them before his own eyes.

After his return to Tel-Aviv Margolin wrote his account of life and death in the camps with feverish energy—the urge to free himself from this nightmare was overwhelming.

In his summing-up which dealt not only with the camps but also with the general persecution complex of the Soviet rulers, he stated: "It had become clear to me that people are not able to surmount natural, historical, social and personal borders, which separate them from each other, but this in itself is not a catastrophe... One has to learn to accept individuals as well as social classes and nations as they are with their respective weaknesses... The real evil, the evil which merits our deadly hate, is the negation of man for the sake of a fetish, a number, a plan or some Cheops pyramid, whatever name it may be given by the builder... The crime which is really unforgivable is the refusal of one man to regard the other as his neighbour, the concept of changing the other man into a soul-less tool for murder and slavery."

After his return to Israel, Margolin wrote a number of essays and later turned to journalism, contributing in the first place to Russian-language papers in Tel-Aviv, Paris and New York.

He finally completed a pet project of his: a history of the Jewish people, entitled "An Epic of the Millennia". There was a very great demand for such a work — which had been unavailable in Russian for decades—among Russian-reading Jews, wherever they lived. Equipped with a great amount of knowledge and of important source material now accessible in Israel, he painted a broad canvas of Jewish life, wandering, suffering, achievements and hopes throughout the ages. Dealing with the realisation of the Zionist conception, he stressed the great contribution of the early aliyot from former Czarist Russia but emphasised that the Ingathering of the Exiles will not be complete without the arrival in Israel of the great number of Jews from the USSR who want to join their brethren there.

The book, provided with a foreword by Prof. Michael Zand, was published posthumously. Margolin died in Tel Aviv early in 1971, shortly after he had completed

the manuscript. His last journalistic work was an article for the Russian emigrant paper "Nowoje Russkoje Dlowo" in New York, of which he was the Israel correspondent. It describes a visit to some Russian-Jewish immigrants who had gone on hunger strike in front of the Western Wall as a protest against the Leningrad trials.

NEW ASPECTS OF MOSES MENDELSSOHN'S ROLE

Lecture by Prof. Alexander Altmann

Under the auspices of the Institute of Jewish Studies, Professor Alexander Altmann gave a lecture on "Moses Mendelssohn and the Beginning of Modern Jewish History". The function, which took place at University College on July 3, was, apart from the stimulating and thought-provoking contents of the address, also a personal reunion between the speaker and many members of the audience, who had known Dr. Altmann from the times when he was rabbi of the Berlin Jewish community and, after his emigration, Communal Rabbi of Manchester. He has now, for many years, been Professor at Brandeis University.

Mr. Victor Mishcon, who was in the Chair, welcomed Dr. Altmann, to whose initiative during his stay in Britain the creation of the Institute of Jewish Studies is due.

In his lecture, many aspects pertinent to Mendelssohn's role and, beyond this, to the general interpretation of Jewish history, came to the fore. Mendelssohn, Professor Altmann said, was the first Jewish educationalist who was not a rabbi; in this respect he was a precursor of personalities like Hermann Cohen, Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig. Dr. Altmann also dealt with the new attitude to the relationship between State and Church, as propounded in the period of Enlightenment, and its impact on the emancipation of the Jews. One effect arising out of these changes was a general decline in importance of the Rabbinical jurisdiction and of the authority of rabbis to exclude members of the community by imposing the "Cherem" (ban) upon them. Before this change, Jews afflicted by the Cherem had no choice but to embrace another faith. Now the relaxation of the Jewish juridical autonomy reduced the losses to the community.

At the end of his lecture, which carried a great amount of further important assessments which cannot be quoted in this brief report, Dr. Altmann dealt with the present position of Jewry, under the impact of the Holocaust and the foundation of the State of Israel. The emancipation, as envisaged by Mendelssohn and his contemporaries and followers, had ultimately proved a failure in Germany, he said. The creation of the Jewish State had removed the old concept of the Jewish "Galut". Yet it had not removed the insecurity of the Ghetto. Considering its isolated position, Israel is also a Ghetto, albeit in a different sense of the word. The age in which we now live, the speaker concluded, has been called the Post-Modern Age, and we cannot know what it has in store for mankind.

W.R.

LEVICHES IN BRITAIN

Sacha and Yevgeny Levich were welcomed to the House of Commons during their visit to Britain, by Mr Hugh Dykes, chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry, and Mr Greville Janner, QC, the honorary secretary.

The two young men are the sons of Professor Benjamin Levich of Moscow, the renowned Soviet Jewish scientist who, together with his wife, has been waiting several years for a visa to emigrate to Israel. The sons met a number of people in Britain to thank them for their efforts in pressing the Soviet Government to allow their parents to emigrate.

Hans I. Bach

KAFKA'S PET SISTER

The letters to Franz Kafka's favourite sister Ottila, with some to their parents, form part of his Collected Works.* At first one wonders whether what starts as a collection of kind regards from assorted holiday places, with careful annotation of all the people mentioned, may not be too boring to merit publication. On reading on, however, one discovers that it was a wrong expectation to meet the writer in these letters: it is rather the son of his parents, who had no use for his writing, the Dr. iur. Kafka, official of an insurance company whom his director called "indefatigably hard-working, ambitious, of first-rate aptitude and outstanding devotion to duty". In short, there is the other, the private side to Franz Kafka, which it is important to know if only to judge the squalid conditions from which he strove so hard to free himself and from which his genius soared. Above all, here is the brother of this sister, his youngest, who was quite a person in her own right.

At first working in her father's office, Ottila strove in her way as hard as he to break loose from this background. Strongly backed by Franz, she studied agriculture, passed her exams and then, without a break with the parents, married a Christian, nationalistic Czech jurist, Josef David, "cheerful and healthy, happy in his profession, rightly satisfied with himself—in a way what you had wished for a long time, the estate, the firm ground, the old property, the clear air, freedom". Franz, after his several unsuccessful engagements, "remained single for both of us". Ottila had two little girls. During the Nazi occupation, eight years after Franz's death, she voluntarily separated from her husband and her children in order not to endanger them and was taken to Theresienstadt. There she volunteered to accompany a children's transport to Auschwitz . . . (Kafka's two other sisters also perished in the concentration camp.)

Kafka had a high opinion of his sister, 9½ years his junior: "You hold your fate so autonomously in your hand, in a strong, healthy young hand, as one can only wish for." They were very close to each other: "Just because we are so close, we cannot always distinguish what the other is up to, whether to nudge or to caress". As the father was a poltroon and the mother had opened and answered a letter to Franz, the bathroom was the only place without danger of interference, and he could write tenderly: "More details later one day in the bathroom, in quiet times when your little girl is asleep." Ottila was of great practical ability. Time after time she obtained from the insurance company extensions of his leave because of his tuberculosis. Equally strong was her social sense—the brother called her "little welfare centre". Franz had absolute confidence in her, and she shared and in a way lived the convictions which he himself could only partially realise: vegetarianism, a strong predilection for a healthy outdoor life and manual work. In some respects he sees in her what is really his own: "Above all, it is poverty which attracts you, only that one is not poor when one has money and that one can reach poverty from outside only in very lucky, quite exceptional cases—generally what one then finds is misery instead of poverty."

* Franz Kafka: Briefe an Ottila und die Familie. Herausgegeben von Hartmut Binder und Klaus Wagenbach. S. Fischer 1974. DM 36.

Naturally there are also glimpses of Kafka's inner life, as for instance profound insights into the meaning of his illness: "Secretly I regard it not at all as a tuberculosis but as my general bankruptcy" . . . "in this illness there is no doubt justice, it is a fair blow which by the way I do not feel at all as a blow; it is fair but so coarse, so earthly, so simple." On his plan to go to Palestine: "I saw that if I somehow wanted to live on, I would have to do something quite radical, and I wanted to go to Palestine. I would certainly have not been able to do it, I am fairly unprepared in Hebrew and other respects, but I had to hold out some hope to myself."

There are penetrating analyses even of Kafka's own beliefs, as e.g. in vegetarianism: "After all, it is a fine and reliable feeling which suspects vegetarianism as something of self-isolation, something kindred to delusion—only one forgets in terrible superficiality that vegetarianism is here quite an innocent phenomenon, a secondary feature caused by deeper causes and that therefore one would have to face these deeper but probably inaccessible causes".

Finally one comes across some lovely examples of Kafka's humour. His bantering with Ottila's husband loses its flavour if taken out of context, but an imaginary birthday present to Ottila may be quoted: "I had great plans . . . it was to be a replica of the baths at Schelesen which you liked so much. I would just have cleared my room, have a large basin placed in it and filled with curdled milk, strewn with slices of cucumber. According to the number of your years (for which I would have had to inquire, I cannot remember them, for me you don't become older) I would have placed the cabins around, built from chocolate boards and filled with the best Lippert cream chocolates, each differently. Above on the ceiling, obliquely in the corner, I would have placed a giant sun composed of Olmütz cottage cheeses. It would have been charming, one could hardly have stood the view for a long time. And how many other inspirations I would have had in mounting it!"

In short, it was well worth while printing these letters—and sometimes even more than that.

JEWRY IN THE EAST

Harassment of a Writer

An article in The Observer reports that Anatoly Marchenko, the recently convicted Russian writer, has arrived at his place of exile in Siberia. During the six weeks since he was given a four-year sentence for alleged violations of surveillance restrictions, his wife feared that he might have died since the last word she had from him was that he would maintain indefinitely a hunger strike begun on February 26, the day of his arrest. He eventually collapsed and, realising he would soon die if he continued his eight-week strike, on April 20 he began to eat. A month later, on May 21, he arrived in Chuna and the present state of his health is not known.

Despite the exile sentence, the Marchenkos are pursuing their efforts to emigrate. A worldwide campaign to support them has been organised by humanitarian, trade union, cultural and religious organisations. A transcript of Mr. Marchenko's trial and related *samizdat* (underground) documents has reached the West, revealing not only the long vendetta which the KGB has been conducting against Marchenko, but also the KGB's obsession in forcing would-be emigrants among Soviet dissenters to apply for emigration not to Western countries but exclusively to Israel.

Dr. Andrei Sakharov has recently attacked this practice, explaining it as the authorities' desire to make "anti-Zionist and antisemitic propaganda by lumping Jews and dissenters together and presenting them as disloyal citizens who are concerned only to escape to Israel".

KGB Warning

Professor Alexander Voronel, 43, who was allowed to leave Moscow for Israel in February, addressed a Writers' and Scholars' International press conference in London. He said that a warning by the KGB to contributors to stop writing for the journal, "Jews in the USSR", was an arbitrary attempt to strangle Jewish life in the Soviet Union. The KGB, he said, had searched the homes of four contributors and had threatened them with penalties.

Pointing out that the journal was the only major medium of Jewish expression in the Russian language in the Soviet Union now used by the majority of Soviet Jews, Professor Voronel said the published material did not infringe Soviet law and none of it could be regarded as anti-Soviet.

Emigration Hard Line Maintained

Addressing Soviet deputies and a group of visiting American Senators in the Supreme Soviet in Moscow, Mr. Mikhail Suslov, a member of the Politburo, maintained the prevailing hard line on Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. The Senators had hoped to receive a gesture towards easing emigration.

Pravda, the Soviet Communist Party organ, listed three Jewish Supreme Soviet deputies as taking part in the talks with the American Senators, jointly led by Mr. Hubert Humphrey, the former Democratic Vice-President, and Mr. Hugh Scott, the Republican minority leader, with Senators Abraham Ribicoff and Jacob Javits in the group.

The Senators met a group of Jewish activists in Moscow, who expressed concern at the obstacles placed in the way of applicants seeking to emigrate to Israel and at their subsequent harassment.

Senator Ribicoff has invited the Russian leaders to open a new dialogue with the US Congress about the question of Jewish emigration from Russia.

Leningrad "Hijackers" Freed

Exactly five years from the day of their arrest, three Soviet Jews, sentenced in 1971 to five years' imprisonment in connection with the Leningrad "hijacking" affair in 1970, were freed from labour camps. Thirteen more Jews alleged to have been involved in the affair remain in gaol.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO SIR HANS A. KREBS

TRUE TO HIS ORIGIN

On August 25, Sir Hans A. Krebs will celebrate his 75th birthday. He is one of those former refugees who by their achievements have added lustre to our community. Born in Hildesheim, he was a member of the FWV fraternity during his student days. After the completion of his studies, he was, for several years, assistant at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut for Biology in Berlin. In 1932, he was appointed Privatdozent at the Medical Faculty of the University of Freiburg. When his academic career in Germany was cut short by the events of 1933, he came to this country on a Rockefeller research fellowship. His professional activities and outstanding contributions to science throughout the past decades are described in the tribute paid to him in these columns by his friend and fellow scientist, Sir Ernst Chain, a Nobel Prize Laureate and former German Jew like Sir Hans.

Yet the AJR has special reason for associating itself with this tribute. His endearing qualities include deep feelings of loyalty to his community of origin. One of the occasions when this became evident in public was his memorable address at the special ceremony when, as one of the Patrons of the "Thank-You Britain" Fund, he handed over the proceeds of the Fund to the representatives of the British Academy. His identification with our community is also reflected in his long-standing membership with the AJR, whose work he always follows with keen interest. Only a few months ago, when this paper entered the 30th year of its publication, he went out of his way and, in a particularly cordial personal

letter, expressed his admiration of this editorial "success story".

In gratitude we extend our sincerest birthday wishes to Sir Hans Krebs, hoping that, at least for a moment, he will not let his proverbial modesty get the upper hand and permit us to call him not only a loyal but also an illustrious friend of our cause.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

SCIENTIST AND FRIEND

The calendar tells us that Sir Hans Krebs is celebrating his 75th birthday in August of this year; but then it is a well-known fact that the calendar age frequently bears no relation to the actual state of the personalities concerned, physical or intellectual. Many people are old at forty, while others are young at 80 and over. Sir Hans Krebs certainly belongs with the latter category. He looks so young and is physically so agile that many people meeting him for the first time would wish to see the documentary evidence of his passport before they would accept his official calendar age. Intellectually he is as creative, critical, alert and vigorous as he was when I met him the first time in 1935 at the School of Biochemistry at Cambridge. He continues to produce original and very interesting scientific work of the highest standard, and his publications are written in the same elegant, concise, clear and logically unassailable style which has characterized his papers since their beginnings.

Biochemistry in Germany in the first three decades of this century had reached an unparalleled and unsurpassed standard of excellence, and Jewish scientists have played a predominant part in the development. One of the reasons for this was that careers in the medical sciences were among the few more or less open to Jews after their emancipation. Following the natural millennial inclination of the Jews towards learning and intellectual advancement they flocked into this field in large numbers and often were very successful.

After the complete collapse of German culture in 1933, following the seizure of political power by Hitler and his murderous gang, the Jewish scientists were driven out of Germany.

Refugees' Impact on Biochemistry

The emigration of the Jewish biochemists, of whom there were many from Germany, had a tremendous world-wide impact on the advancement of biochemistry; a monograph of considerable size could profitably be written on this subject. Quite a number of them became Nobel Laureates: Sir Hans Krebs is one of them. There is hardly any area in the field of intermediate metabolism, including energy metabolism, which has not been strongly influenced by his concepts of "metabolic cycles" which he developed through his important discoveries of the urea and tricarboxylic cycles, the latter generally known as Krebs cycle. The discoveries which were to have far-reaching effects—for they are valid for man and all animal species—were made with relatively simple, yet very ingenious analytical methods, developed by him, mainly manometric.

During the twenty-one years while he was Professor of Biochemistry in this country, first at Sheffield and then at Oxford, he educated a large number of young biochemists in the field of physiological biochemistry and strongly influenced them. Many of his pupils now occupy important academic positions in this and other countries.

His primary interest always centred around

laboratory experimental work and the details of the techniques he developed and employed. For many years he worked himself intensely at the laboratory bench and always supervised closely the experiments of his collaborators. He was hardly ever away from the Department under his leadership for prolonged periods; he kept out of committees as much as he could however influential they were, and refrained from excessively frequent long distance travel which he termed scientific tourism.

He has been honoured in many countries, including Britain and his country of birth, by honorary degrees and membership of Academies and learned Societies.

He has been associated with organisations looking after the welfare of German Jewish refugees and also with Jewish academic institutions in Israel. For many years, he has been a member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem which awarded him an honorary degree, and he was elected a Fellow of the Weizmann Institute for Science in Rehovot.

We wish him many more years of fruitful creative scientific activity, continuing good health and physical strength, and happiness through his work and his family ties. Our warmest best wishes on this occasion also go to his wife, Lady Margaret Krebs, and their children.

SIR ERNST CHAIN

80th BIRTHDAY OF DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN

The recent 80th birthday of Dr. Nahum Goldmann was marked by a banquet given in his honour in Geneva under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress. The numerous congratulations sent to him on this occasion included a message by the Council of Jews from Germany. A full assessment of Nahum Goldmann's signal services to the Jewish people will be published in our next issue.



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Margot Pottlitzer

RESTITUTION THROUGH THE AGES

An Historical Study

During the war, many refugee lawyers attempted to compensate for their enforced professional inactivity by dreaming up elaborate schemes of compensation for Nazi victims. These were usually based on the application of the legal system in which they had been trained to what they considered to be a novel and unique situation. There was, however, one among them whose historical knowledge led him to a different approach. According to his own testimony, Dr. George Weis began on September 3, 1939, the day war broke out, to look for historical precedents. Only now, 36 years later, has he been able to publish the results of the research which he has pursued ever since—as far as his other activities left him time to do so. A brilliant jurist and a leading member of the Czech community in London, he has in the years that have elapsed, been busy helping to frame the restitution laws and to implement them. He was the first legal adviser of the British Jewish Relief Unit in Germany, and later *inter alia* head of JRSO (Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation) in Berlin. One of his early achievements in 1947 was to have persuaded the Allied Control Commission in Germany to promulgate an Ordinance which fixed the date of death for all Nazi victims where no other dates were known, as May 8, 1945. This Ordinance has been incorporated in all subsequent legislation. Since 1956, Dr. Weis has held responsible positions with organisations in Vienna concerned with restitution and compensation for Nazi victims from Austria.

The fascinating booklet he has just published

under his own imprint "Zur Geschichte der Wiedergutmachung" (Vienna 1975) reveals that one of the first rulers to introduce restitution laws was Alexander the Great, and that ever since every major political and religious upheaval which resulted in the persecution of large groups of people by their own countrymen was followed by some attempt at making amends to the victims once the government changed. This happened during and after the Thirty Years War, after the Civil War in England, the French Revolution and on many other occasions. Dr. Weis has had recourse to a great wealth of source material and describes them with zest and humour. To give only one example: He quotes from a history of the French Revolution, published in London in 1895, the inscription on a poster at the border between France and the Palatinate which read: "Emigranten und Vagabunden ist das Ueberschreiten der Grenze verboten". Anyone interested in the byways of history will enjoy reading this small volume and look forward to further results of George Weis's various scholarly hobbies.

DEATH OF DR. ERNA AUERBACH

The painter and art historian, Dr. Erna Auerbach, died in London on June 23. She had been a lecturer at the City of London Polytechnic and other centres of adult education. Born in Frankfurt, she studied at several German universities and the Courtauld Institute. Her publications include "Tudor Artists" (1954), and (jointly with C. Kingsley Adams) "Paintings and Sculptures of Hatfield House" (1972).

EXHIBITION AT THE BEN URI GALLERY

Four women artists were showing an interesting variety of works in a recent exhibition at the Ben Uri Gallery. Judith Yellin-Ginat's exhibits were already reviewed in the July issue of this paper. Rivkah Mayer (Israel), born in Turkey, showed attractive collages, silk on silk, in a well balanced, subtle dainty style. Beatrice Rozenberg (Britain) was fascinated by photographs of film stars in the 'thirties, an era now far removed, which she translated into colourful oils. The expertise and decorative gift of Margaret Marks (Britain), who was born in Germany, was well represented in pottery, tiles and wall decorations.

LOTTIE REIZENSTEIN.

DR. BRUNO SCHWEIG 85

Dr. Bruno Schweig, one of the earliest members of the AJR, will celebrate his 85th birthday on August 19. Professionally, he has throughout his life been connected with the glass and mirror industry. A few years ago, he had the satisfaction of seeing his book "Mirrors—A Guide to the Manufacture of Mirrors and Reflecting Surfaces" published in London. He is also a member of the Society of Glass Technology, the Deutsche Glastechnische Gesellschaft and The Royal Institution.

Bruno Schweig possesses a remarkable degree of "Kontaktfreude", and he maintains connections with his old fellow members of the F.W.V. fraternity in this country, the United States and Israel. He is also an active supporter of many Jewish causes, and his feelings for the Land of Israel, where his children and grandchildren live, are particularly strong.

Notwithstanding his age, he is still working and also helpful to others, who are no longer able to look after their own affairs. We wish him undiminished activity and health for many years to come.

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SIMON BISCHHEIM AT 90

LOYALTY TO GERMAN JEWRY

It is hard to believe that our friend Mr. Simon Bischheim, senior member of the AJR Executive, will attain the age of 90 on August 11. The astounding clarity of his mind and the physical appearance of this tall man seem to belie his age. He has the good fortune that he may enjoy life, combining work with pleasure, seeing his numerous friends and, above all, delighting in his favourite pastime: travelling. Sometimes it seems as if London only serves as his temporary abode, after the return from a trip to Israel, where one of his sons and his family now lives, and already planning a visit to the Continent or the United States. He is the proud and beloved father and grandfather of his children and their families, among them his son Richard who, from small beginnings, built up the firm Dunbee-Combex-Marx, now the biggest toy manufacturing combine in Europe.

As a personality, Simon Bischheim embodies the best of those qualities which once marked German Jewry. His loyalty to his German-Jewish past is based on his family's deep roots in the community of Frankfurt. In his autobiography, which he wrote for his children and grandchildren, he depicts Jewish life in Frankfurt through many generations, thus making also a valuable contribution to German-Jewish historiography.

Like most members of the Jewish middle-class in pre-1933 Germany, he regarded economic security not as an end in itself but as the foundation for an active or receptive enjoyment of the values culture has to offer in various spheres. In this respect, Simon Bischheim's greatest love is music, and he is also an accomplished violinist.

By his membership with the AJR Executive, he has also become the personal friend of his colleagues. All of them express their sincerest birthday wishes to the youthful nonagenarian.

W. ROSENSTOCK

SERVICES TO B'NAI B'RITH

Mr. Bischheim's connection with B'nai B'rith dates back to Germany where he was an active member of the Markus Horovitz Lodge in Frankfurt/Main for many years. He joined the Leo Baeck (London) Lodge in its early years,



in 1947, and immediately took a lively interest in the affairs of the Lodge, playing a valuable part in various committees, in particular the Cultural Activities Committee and Welfare Committee. He was most generous in his support of all good causes and his friendly and affable manner, combined with his high integrity and sense of responsibility, made him a very loved and greatly respected member of the Lodge.

Some years ago, he joined with other Lodge members from Frankfurt in a committee, headed by Rabbi Dr. Salzberger, which pre-

pared details of the history of the Jews in Frankfurt and collected valuable material for publication. Mr. Bischheim, in spite of his age, still participates most actively in the Lodge life and he regularly attends the weekly meetings. His brothers in the Leo Baeck Lodge send him their warmest wishes and congratulations on his 90th birthday and hope that he will enjoy many more years of active life and fruitful activity.

F. E. FALK

A LOVABLE PERSONALITY

I am grateful for the opportunity of paying tribute to Simon Bischheim on this auspicious occasion. There are many who have known him longer than the thirty-eight years I claim and who can refer with more intimate knowledge to his public and charitable activities. It is of his personal qualities that I wish to make mention.

Entering the remarkable Bischheim family circle was both a unique and privileged experience for which my wife and I will always be grateful. One was at once impressed by the firm control Simon exercised as pater familias. He was rock-solid, decisive, authoritarian, uncompromising in his ethical standards and determined that he and his family should overcome the difficulties which befell them on the outbreak of the war with Nazi Germany. At the same time he was genial, good-humoured, courteous and full of *joie-de-vivre* though impatient of weakness and slackness of any kind. He remains perpetually youthful in spirit but retains his traditional allegiances and loyalties in all the many and varied spheres of activity and interest in which he is still engaged. Sadly bereft many years ago of his beloved wife, a true Eshet Hayil, nevertheless through the loving devotion of his daughter he enjoys a very full life—respected and loved by his children, grandchildren and a truly large circle of friends.

We wish him very many happy returns of his birthday and we hope he will continue to enjoy the blessings he has so richly merited including the devotion of his family and the admiration of his friends.

S. H. SOMPER

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

Magnus.—Mrs. Paula Magnus (née Tichauer), of 6 Carmel Court, Kings Drive, Wembley Park, Middlesex, will celebrate her 90th birthday on September 3.

Mehl-Fabian.—Mrs. Fridl Mehl-Fabian, of 17 Parsifal Road, London, N.W.6, celebrated her 80th birthday on July 4.

Centenary

Mottek.—July 31 was the centenary of the birth of Mrs. Anna Mottek who was born in Frankfurt/Main, the daughter of Prof. Dr. Ludwig Oelsner, historian and teacher at the Philanthropin. She qualified as a teacher and worked in Frankfurt and Berlin and, after her emigration, in London. In 1949 she joined her daughter in Chile where she passed away in her 97th year.

Deaths

Sobel.—Mr. Bernhard Sobel, of 94 Hyndland Road, Glasgow, G12 9PZ, passed away peacefully on June 11. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife, Ilse, daughter, Charlotte, future son-in-law, Alan, nephew, Peter, niece, Audrey, and all his friends.

Weglein.—Mrs. Charlotte Weglein (née Riegner) passed away peacefully on June 30 at the Otto Schiff House, 14 Netherhall Gardens, London, N.W.3. Deeply mourned by her son, Henry Walker, daughter, Hilde Grodzinski, daughter-in-law, Mary, and grandchildren.

Wolff.—Dr. Robert Wolff, aged 78, died at Ejn Vered, Israel, on June 28. Deeply mourned by Martel and Channah Wolff, Israel; Tony Borg, Morris Feinmann Home, Manchester; Henry and Lore Lehmann and family.

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Personal

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THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

The Show of Shows on German TV. Under the title "Treffpunkt Herz", a Super-show is being prepared which will reach the screens from Cologne this autumn. Stars of this gigantic production which will be topical as well as nostalgic, include Paul Hoerbiger (82), Olga Tschechova (78), Elisabeth Flickenschildt, Anneliese Rothenberger, Gustav Knuth, Hans Soehner and many others. It will be staged as a charity performance in aid of cancer research.

Berlin. A concentration of German theatrical productions was presented during the Berlin "Theatertreffen". However, the Bochum Theatre which contributed a new "King Lear", interpreted and modernised by Peter Zadek, created a minor theatre scandal. Shouting and whistling lasted for over 15 minutes, and foreign visitors had to be assured again and again by the critics that Zadek, usually a brilliant producer, had completely misjudged the characters of the play as well as the mood of a perhaps rather conservative and tradition-loving audience.

Berlin Opera in Edinburgh. During this year's Festival, the "Deutsche Oper" will provide two twentieth-century contributions: Richard Strauss's "Salome" and Alban Berg's "Lulu".

Birthdays International. France is leading in this month's birthday list: Jean Paul Sartre, philosopher and novelist, is 70, Jean Anouilh, prolific French dramatist ("Becket", "Antigone"), is 65. The Viennese actor, Hans Thimig, celebrated his 75th birthday in his Austrian alpine retreat.

Books. In "Maerchen ihres Lebens", Elisa-

beth Orth, eldest daughter of the celebrated actor-couple, Paula Wessely-Attila Hoerbiger, discusses her parents in a refreshing manner. —A Stuttgart publication, "O diese Ustinovs", develops into gossip. It is narrated by Peter Ustinov's mother who delights in describing the colourful characters of this life-loving clan, whose family tree shows origins from Russia, Portugal, Germany and Ethiopia. Mother Nadja indulges in pointing out the delicious eccentricities of this large family, and surrounds them with a loving and understanding smile.

Obituary. Frieda Leider, internationally acknowledged Top-Bruenhilde and Isolde of the 'twenties and 'thirties, who sang at Hamburg, Bayreuth, London, Berlin and Chicago, has died at the age of 87. Her autobiography, "Das war mein Teil", was published in 1959.

The musical world mourns Robert Stolz who died at the great age of 94. He was not only a songwriter ("Im Prater bluehn wieder die Baeume", "Frag' nicht, warum ich gehe") and operetta composer ("White Horse Inn"), he was the last of the musical elite that constituted the Silver Era of Vienna operetta. S.B.

IN MEMORY OF ERNA LAND

The AJR Club deeply regrets the death of Miss Erna Land, of 6 Princes Court, London, N.W.2. She was a member of the Committee and gave much thought and help to the work of the Club. She was untiring in visiting members when they were ill in hospital and continued these visits even when she herself had already difficulties in walking. Miss Land will be remembered with gratitude by all who knew her.

ZUM ABLEBEN VON PROFESSOR DR. SHMUEL HUGO BERGMAN

Im Juni dieses Jahres ist in Jerusalem der 92 jaehrige Philosoph Shmuel Hugo Bergman zu Grabe getragen worden. Er war der letzte des zu Beruehmtheit gelangten "Prager Kreises", dem Franz Kafka, Max Brod, Felix Weltsch und der blinde Dichter Oskar Baum angehört haben. In den politischen Kampf zwischen Deutschen und Tschechen hineingestellt, suchten diese in fester personlicher Freundschaft verbundenen Menschen nach einer im Geiste erschauten Welt.

Bergman war der erste von ihnen, der mit seinem Zionismus ernst machte und schon im Jahre 1920 nach Palaestina uebersiedelte. Er wird in die Geschichte eingehen als Schoepfer und Bauer der hebraeischen Nationalbibliothek auf dem Skopus, als erster Professor fuer Philosophie und erster Rektor der Universitaet von Jerusalem. Er war ein Mensch der Humanitaet und des Glaubens. Sein juedisches Volksgefuehl geht aus religioesen Wurzeln hervor, er war nicht nur ein Jude durch Geburt sondern ebensosehr durch sittliche Wahl.

Bergmans Bibliographie enthaelt mehr als 1780 Nummern, er schrieb u.a. ueber Kant, Bolzano, Franz Rosenzweig, Salomon Maimon, seine dreibaendige "Geschichte der Philosophie" in hebraeischer Sprache ist ein Standardwerk fuer jeden Philosophiestudenten in Israel.

Den Zeitgenossen, die um ihn trauern, bleibt die Gestalt eines Menschen in Erinnerung, der —wie Wenige— in stande war, an den ethischen Zielen, die er sich setzte, festzuhalten, sie zu verfolgen und seinen Mitmenschen einzupflanzen. Denn er war ein grosser Lehrer in Israel.

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"STRIKING NEW ROOTS"

Lucie Schachne's Address at AJR Annual General Meeting

In her talk, "Striking New Roots", Miss Lucie Schachne, Administrative Officer of the Camden Committee for Community Relations, described the position of the post-war immigrants from the West Indies and Asia and compared it with that of the pre-war refugees from Central Europe. Whilst we, as the objects of persecution, had no choice but to emigrate, the "black" (including Asian) immigrants came to this country because they hoped that they would thus improve their living standard. Some of them also arrived with the intention of going back after having made sufficient savings or acquired some professional qualifications.

The West Indians, being members of the New Commonwealth, expected to have the same opportunities as the indigenous English. They resented the difficulties they encountered in finding employment. Whereas we were prepared to accept any kind of work, also if it was considerably below the level of our previous occupations or professions, they believed they have reasons to be accepted without any discrimination in the labour market.

Another difference arose from the fact that we, as Jews, could benefit from the help of the Jewish community of this country. There are no comparable organisations of mutual help among the post-war immigrants; this became evident again only a few years ago when the Ugandan Asians arrived in this country. Thus, help for the new immigrants had to be provided for out of public funds of the State and the municipalities.

Lastly, differing in colour from the majority population, the new immigrants have not the same chance of full assimilation as the refugees from the Continent.

The speaker then described the specific, and not identical, positions of the West Indian and Asian immigrants. The West Indians first felt more British than the British. English was their first language, but soon they had to realise that it was not the same English as is spoken in this country. This was a great shock, especially for their children when they became pupils of English schools. Gradually, the younger generation accepted the difference and reacted by a search for a new identity. In a way, the speaker said, this trend can be compared with the emergence of Zionism in the Jewish sphere as a reaction against discrimination. The reorientation also results in the desire to learn more about one's own past. Therefore, the incorporation of "black studies" as an optional subject in the school curriculum should be encouraged.

There is a growing desire among the younger people to be represented by spokesmen from their own ranks, and well-meaning white people are sometimes suspect as being patronising. There is also a growing sympathy with the politically Left-wing radicals and sometimes a certain militancy against the police which for them symbolise the white society suppressing the black. The rebellious spirit also results in opposition against the parents in their conventional and accommodating attitude. In this respect too the position

was different among our refugee community, where the common difficulties strengthened the family bonds between parents and children.

The situation of the Asians differs from that of the West Indians in many respects. The families stick together. They generally have a kind of middle-class attitude. Their qualifications are often higher than those required for the jobs they accept. The children usually fare well at school. The younger generation is not, or at least not yet, aggressive. They want to integrate. Yet at the same time they want to retain their identity. In common with other minorities they aim at group integration, and this may turn out to be more successful and acceptable than individual integration.

Dealing with the possibilities of helping the new immigrants, the speaker referred to the various activities of the Committees for Community relations, whose work in Camden had started in 1965. The Committee is aware where the problems are. Its basic aim is that the immigrant groups should gradually be geared to helping themselves. The current activities include the running of supplementary weekend schools staffed by professional teachers who render their services voluntarily. One of the ways in which our people could help is in the field of employment. Referring to a recent appeal signed by a number of leading companies the speaker asked owners of firms to offer vacancies to new immigrants.

CBF LIMITS RELIEF ABROAD

At its last Council Meeting, the Central British Fund made allocations of altogether £25,000, of which £17,500 was for Jews in and coming out of Eastern countries. On the other hand, due to lack of sufficient funds, a number of applications totalling well over £16,000 had to be turned down.

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