

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Eva G. Reichmann

GERMAN ZIONISM IN RETROSPECT

Kurt Blumenfeld's Letters of Five Decades

"You are an artist, Kurt Blumenfeld, not a politician". These were the words with which an experienced Zionist characterised Kurt Blumenfeld during the early years of the movement. In rhythm, though not in their precise meaning, the words echo a famous quotation from Thomas Mann's autobiographical novel "Tonio Kroeger". But should they have been followed up as they did in the dialogue with Tonio Kroeger with the words: "An artist on the wrong path, an artist manqué"?

The unequivocal answer is: No. Kurt Blumenfeld may have been an artistic nature, but quite correctly the Zionist friend added: "This does not imply that you do not think politically. On the contrary. It is your personal note, and in sensing your artistic nature I need not defend myself against the suspicion that this is meant to be a reproach. Only, while it does not make things easier, they certainly become more beautiful".

The remark is quoted in the masterly Preface with which Jochanan Ginat, who edited Kurt Blumenfeld's Letters in cooperation with Miriam Sambursky (Kurt Blumenfeld, *Im Kampf um den Zionismus. Briefe aus fünf Jahrzehnten. Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart, 1976. A Publication of the Leo Baeck Institute*) introduces this impressive collection. Ginat's highly knowledgeable, imaginative and subtle analysis of Blumenfeld's advance through the years of his Zionist campaign, full of congenial admiration and yet not lacking in criticism where he deems it called for, is probably among the most penetrating studies not only of Blumenfeld's personality, but of the Zionist period which carried his unmistakable imprint. In an exemplary way it fills the gaps which are otherwise the unavoidable draw-back of a one-sided documentation; for there are no replies to the abundance of Blumenfeld's stimulating and original suggestions. Ginat does his utmost in rounding the picture, making a whole from what might have remained a fragmentary compilation.

Of the conflict in his mental disposition Kurt Blumenfeld was fully aware. "Don't expect from me proofs for what I am telling you. Politics are art, not science", he wrote in 1946. And a year later he confessed surprisingly: "From the moment I became a Zionist, I have never believed in the success of our cause. I only knew that, for me, there was no other way to be quite myself". Another German classic, Heinrich Heine, who was particularly near to his heart, might have been the ghost-writer of these words in his poem, very aptly entitled: "Enfant Perdu": "Verloren Posten in dem Freiheitskriege hielt ich seit dreissig Jahren treulich aus. Ich kaempfte

ohne Hoffnung, dass ich siege. Ich wusste, nie komm' ich gesund nach Haus".

However: almost against his own conviction, the Zionist cause for which Blumenfeld fought with incomparable devotion, did achieve success beyond expectation. There was only this analogy to Heine's vision: the success, it is true, was granted at least partially by powers he would never have dreamed to invoke, by the catastrophe of European Jewry. Realistic efforts and demonic interference worked together to bring it about—a formidable political drama. But Blumenfeld did not dramatise it, he went on working. "The Messiah will come but we shall not want to see him" was a word he often quoted. The decisive fulfilment of the Zionist yearning came as a gift of the power of Hell, of Nazism.

No compromise

Before the catastrophe Blumenfeld's activities consisted primarily in thought and action for the Zionist movement. His own family—his father was a high judge in the small East Prussian town Insterburg—had exemplified the process of de-Judaisation which was at the time typical of the German-Jewish middle-class. There was very little Jewish substance left in his family of civil servants. Blumenfeld had to rediscover Judaism, and he did so with all his political-poetic enthusiasm. Had his father ignored the Jewish tradition, the son embraced it with all his re-born *furor Judaicus*. He knew no compromise. "Jews are no Germans, they never can be Germans" was one of the slogans of his Zionist campaign. In all the tremendous subtlety of his analysis of the Jewish problem he was incapable of appreciating the innumerable stages of half- and quarter-transition which characterises the process of adaptation of the Jewish minority to the majority of the Gentile population. The rigid "Either—Or" was the governing principle of his reasoning.

It was this conviction he endeavoured to impart to his entourage. He did not become a propagandist, but he became the successful teacher of a widening circle of followers. He did not aim at converting great quantities; he looked for individuals of above-average human value. His great pride e.g. was that he succeeded in re-awakening the Jewish interest of Albert Einstein who had been indifferent to the Jewish cause, but, due to his conversations with Kurt Blumenfeld, became a strong sympathizer with Zionism. Blumenfeld was instrumental in creating the "Pro-Palestine-Committee" a circle of mostly non-Jewish intellectuals whose active interest in the Palestinian, and that meant at the time the Jewish cause, he ascribed with satisfaction to his tireless efforts.

Little wonder, of course, that his attempts at severing the ties which had bound together Jews and Germans in a totally different ideology, were seen by those he failed to convince with considerable displeasure. The new Zionist stimulus was regarded as an outspoken danger to the onerously achieved and precariously maintained emancipation. The ensuing inner-Jewish conflicts between so-called "assimilationists" and Zionists belonged to the less imposing spectacles in German-Jewish history. Blumenfeld was a stalwart opponent of assimilation and did not spare it his uncompromising condemnation. Fortunately, only a minor part of this controversy has been included in the collection with which we are dealing. It had been unnecessarily overstressed, sometimes beyond the limits of fairness and good taste. The Editors, it seems, realised that a strong, if all too painful reality had done away with the harshness of these dissensions which today have assumed an anachronistic flavour.

In this context it may sound strange, but it is indeed almost a truism, that Blumenfeld's Zionism had an unmistakably German tinge. He was an outstandingly well-read man; he had absorbed German and European culture, which he was so anxious to see abandoned by his fellow-Jews, with his keen intelligence. His idol was, among others, Max Weber, whose statement that politics should be exercised with "both passion and discrimination" he quoted over and over again. He had them both—unless passion at times got the better of discrimination when the troublesome concept of "Assimilation" was concerned. Above all: he had abounding love for his ideas. Their political essence was for him enfolded in perfectionist imagination—this, too, probably a product of his German-classical upbringing.

In a letter to Felix Rosenblüth of February, 1948, he writes: "Among the many possibilities to give a meaning to the word Zionism was also what we called 'German Zionism'. 'Zionism is the return to Judaism before the return to the Jewish country'... Through the fact of Zionist perception the Jew of our kind has found the way to himself. We had come home... German Zionism had once to say something, and it has to do so in ever renewed form to-day and every day. Its importance was that it recognised the problem of the gola. The Zionists of the world are of the opinion that 'gola' means countries where the Jews are badly off. Therefore America is no 'gola', nor is England 'gola'. Therefore one can expect of no Zionist that he draws the personal consequence of his conviction. Zionism through proxy has become the signature of the Zionist organisation".

Blumenfeld did not only see things through, he thought them through to their perceptible end. This was neither much liked nor even readily understood by his fellow-Jews in the Anglo-Saxon world. For the sake of the Zionist movement he was constantly travelling between countries and continents. He was convinced that England and America held the

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keys to a favourable progress, the one as the decisive political agent, the other as potential financial treasure-trove. No need to enlarge on the well-known political difficulties which stood in the way of a consistent pro-Zionist policy of the British Foreign Office. But, though neither an unfamiliar observation, it is of arresting interest to follow the stages of Kurt Blumenfeld's disappointment with the impenetrable indifference of the average and not so average American towards the deeper layers of the Jewish problem. "Alas, what a difference in the intellectual level", does he sigh in a letter from New York to his friend Arthur Hantke in 1940; "well-educated people are here few and far between". And later again from Jerusalem: "We were human beings imbued not only with European, but equally with German culture. Everything we did could only be done in Koenigsberg, Berlin and Heidelberg—upshots of the attempts of German Jews to come to terms with the world. Heine from Dusseldorf did it and shed his blood as one who was not understood, who, in the most important issues of his time, could not find any resonance".

Dream and Reality

Kurt Blumenfeld, the artist, who in his youth had dreamt of Zionism as a "prophetic movement" "striving for a nobility of highest moral standards" confesses in 1952 in analogy to Hermann Hesses's "Glasperlenspiel" that what remains is "beautifully manly resignation". "Never is it possible to give concrete reality to one's imagination. There will always emerge a new world which, only superficially, has anything to do with the dreams of the past". "This world is a cold cruel world in which nobody lends an ear to the weak". But while at times succumbing to such unavoidable pessimistic emotions, Kurt Blumenfeld's artistic temperament was flexible enough to allow similarly for periods of elation and renewed confidence. A rather gloomy letter to his friend Ruth Solow of March 1956 he concludes with the words: "Do not imagine that our life is under the impression of such considerations: our life is beautiful and pleasant".

Through all the vicissitudes and upheavals of the Palestinian-Israeli course of events Blumenfeld upheld his loyalty to the German style of Zionism. Within the ever-changing progress of German-Zionist grouping he joined one after the other: Kidmah, Alija Chadascha, Progressive Party, Hitachduth Olej Germania, Irgun Olej Merkaz Europa. In a country of wildly differing problems and phases of development this organisational discontinuity was a natural feature of political life. In spite of it there remained an unmistakable consistency of the basic principles. Blumenfeld never wavered in his pleading for an improved relationship and reconciliation with the Arabs. He never ceased to fight terror and, in spite of all disappointments, to urge cooperation with Britain. Even when his original opposition to an Israeli State, except for the partition recommended in the Peel Report, changed into a warm welcome when eventually the State did emerge from the victorious war, this was hardly an abandonment of his former stance. His applause was restrained and he was fully aware of his dramatic change of consciousness. Neither was he lacking in forebodings of implicit dangers. "You know that I am not a militarist" he wrote to his son Raphael in London; "that I hate the war and there is only one hope for me, the hope that

our children will see the peaceful resurrection of Eretz Israel. . . . I do not believe in racial hatred and not in the underestimation of non-Jews. But in a painful inner struggle I realised that without the striving for an independent State our Jewish people will never achieve freedom". And in another attempt to apologise for his change of mood: "I do not like to describe my and our feelings [about the establishment of the State]. To me it is significant that e.g. a man like Martin Buber, an anti-nationalist, will tell me every day with pride and delight how everyone of our people is on his mettle in this campaign".

Blumenfeld's loyalty to the German variety of the Zionist ideology, appealing though it may appear to his fellow-Jews from Germany, had also its less attractive side-effects. He was indeed a better German *malgré soi* than he himself would have liked to admit. It was by no means a coincidence that his successes in Anglo-Jewry were mutually unsatisfactory. In spite of the mellowing artistic component in viewing things, his retained a good deal of German rigidity and extremism. While in America as well as in Britain it was not the exception but the rule that a good Zionist should feel himself likewise a good citizen of the land in which he lived, Blumenfeld was bent on totally "uprooting" the Jews from the domain of their former national loyalties. He aimed at severing the German-Jewish relationship without compromise. When he feels that some kind of sympathy for the Diaspora "threatens" even among good Zionists, he is confident that such a deviation will soon be got rid of. The centre of his philosophy was the conviction that assimilation—as he understood it—was an unmitigated disaster. Later, however, when the growing maturity of age had deepened his wisdom he tended rather to fight the "assimilationist" than assimilation. He even went as far as describing the assimilation of the Jews in Germany as "the remarkable process of productive assimilation. They became involved", he says, "in the destiny of the German world as artists, thinkers and politicians. Their life was imbued with the constant endeavour to come to terms with the possibilities granted them by the German people. They tried to become Germans and Germanhood became almost without exception also part of the new religious contents".

This does not sound any more like a total negation of what had been accomplished in the course of German-Jewish co-existence. It is indeed part of a letter in which he expresses his very sympathetic views on the newly established Leo Baeck Institute. A denial of the achievements of the German-Jewish encounter would in this context have been manifestly out of place. Blumenfeld had become calmer and wiser in the meantime. The period of possible "transgressions of frontiers" between German and Jewish cultural spheres which he had passionately declaimed in the past, was over anyway.

Although the volume of letters contains little of the inner-Jewish conflicts to which Zionism and Blumenfeld in particular gave rise, it is self-evident that his challenge to the vast majority of German Jews who did not share or even understand his defiance did not remain without a response. The ensuing dissension did not seldom overstep the frontier of dignity and good taste. What may be said in its favour is that it enlivened the life of German Jewry during the span it was still given. That the new vitality engendered by the new conflicts was often unnecessarily harsh in too strict accordance with the style of strife between German parties was regrettable.

But in a period in which in great parts of German Jewry the religious zeal had given way to sterile stagnation, it may be considered not a totally negative change that the new conflict created new strong feelings. "I have come to reawaken, to educate. I am not a politician", confessed Blumenfeld again towards the end of his active life. In this undertaking his success was indeed prodigious, though it must not be ignored that it was decisively promoted by the menace and later the actual outbreak of Nazism. In youthful melancholy he had once felt compelled to lament in 1947 that he considered his life a failure. Far from it. Such fits of frustration were only the inescapable consequence of his over-sensitive, vulnerable nature.

Inevitably he had come to realise the incompatibility of the exuberant enthusiasm of his youth with the intractable laws of realisation. And yet, in "trial and error" his work had been a beneficial, creative disturbance of an ill-founded complacency. In attack and defence it proved a lasting inspiration.

Just at a time in which the course of the State of Israel has entered a new phase of impenetrable twilight, the ominous contrast between the visionary beginnings and the remorseless advance of history, so vividly displayed in Kurt Blumenfeld's Letters, makes thought-provoking reading. His thoughts and his actions did not save lives. But where there was still a chance for the unfortunate victims of the Nazi onslaught to realise what was happening, it might have made them aware that, within the endless sequence of Jewish sufferings, it had fallen to their fate that among the millions of fellow-sufferers, they, too, were the tragic witnesses to the tragic and glorious Jewish existence.

MEDITATIONS ON SUFFERING

Last year, Rabbi Hugo Gryn, vice-president of the Leo Baeck College and Senior Rabbi of the West London Synagogue, was asked to present "Thought for the Day" on BBC radio. His short meditations brought an unprecedented number of replies from both Christians and Jews and are now appearing in printed form in "European Judaism," a bi-annual periodical published by Athenaeum-Polak & Van Genep Ltd, Amsterdam. Rabbi Gryn spent the war years in Auschwitz and other concentration camps and, as he put it himself, as a survivor he feels he has a "witness-complex." Seeing the five-minute broadcasts in print, one can see why they should have made such a tremendous impact: they describe the triumph of the human spirit over human barbarism. They describe how hope and faith were needed to keep alive in the camps, and quote two songs which the prisoners sang to themselves during work: one "Zog not keimal az du gest dem letzten weg" written by Hirsh Glik from Vilna at the age of 20 in 1942 and sung by Jewish partisans in Russian forests, doomed ghetto fighters in Polish towns and camp inmates on long marches from camp to camp from where only a few returned. The other was a Hebrew version of one of Maimonides' "Articles of Faith": "I believe in the coming of the Messiah—and though he tarry—yet will I believe." Those who lacked that faith in its most spiritual form, had no chance of surviving.

NEW JEWISH WORLD BODY

Delegates from 14 countries in Europe and America attended the first world conference of Jewish community centres in Jerusalem. A new organisation was set up, representing centres with a combined membership of some two million Jews of all age groups, making it perhaps the largest of all Jewish organisations. Its proposed programme includes training courses, seminars, dissemination of materials and exchange of personnel.

HOME NEWS

Anglo-Judaica

THE SILVER JUBILEE

The Queen's Silver Jubilee was celebrated in synagogues all over the country. At the communal service of prayer and thanksgiving, held by the United Synagogue at the Central Synagogue, Great Portland Street, in London, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits, thanked the Queen in the name of her Jewish subjects for "preserving us through her noble example from the ravages of revolution, civil disorder, racial intolerance and political extremism which have overtaken so many other countries. . . . The Queen is the first British sovereign to have graced a Jewish function when she honoured the community with her presence at the festivities to mark the United Synagogue Centenary seven years ago. . . . Prince Philip and other members of the Royal family have frequently responded to our invitations in support of Jewish causes". Representatives of the three main political parties attended the service: the Home Secretary, Mr. Merlyn Rees, Sir Keith Joseph, a member of the Shadow Cabinet, and Lord Wigoder, Liberal Chief Whip in the House of Lords.

Over 1,000 members of the Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade took part in the Brigade's Jubilee parade at the Tower of London and were inspected by the Constable of the Tower, Field-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker.

A Jubilee Loyal Address signed by Lord Fisher of Camden, president of the Board of Deputies, and Mr Victor Lucas, president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, was presented to the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The "Address" was engrossed on vellum by Mr. Phineas May, joint secretary of the Jewish museum, and it was one of the few jubilee presentations received personally by the Queen. Special permission from the Palace had to be obtained to include into the delegation Susan Kennard, a student of Sussex University.

The first occasion on which the Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association jointly presented an address for State occasions was Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

Honours List

The Royal Jubilee Honours List included a O.B.E. for Mr. Robert Brodtman, chairman of the London Borough of Camden Savings Committee; Mr. Brodtman, a former Tory councillor and alderman of the old Hampstead Council, was for more than 20 years chairman of the Hampstead branch of the Council of Christians and Jews and has always taken a great interest in the AJR, which is represented on the Council.

The list also includes a O.B.E. for Elsa Matilda Goldberg, lately director of the Research Unit, National Institute for Social Work.

A M.B.E. was awarded to Mrs. Ilse Joseph, Wirral, Merseyside, for services to refugees. Mrs. Joseph, who is an old-standing member of the AJR, and has for many years given violin recitals in this country, Germany and Israel, in memory of her children who perished during the Holocaust. She renders her services voluntarily to promote understanding between the nations and adherents of different creeds and always opens her performances with a brief speech about her and her fellow-Jews' plight. The proceeds are used for charity in this country which gave her and her late husband refuge and for educational ventures, especially in Israel.

Another new M.B.E. is Mrs. Berti Bobath, who is the Director of Studies at the Bobath Cerebral Palsy Centre in Netherhall Gardens. She came to this country as a refugee from Berlin in 1938 and started the spastics unit at the Princess Louise Hospital for Children in 1944, where she developed a radical new concept of treatment for spastics—later known as the Bobath Method. The centre in Netherhall Gardens was opened two years ago.

THE TORTURE STORY

A four-page report in the "Sunday Times" alleging the systematic use of torture by Israel in the investigation of detained Arabs has roused a storm of protest from all quarters. 237 people wrote to the paper, 72 of whom supported the paper's "courageous exposure" of misdeeds, whereas 142 criticised the publication of such a "farrago of innuendo". A statement from the Israeli Embassy said the report was "a collection of Arab atrocity stories". It said: "The assertion that torture is a deliberate policy of the Israeli Government is as vicious a slander as it is insulting to the only democracy and free judiciary in the area. The 'Sunday Times' has acted with the utmost bad faith consistent with its anti-Israel attitude". The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement pointing out that torture is a criminal offence in Israel and that any confession obtained even by the threat of force, is inadmissible in Israeli Courts. A detailed rebuttal of the allegations submitted by the Israeli Embassy, was printed in a subsequent issue of the paper. It contained a case-by-case refutation of specific charges and was based on investigations conducted in Israel over the past few weeks.

FAIRNESS PREVAILS AT YORK

York University Students' Union reversed its policy to exclude the 40-strong Jewish Students Society by 124 to 103 votes, thus restoring its £90 grant. The students' union also withdrew its previous policy that Zionism was a form of racism. The decision followed a warning from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Maurice Carstairs, that he would intervene unless the ban was lifted, but Mr. Richard Burden, 22-year-old Union president, said the decision would have been taken even without that warning. The ban had been imposed when the Jewish students amended their constitution to say that the society should have the right "to express and demonstrate explicit support for the Zionist ideal and the State of Israel." Mr. Moshe Forman, chairman of the Union of Jewish Students, expressed the hope that anti-Zionist factions on the other campuses would take note.

IRA THREATS

Mr. Eric Moonman, M.P., chairman of the Zionist Federation, Mr. Harold Lever, M.P., Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, M.P. for Hampstead are among a number of prominent public figures whose names appear on an IRA assassination list, published by "Penthouse" magazine.

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European Rabbis meet

The Board of the European Rabbinical Conference met in London and discussed the problems of Russian immigrants who had left Israel for European countries, questions of Kashrut and the situation of Jews in Scandinavian countries. A resolution on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem expressed the support of all those present for its continued existence as the centre of Jewish culture and Jewish life. Next year's plenary session of the conference will be held in Paris.

Dictionary to be amended

Mr. Marcus Shloimovitz who has for years fought for the elimination of anti-Jewish definitions from dictionaries, received a letter from Cassell & Collier Macmillan Publishers Ltd., saying that in the next edition of the Cassell dictionary a derogatory definition of the term "Jew" will be eliminated.

Youth Aliyah Art Sale

The biennial Art auction for Children and Youth Aliyah and the Save the Children Fund at Christie's realised over £18,000. In addition, donations of over £15,000 were received before the auction. One painting by the Dutch Jewish artist Josef Israels, fetched £2,200. All 125 items were donated.

B'nai B'rith Exhibition

The B'nai B'rith opened an exhibition "Windows on Israel" at London's Hillel House which will tour the provinces before returning to London. It is a collection of photographs of Lodge activities in Israel which include homes sponsored for old and sick people, for soldiers and for children, Hillel House on Mount Scopus, and the monument in the B'nai B'rith Martyrs Forest in the Judean Hills.

Service of Thanksgiving

A packed congregation attended a service of thanksgiving at the St. John's Wood Liberal Synagogue to mark the graduation of two rabbinic students of Leo Baeck College, London, Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Rabbi Daniel Smith. Rabbi Neuberger, clad in a talit, received the Torah from the Ark and read a passage from it with a translation.

Amelie Jakobovits Day Centre

The wife of the Chief Rabbi, Mrs Amelie Jakobovits was presented with a Book of Donors at a Mizrahi Women's Dinner at the Connaught Rooms to mark the completion of the Day Centre at Kiryat Nordau in Israel which is named after her. It is a one-storey day crèche near Natanya caring for babies and toddlers. Mrs. Della Worms, Mizrahi hon. secretary, said that a new project had been started for a day crèche and community centre at Kiryat Gat, just north of the Negev which would require £150,000.

Exhibition of Israel Photographs

A beautiful exhibition showing photographs of the Israeli desert, was held at the Ben Uri Gallery in Dean Street, Soho. They were taken by Golders Green photographer Dalia Amotz-Weislib, who has also directed a documentary film for Israeli television and taken a unique series of pictures of the settlements now outside the walls of Jerusalem.

£500,000 for flatlets

In the autumn, work will begin in Liverpool on a venture to provide 47 new flats and a half-way hostel. £500,000 have been provided by the Merseyside Jewish Welfare Council.

Kosher Curry

Calcutta-born Triflene Gotlieb, a trained teacher married to an Israeli, has started a food service which adapts Indian cooking to Kashrut rules. All meat is bought from kosher butchers, and there are about 20 different curries made from potato alone.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Street Named After Entebbe Hero

More than 2,000 people attended a ceremony in New York's Bronx when part of Holland Avenue was renamed Yonatan Netanyahu Lane in honour of New York-born Israeli paratrooper Colonel Netanyahu who was killed leading the Entebbe rescue operation last July. A chazan recited the Kaddish in the presence of Colonel Netanyahu's mother.

Red Indians and Jews

The Orthodox San Francisco Hebrew University has appointed Dr. N. Scott Nomaday, a prominent American Indian writer, head of its English and social studies department. Rabbi Lipner, principal of the academy, said that American Indian history and Jewish history have much in common as they are both steeped in culture, tradition and spirituality, and both peoples have been scarred by the horrors of genocide.

Jewish P.L.O. Contacts

According to press reports, Philipp Klucznik, former B'nai B'rith president and candidate for the presidency of the World Jewish Congress, gave a gala dinner for Ashraf Gorbai, the Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S. The Breira organisation, founded in 1973 after the Yom Kippur War, which claims to offer an alternative to present Jewish-Arab relations, insists in its many publications that Israel must negotiate with the P.L.O. in order to set up a Palestinian State in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank. Rabbi Sirota, a member of Breira last year visited Beirut to have discussions with P.L.O. leaders, and Breira members established contacts between two P.L.O. functionaries who visited the U.S. last year, and members of the Jewish community.

Awards by Hebrew Union College

The twelve honorary doctorates awarded by Hebrew Union College in New York this year, included one in Humane Letters for the German Roman Catholic Dr. Gertrud Luckner, editor of the *Freiburger Rundbriefe* which have the declared aim of promoting understanding between Christians and Jews. During the war, Dr. Luckner assisted many people who were persecuted by the Nazis and was later put into a concentration camp.

CANADIAN ANTI-ZIONIST DEFEATED

In a Quebec by-election, Mr. Roger Delorme, a radio and T.V. broadcaster who has alleged that the Anne Frank story is a hoax and that "Zionism and racism are identical," was defeated. The Canadian Jewish Congress and other Jewish organisations as well as non-Jewish members of Mr. Delorme's Progressive Conservative Party, had protested to his candidature, but had been assured that he had promised in writing to abide by the party policy on Zionist questions and on antisemitism.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS' DILEMMA

Professor Allie Dubb, director of the African Studies Institute at the Witwatersrand University, has published the results of an investigation which show that 53 per cent of Johannesburg's 62,000 Jews are determined to stay in South Africa. The remaining 47 per cent are undecided about emigrating and where to go if they decide to do so. Professor Dubb says that South African Jews are strongly pro-Israel and afraid of antisemitism which they tend to equate with the policy of "separate development" (apartheid). Only 2 per cent are members of the ruling Nationalist Party, and another 13 per cent gave passive support to Government policies. Nearly 49 per cent of South African Jews disagreed with a statement that the present Government would never allow antisemitism to establish itself.

FRANCE

Nazi Past of Figaro's Owner

One of France's leading quality newspapers, "Le Figaro" was recently taken over by ultra Right-winger Robert Hersant who in 1947 was sentenced to 10 years "national indignity" by a Paris court for his collaboration with German occupation officials, but was later amnestied. He now says: "What I got up to was scarcely worth mentioning. It never went beyond slapping the faces of salesgirls who worked in Jewish shops." He belonged to a Nazi-sponsored youth movement whose aims were "anti-Jewish and anti-Freemason". It had offices in the Champs Elysees formerly occupied by British railway offices and Jewish families. Later on he met some of his present-day close collaborators in a youth camp associated with Marshal Petain. He said he then gave up politics—he could have joined the SS, but did not. When he stood for a seat in parliament 21 years ago, he told his audiences: "What did I think of Germany when the Nazis came in? I'll tell you—I thought the same as you all". He was elected with a big majority. He is now turning the liberal-conservative "Figaro" into a fighting right-wing paper. Its political director, Mr Raymond Aron, and its editor-in-chief, Jean d'Ormesson, handed in their resignations.

Paris demonstration banned

A Jewish delegation, headed by the Chief Rabbi of France, Rabbi Jacob Kaplan, was refused entry to the new Soviet Embassy building in Paris when it attempted to hand in a letter addressed to the visiting Soviet leader Mr. Brezhnev. The letter appealed to him to allow all Soviet Jews who wanted to do so, to emigrate and to free all Jewish prisoners of conscience. In a scuffle outside the embassy, a number of Jewish students, carrying anti-Soviet placards, were injured.

Elian Finbert

The French-Jewish writer Elian Finbert died at his home in Chartres, France, aged 78. He was the brother of Mrs. Dora Bloch whom Amin murdered. Mr. Finbert was born in Jaffa and went to Alexandria with his parents at the age of two. He left Egypt in 1926. He wrote several novels, Hachette's "Blue Guide of Israel" and books on animals. He received the Grand Prix of the French Academy and the "Prix de la Renaissance".

Applause for Israeli Plane

At the recent Paris air show Israel's home-designed and produced jet fighter, the *Kfir* won great applause for its aerobatic performances. Hundreds of visitors to the Israeli pavilion were equally impressed by the Israeli version of the Westwind business jet plane, a radar system for single-seat fighters, a military computer programme and the *Devora* (Bee), the smallest Fast Missile Boat in the world, armed with Israel's home-produced "Gabriel" missile. Mr Al Schwimmer, the president of Israel Aircraft Industries, told 400 journalists at a press conference that his industry's sales were expected to reach nearly £300 million, half of it to foreign countries.

Memorials defaced

Unknown hooligans defaced synagogues in Marseille and a number of small towns and threw plastic bombs on the camp museum at Stuthof and the offices of a number of survivor organisations.

SWITZERLAND

Chasidic Wedding

The son of the president of the World Sephardi Federation, Mr David Gaon married Miss Judith Tamann in Geneva in the presence of dozens of yeshiva scholars from Israel and European representatives of the Lubavitch sect in New York. The wedding which lasted three days was attended by Rabbi Yossef, Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi, the Haham Rabbi Dr. Salomon Gaon, the Chief Rabbis of Geneva and Sao Paolo, Mrs Menachem Begin, and Israel's ministers of Health and Agriculture as well as Chaim Herzog, her representative at the United Nations. About 1,500 persons took part in the wedding dinner in the gardens of La Reserve in Geneva, seated under a giant canopy of 2,070 square yards in Israel's national colours. There was Chasidic-style dancing and Israeli hora-dancing.

VIENNA SUCCESS OF ISRAELI PLAY

During the International Ballet Festival which forms part of the Vienna Season, the choreographic play "Messada" had its first performance at the "Theater an der Wien." It was commissioned from Jerusalem-born Israeli Eliraz who wrote the text about the death of the defenders of Massada. It had great success and will form part of next years permanent programme.

JEWISH ELECTIONS IN MOROCCO

Mr David Amar has been unanimously elected president of the Council of Moroccan Jewish communities. King Hassan immediately expressed his approval and pleasure. There are some 20,000 Jews in the country, mostly in Casablanca, Rabat and Marrakesh. According to the leaders of the various communities, only a few Jews followed last year's appeal by King Hassan for Jews who had emigrated to Israel, to return. In Fez, once the religious centre of Moroccan Jews, there are only 1,000 Jews now—once there were 17,000. In Marrakesh there are 1,820—formerly there were 25,000. 70 per cent of high-school leavers go to France and Canada each year in order to study at universities, and very few of them ever return.

PROTEST IN YUGOSLAVIA

Five Common Market MPs, including Mr. Greville Janner, QC, (Labour) and Mr. Ivan Lawrence (Conservative), were granted permission by the Yugoslav authorities to highlight the plight of the Soviet Jews at a press conference in Belgrade. It was the first such conference in a Communist country. The five MPs produced a dossier of known Soviet breaches of the Helsinki agreement to be discussed at the forthcoming Belgrade conference. They included the arrest and harassment of a number of Soviet Jews.

The Central Council of Jews in Germany appealed to President Tito to use his influence in ensuring that Jewish men and women should enjoy full human rights—as internationally recognised—in countries where they are denied such enjoyment because they are Jews. The Yugoslav government promised to do so.

PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE

The Jewish activist, Ilya Levin, 28, and David Darr, 67, and Mrs. Natalya Kozarinova, a dissident artist who earlier this year organised an unofficial art exhibition in Leningrad, were given visas to leave the country. Prominent Moscow physicist Professor Benjamin Fain was given permission to leave for Israel. Mr. Yakov Vinarov, who was sentenced in 1975 to three years' "work for the Soviet economy" has been released one year early.

Egon Larsen

JUDAS—A REFORMED CHARACTER?

"I know a good Hamburg Christian who could never get used to the fact that our Lord and Saviour was born a Jew. A deep annoyance overcomes him every time he has to admit to himself that the man who, a paragon of perfection, while deserving the greatest veneration, belonged to the tribe of those snotty longnoses whom he sees hawking their junk around the streets, whom he so thoroughly despises, and who are even more obnoxious to him if, like himself, they turn to the wholesale trade in spices and dyes, thereby encroaching upon his own interests".

Here we have, in Heinrich Heine's wise and witty definition, the main spring of the old *risches*, the base hatred of the Jewish minority in the Western world, as well as its uncomfortable inconsistency, nagging in the minds of many Christian believers. Not only Jesus himself was a Jew—or at least, to those who are convinced of his "immaculate conception", a half-Jew—but his disciples, the Evangelists and the Apostles were all Jews. Including, of course, the Apostle Judas Iscariot, Jesus' betrayer.

And there's the rub. For 1900 years, Judas has served the Christian world as the symbol and epitome of anti-Christian Jewry. It is only in our times that questions are being asked whether this attitude to Judas is still acceptable. Karl Barth, the Protestant theologian, has pleaded in defence of Judas; so has Robert Graves, the poet and author of *I, Claudius*. A German radio station broadcast the passionate play by our friend Peter Ury (he died last year) which endeavoured to rehabilitate Judas. The *Bischöfliche Akademie* in Aachen held a symposium at which "the problem of the character of Judas in the New Testament" was discussed by two scholars, the Swiss Jew, Hermann Levin Goldschmidt and the Catholic Meinrad Limbeck; both regarded the attitude to Judas as "one of the most grievous questions of our time, the cause of the difference between Christians and Jews". Their papers have now been published in a 100-page booklet under the title *Heilvoller Verrat? Judas im Neuen Testament* (Verlag Katholisches Bibelwerk, Stuttgart, 1976).

It is a sincere effort towards disarming the Judas legend, built up by the early Christian propagandists, so that it might at last cease to poison modern Christian minds against Jewry (a papal pronouncement of recent years has already exonerated the present-day generation of Jews from the blame for Jesus' crucifixion). After all, says Goldschmidt, Christianity owes its "glorious calling to liberation" to the Jews. "But when in medieval times, which are not yet really past, the feast of Easter began", he continues, "the houses of the Jews were shut and bolted. For not only Jesus, Judas too was a Jew; and suddenly it was—and still is—the latter fact, and not the former, which matters: the joy in Jesus suddenly turns to anger at Judas and at the Jews—into literally murderous anger. What a strange turn!"

Why, asks Goldschmidt, does the joy in Jesus the Jew matter so little, the fury about Judas the Jew so much? Is it not even stranger that this "corruption of the joy of Easter" takes no account of the fact that Jesus himself induces Judas to commit his alleged betrayal: "That thou doest, do quickly!" (St. John 13, 27). But there are odd inconsistencies in the various ways in which the Judas story is told by the biblical writers. The first one, Paul, who contributed to the New Testament, says nothing about

Judas or his misdeed. Mark, Luke, Matthew describe the incident differently, but, says Karl Barth, "with remarkable calm". It is only John the Evangelist—writing probably at the end of the first century CE, fifty years after the Crucifixion—who gets excited, alleging that Satan seized Judas, who in the end fell down on the piece of land he had bought with the 30 "silverlings" he had been given, and his entrails burst out of his body. The other Evangelists' versions make Judas hang himself after throwing the money back into the Temple.

Beneficial betrayal

Meinrad Limbeck's paper is largely a semantic and philological exercise. He refuses to accept the translation of the Greek verb *paradidonai* with "betray", as it appears in the western editions of the New Testament; he would prefer "hand over" instead. "For John", says Limbeck, "Judas is not only a devil, for him all the Jews are children of the devil, with the desire to kill Jesus, resisting the message of Jesus". Limbeck quotes the argument of a modern theologian, P. Berthold, who asked the Holy See to declare that it was only thanks to Judas that the ancient prophecies about the "Son of Man" were fulfilled. Had Judas refused to betray Jesus, despite the latter's pleas to be merciful and "make an end"—had he evaded his calling to do the deed "which had to be done for the sake of the salvation of all of us: he would have been a traitor to God. Without Judas, no cross; without the cross, no fulfilment of the plan for salvation", says P. Berthold.

In the same vein argues Karl Barth: "Before Judas hands over Jesus, God himself handed over Jesus, and Jesus handed himself over". It was, therefore, a beneficial betrayal. "Can we, despite all the dissimilarity (of Jesus and Judas), overlook the similarity?" asks Barth. "Among all the Apostles, Judas alone stands opposite Jesus and at his side. . . . He, too, suffers death in place of the others. In fact, Jesus did not go alone to his death—necessary for the atonement of the Apostles' sin—but together with Judas".

Goldschmidt's summing-up is that the Bible and its rendering of the Judas story are now being read more thoroughly and taken more seriously; and that Christians and Jews are at last getting together, complementing the other's work on the history of salvation. "Glad tidings", rejoices the Jewish savant.

To Limbeck the Catholic, the new approach to the Judas story has mainly a spiritual meaning: "If this example prevails upon Jews and Christians not to withhold their own loving-kindness from anyone, for the sake of God, and not to speak or think evil about anyone — then we would really have every reason to call the deed of Judas a 'beneficial betrayal'".

What are we, the victims of 1,900 years of Christian attacks on us as "Judasses", to make of this reforming of the character of the original Judas? Glad tidings, no doubt; but will it all also reform the mentality of hundreds of millions of Christians like Heine's wholesaler in spices and dyes? Judas the scapegoat was created as a figure of hate by the early Christians who needed it for propaganda reasons to close the ranks of their sect, with murderous effects throughout ancient, medieval and modern history. The well-meaning but sophisticated arguments of those contemporary

theologians may cut some ice with other theologians—yet religion is not a matter of arguments, but of emotions: fear and hatred, faith based on legends and mysteries. The material situation of the believers, the need of Church and political hierarchies to establish and maintain scapegoats and bugbears are the real causes of antisemitism, and the Judas legend comes in handy for the purpose. Judas the betrayer will live in the minds of the believers so long as he is needed. Mankind does not seem to be ready yet for humanitarian thinking and feeling.

RESTITUTION

FEDERAL GERMAN RESTITUTION AND COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

According to the June edition of the "Deutschland-Berichte" (published in Bonn), the restitution and compensation payments made by the German Federal Republic until the end of 1976 amounted to 54.700 million DM. The payments to be made in future (mainly annuities under the Federal Indemnification Law) are estimated at about 30.600 million DM, resulting in a total of past and future payments of 85.300 million DM. The largest single item consists of past and future payments under the Federal Indemnification Law (70.000 million DM). This is followed by payments of the Federal Restitution Law (4.250 million DM) and the Israel Agreement (3.450 million DM).

As far as the settlement of the claim is concerned the report states that there were only 0.48 per cent Federal Indemnification Law claims and 0.29 per cent Federal Restitution Law claims pending on January 1, 1977. Of the Federal Indemnification payments, one third each were made to residents in Germany, in Israel, and in other foreign countries. The position is slightly different with regard to payments under the Federal Restitution Law. 25 per cent of the recipients lived in Germany, 40 per cent in Israel and 35 per cent in other countries.

DOUBLE TAXATION RELIEF ON GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS

In reply to some enquiries received, we wish to re-state the position:

The pensions payable under any special provision made by the law of the Federal Republic of Germany or of Austria for victims of Nazi persecution qualify for the deduction of 50 per cent in charging them to U.K. tax, under Section 22 (2), Finance Act, 1974. Double taxation relief for any German or Austrian tax deducted from the pension will, however, be given for the whole amount of that tax. This follows from Leaflet I.R.25, issued by the Board of Inland Revenue in October, 1974, paragraph 1.3, which states that the double tax relief will be computed by reference to the foreign tax attributable to the full amount of overseas income chargeable to U.K. tax before taking into account the deduction of 50 per cent contained in Section 22 (2), Finance Act, 1974.

This rule is being applied correctly by most tax districts but where any difficulty arises, H.M. Inspector of Taxes should be referred to Leaflet I.R.25, paragraph 1.3.

F.E.F.

ELSE LASKER-SCHUELER RE-PUBLISHED

A new edition of the complete works of Else Lasker-Schueler, the German Jewish poet who died in Israel in 1945, has been published by the Roman Catholic Koessel-Verlag, Munich, at a remarkably low price (DM 16.80). It contains a facsimile reproduction of the book "Theben" which the author herself etched into a stone slab.

Johanna Philippon

JACOBSONSCHULE—JACOBSON-GYMNASIUM

In the March edition of this paper there appeared a brief notice that the Jacobson Schule in Seesen had changed its name to Jacobson-Gymnasium. Some days later I received a letter from its present headmaster, Oberstudiendirektor Rolf Ballof, and a brochure entitled "175 Jahre Jacobson-Gymnasium in Seesen". This was in answer to a letter which I had written to the town council of Seesen enquiring about the fate of the Jacobson Schule.

I am interested in the history of this German Jewish foundation because my uncle, Emil Philippon, was headmaster from 1886 to 1906, and I had taken an active part in the celebrations of the school's centenary in 1901. At that time it was a boys' school (Realschule), and some girls were needed to act in a play which a former teacher had written for this festive occasion. The jubilee celebrations showed how popular the school was in the small town. There was a torch-light procession in which the whole town seemed to take part, and representatives of the regional government (Duchy of Brunswick) were present, together with members of the Jacobson family, the municipal council of Seesen, the headmaster of the Samson School in Wolfenbuettel and many former pupils. There was a special service in the small synagogue which had been given to the school by its founder (it even had an organ, which in fact was the first organ in a German synagogue). Philippon was on very good terms with the government, which decorated him and gave him the title of "Professor".

Memories of a school play

At the time of this festival, the complete integration of Christians and Jews had apparently been achieved in Seesen. The play, in which my sister and I took part, represented the development of the school in three sections. I only remember the last one, which was allegorical. "Materialism", played by the strongest and tallest boy in the school, fought against me, symbolising the school itself. I had to beat him, but he was so strong that I was obliged to find protection behind a bush. That was a wooden piece of scenery which always collapsed with a crash whenever I touched it. My aunt (the headmaster's wife), who produced the play, was very cross whenever this happened during rehearsals. I was more afraid of the "bush" than of "Materialism". However, at the performance I succeeded in fleeing without any mishap. My sister, who was representing "Humanity", helped me to chase "Materialism" away. I remember that we considered the style of the play somewhat sentimental, but it was a great success. A dance was held after the performance, and I danced happily with the tall boy, who was no longer my "enemy".

I had no opportunity to judge the pedagogical methods used by my uncle as I was only 19 years old when he died and did not yet know that I was to become a teacher myself. However, I remember one incident

which showed his attitude to his pupils: one autumn day my uncle took me for a walk. We passed a field and saw a bonfire at the far end of it, surrounded by some boys. My uncle recognised them as his pupils, but he turned round and said: "It is forbidden to steal potatoes and to make a bonfire, but I have not seen anything." I realised that he could be severe when necessary, but was not a "spoil-sport".

He succeeded in changing the school into a "Realschule", so that gifted boys could enter a "Gymnasium" in Braunschweig in order to pass their final examination ("Abiturium") and go on to university.

During the twenty years of Emil Philippon's headmastership of the Jacobson Schule, a number of new buildings were added: the dormitory, a new gymnasium, a new infirmary, and a new house for the headmaster. He did not enjoy it for long. While giving a lesson, he suffered a stroke and died.

As far as I know, Philippon was fully occupied by his work for the school. He taught modern languages and had to deal with a great deal of administrative work, supervision of the building operations, and correspondence with the parents of boarders. Every Saturday he preached in the synagogue with a clear and resonant voice. He had a slightly dictatorial way of talking to young people, which he may have developed as a headmaster. His wife, Lina, was a great help in the management of the boarding school. Her brother, a well-to-do businessman in Berlin, made several donations to the school.

In 1921, the beginning of the inflation in Germany forced the Board of Trustees to relinquish control of the school, and the government took it over. It lost its special character and developed into a normal German "Realgymnasium". In 1928 the "Abiturium" examination was held there for the first time. Under the Nazi regime all Jewish pupils had to leave the school, and by 1936 none were left. The Synagogue was burnt during the "Kristallnacht" in November 1938. The school was closed for a few months in 1945, but reopened again in December 1945. It had by then lost any remnants of its original character, but the old buildings were still in use. When these were no longer adequate for the requirements of a modern "Realgymnasium", a new building was opened in 1972 in a different part of the town, and the collection of Judaica was given to the Jewish community in Hanover. No traces of the original Jacobson Schule were left.

In 1975 a conference of teachers decided to call the former Seesener Gymnasium "Jacobson Gymnasium". In his introduction to the commemorative brochure, the headmaster explains why this was done. When Jacobson founded his school, his main aims were to educate young people to be "reasonable and tolerant". Reason and tolerance were the guiding ideas of enlightenment, but as history shows, Jacobson did not succeed in the long run. The headmaster thinks that the present Jacobson Schule ought to find new methods of educating young people to be "reasonable and tolerant". However, it is not quite clear how tolerance can be achieved, as there are no pupils of Jewish or different racial origins at the school. It is to be hoped that staff can be found who are able to teach not only "knowledge", but can also educate their pupils to be "reasonable and tolerant", and to have the courage to stand up for their convictions.

MISCELLANEOUS

BRITISH FRIENDS OF ISRAELI WAR DISABLED

In the three years of their existence, the "British Friends of Israel War" disabled have arranged for over 500 disabled ex-servicemen to visit this country. As their visits contributed much to their physical and mental rehabilitation, the Israeli government have asked the organisation to receive three special categories who would not normally be able to travel abroad: the blind, the brain-damaged and the paraplegics. Many host families have subsequently visited Israel and returned home full of enthusiasm. The organisation has received so many gifts that it has been able to contribute £50,000 to the second *beth halochem* (House of the Fighters) under construction in Northern Israel. A number of UK families have subsequently gone on aliya and weddings between their daughters and the visitors have resulted.

ISRAELI TENNIS CHAMPION

Paulina Peled, the first Israeli woman to play at Wimbledon, has had an interesting and difficult career. Ten years ago, when she was 16, she came to Israel from Vilnius, Lithuania, with her parents. In Lithuania her father had been a well-known soccer and basketball player and referee before being appointed controller of Lithuania's state-controlled sport. At the age of 14, she had become under-18 tennis champion of her country. In Israel she played on cement courts, and first came to England to play on grass in 1967. Since then she has become Israel champion, played in the U.K. and in America where she took a degree in chemistry. In 1973, she became a professional and trained under the Anglo-Jewish 1956 finalist Angela Buxton. She explained to an interviewer that she had not played in 1974 and 1975 because she got married to a Sabra Eli Peled, but she is convinced that Israel is well into a lawn tennis explosion. She now coaches at Ramat Hasharon, a non-profitmaking tennis complex near Tel Aviv, where children have priority over adults and nearly 4,000 are coached each summer. She ranks among the world's best 100 players.

DEATH OF MME LUPESCU

Under the unfamiliar name of Princess Elena, Madame Lupescu, for many years the mistress and later the wife of King Carol of Romania, has died in Estoril, Portugal, aged 81. Older readers will remember the many scandals which attached to her over the years. Magda Lupescu was the red-haired daughter of a Jewish apothecary and innkeeper who had married a Roman Catholic woman from Vienna. She was educated at a Convent school and for many years, unaware of her Jewish origins, was openly antisemitic and at first gave support to the Fascist and antisemitic Iron Guard. In 1925, the Royal family ordered Carol to give her up, but he refused and renounced the throne instead. At the death of his father, King Ferdinand, Carol's five-year-old son, Michael, from his marriage to a Greek princess, became king. Carol was, however, recalled and returned to Bucharest with his mistress. After the fall of France in June 1940, he was once more forced to abdicate in favour of his son and left for Portugal with Mme Lupescu. In 1947, he married her in Brazil when she was thought to be on her death-bed, and gave her the title of Princess Elena. She recovered and he died in 1953, since when she lived friendless and in seclusion in Estoril.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

ISRAEL HELPS VIETNAMESE

Israel has offered refuge to 66 Vietnamese refugees saved from a sinking vessel in the Indian Ocean by the Israeli cargo ship *Yuvali*. Other countries had refused to accept them. Mr Begin, Israel's new Prime Minister, said Israelis remembered how ships carrying Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany were refused permission to land by one country after another and that many of them had to return to Germany where they later met their death. Mr. Zvi Nathan, the peace crusader and private radio owner, offered to pay for their fares to Israel and for their stay at Israeli hotels.

CONTROVERSIAL KNESSET MEMBER

The French financier Mr. Shmuel Flatto Sharon who was elected to the Knesset during the recent elections, has met with opposition from many quarters. He usually speaks only French and is constantly attended by an interpreter, but when he took the oath of allegiance as a new member, he did so in Hebrew. A Labour member called out "Disgraceful". Mrs. Aloni, the Civil Rights Movement member, and Mr. Ben-Porat, a journalist, lodged a complaint that he had bought votes in the General Election and that he withheld information from the Ministry of the Interior in order to obtain the status of a new immigrant. Mr. Raphael Helperin, a former wrestling champion who was one of Mr. Sharon's supporters at the poll, has become his bitter opponent and has instigated police inquiries into accusations of vote-buying. Mr. Sharon said over the radio Mr. Helperin was demented and should be treated with pity.

BEGIN AND GERMANY

The new Israeli Premier, Mr Menachem Begin, has repeatedly stated that he hates everything German. He has refused to give interviews to German journalists and has never accepted invitations by German diplomats or set foot into the German Embassy. When recently a young CDU member of the German Bundestag visited Israel to establish relations between the "conservative" parties of Germany and Israel, he was received by Begin's deputy, Ezer Weizman. Begin lost many members of his family in his native Poland after the German invasion.

WHY DAYAN JOINED GOVERNMENT

Mr. Moshe Dayan said in a TV interview that he had hesitated for four days before accepting Mr Begin's offer to be his Foreign Minister and abandoning the Labour Party. Mr. Begin had offered him the post saying that he might be the best Foreign Minister he could appoint. Asked about the demonstrations against him by parents who had lost their sons in the Yom Kippur War, Mr. Dayan said this should not automatically debar him from ever holding office again. "I do not agree with those who feel that I am tainted for ever or that it would be a blemish for me to hold public office again", he said.

WORLD BANK LOAN CUTS

Until two years ago, the World Bank considered Israel a developing country and paid her loans of about £17½ million per year. Now the Bank has informed the Israeli Government that Israel is now a developed country because her *per capita* income has increased to £1,530 a year, and that only previously arranged loans would still be paid. The Ministry of Finance intends to remonstrate with World Bank president Mr. McNamara when he visits Israel in the near future that the decision hits Israel hard because of her high defence costs, the large balance of payments deficits and her total debts of nearly £6,000 million. The *per capita* income figure is considered illusory, because it includes the proportionate defence costs paid by an individual.

LINK WITH PORTUGAL

Israel and Portugal have at last established diplomatic relations. Until now, they have only maintained consulates in each other's country.

OLD MASTERS IN ISRAEL

When the British Ambassador to Israel, Mr. John Mason, opened the exhibition of Old Masters' Drawings from the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth House at the Israel Museum, he said that he had been born and brought up within 50 miles of Chatsworth, but that he had to come to Jerusalem to see its art treasures. The opening of the exhibition launched a three weeks' festival "Spring in Jerusalem". The Duke of Devonshire said on the same occasion that Jerusalem was the ideal place to see pictures, some of which had been exhibited in other parts of the world, but the Jews had contributed so much to Western culture and civilisation. His father had already been an ardent Zionist and friend of Dr. Chaim Weizmann's.

EL AL CHARTER SERVICES

Israel's national airline, El Al, has formed its own Charter Services in order not to leave the field to foreign companies. Services from Britain and Germany to Elat and Jerusalem will start in the autumn.

NEW TESTAMENT IN HEBREW

For the first time, the Israeli Bible Society has published a Hebrew translation of the New Testament which it has taken eight years to accomplish. Protestant and Roman Catholic scholars have worked for the publishers. The New Testament is widely read in schools, universities and Kibbutzim in Israel.

"THE STAR OF ISRAEL"

In Haifa's new indoor sports palace, an exhibition devoted to famous Jewish sportsmen and women from all over the world has attracted much attention. It includes two original etchings of Daniel Mendoza (1763-1836), the Sephardi British boxer, known as the "Star of Israel". They were presented by Mrs. Li Handler of Vienna.

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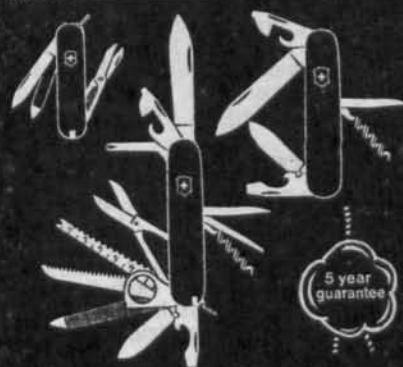
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ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

BRITISH ACADEMY

At the annual meeting of the British Academy, Sir Isaiah Berlin was re-elected president. Freiburg-born Dr. David Daube, professor and director of Roman and Hebrew Law Collections at the University of Berkeley in California and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, was elected a fellow. He subsequently addressed the Anglo-Jewish Association on "Moral Problems in Medicine".

CBE FOR TEL AVIV LAWYER

Mr. Max Seligmann has been appointed an honorary CBE. He has spent a lifetime promoting friendly relations between the British and Israeli peoples as the founder and perennial chairman of the Israel, Britain and Commonwealth Association. 60 years ago, he founded the junior Zionist organisation in Wales where he was born.

LORD JANNER 85

Lord Janner, well known for his sponsoring of many Jewish causes, was congratulated in the House of Lords when he celebrated his 85th birthday. The Jewish National Fund of America planted a grove of 1,000 trees in Israel in his honour.

The AJR sent a congratulatory message to Lord Janner, who has always been a trusted friend of the organisation and rendered it effective help whenever approached.

ATLAS OF PAEDIATRICS BY REFUGEE SPECIALIST

Dr. M. Dynski-Klein, Honorary Consultant Paediatrician, has published a "Colour Atlas of Paediatrics" which is the first of its kind in this country and which has also been translated for publication in Spanish and French. Dr. Dynski-Klein came to this country as a refugee from Czechoslovakia where she had been Deputy Director of the German University Children's Clinic in Prague.

PIIONEER FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED HONOURED

The principal of the Ravenswood Village for the mentally handicapped, Mr. Stanley S. Segal, was honoured by a Leeds Catholic foundation, the Trinity and All Saints Colleges, when an annual lecture was inaugurated in his name. The first of these lectures was given by Dr. Thomas Weiss of the Rudolf Steiner Camphill Schools who belonged to a group of young doctors who escaped from Nazi Germany with a group of handicapped children and set up the first Camphill community in Aberdeen. Mr. Segal has devoted his life to the care for such children and is perhaps best known for his book "No child is ineducable".

When Ravenswood Village for the mentally handicapped held a Jubilee Party, attended by over 500 people, a rug made by residents of the village was handed over to Colonel Palmer, vice-Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, to be presented to the Queen. Sir Martin Charteris, the Queen's private secretary, wrote to Mr. Stanley Segal, principal of Ravenswood that the Queen thanked the residents for the rug which she was delighted to accept.

A BADGE FOR THE BLIND

When her husband lost his sight, Mrs. Rosalind Herzfeld of Park Lane designed an identification badge for blind people which has been distributed by the Royal National Institute for the Blind and is in use in America, Israel and Iceland. She has also designed unbreakable toys for blind children and a game in Braille. The Jewish Blind Society has given a special award to Mrs. Herzfeld. The badge shows a hand grasping a white stick.

MEMORIAL VOLUME FOR JEWISH SCHOLAR

A memorial volume, sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Lodges and edited by Mr. Fred Worms and Dr. Albert Friedlaender, is about to be published to remember the scholar Meir Gertner who died a short while ago soon after his equally renowned brother Levi Gertner. Both were great Jewish scholars and taught many thousands of pupils of all ages.

NELLY-SACHS-PRIZE FOR HERMAN KESTEN

The DM 20,000 Nelly-Sachs-Prize of the city of Dortmund has been awarded to the author Hermann Kesten for his merits in promoting understanding and reconciliation between nations, and for the aid he generously gave to political persecutees. Kesten who was born in Nuremberg in 1900, lived in the US as a Jewish refugee during the war, but has now lived in Rome for many years. His novels "Children of Guernica", "Josef's Quest for Freedom", "The Twins of Nuremberg" and many others deal with contemporary problems.

ART HISTORIAN ALFRED SCHEUER

Former pop singer Mike Sarne who is now a film maker, is at the moment engaged on sorting out the published and unpublished manuscripts of his father, the art historian Alfred Scheuer who came to this country as a refugee from Czechoslovakia and died in February. Alfred Scheuer was an expert on forgeries and the first to denounce the alleged prehistoric Piltdown Man as a forgery.

AWARD FOR HANS LAMM

Dr. Hans Lamm, president of the Munich Jewish Community, was awarded the Bavarian Order of Merit which is never given to more than 2,000 persons. Dr. Lamm is also an executive member of the German-Israeli Society, of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and of the co-ordinating Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Co-operation.

JEWISH WRITER HONOURED

The international Goethe Foundation in Basle has awarded the sf 20,000 Jacob Burckhard Prize to the Jewish writer Claude Vigee who comes from Bischweiler, a small town and centre of Jewish tradition near Strasbourg. He spent the war years teaching European literature at the Brandeis University in the US. In 1950 he went to Israel and became Professor for comparative literature at the Hebrew University. His poetic work reflects his deep love for the places of his childhood and for Israel.

A REMARKABLE DOUBLE

Sir Leonard Wolfson who received a knighthood in the Jubilee honours had just before been made an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians whose Regents Park headquarters were built 13 years ago with grants from the Wolfson Foundation.

BOOK COMPLAINT UPHELD

The Advertising Standards Authority has upheld a complaint by Dr. Abraham Marcus that the Middle East Yearbook, published by the Centre for Middle East and Islamic Studies at Durham University had excluded Israel, in spite of its claim to contain "up-to-date facts and figures of the 20 countries of the Middle East". Dr. Marcus said that there were 21 countries including Israel.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

YOUTH ALIYAH'S ACHIEVEMENT

At a Royal Lancaster Hotel luncheon held by the Youth Aliyah Aid Society, a record £19,000 was raised. The guest speaker, Mr. Terence Prittie, said Israel had never needed help as much as today when she was going through her most difficult time since 1948. He stated that before 1948, he himself had hardly any connection with the Jewish people. At that time he wrote an article about displaced persons which aroused the fury of an English social worker in Germany, Laura Livingstone, who subsequently took him around some D.P. camps. Since then he had made it his business to do all in his power to help. Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg, M.P., said that since its foundation Youth Aliyah had helped 165,000 children, and established 270 youth villages and 22 day centres. One in every 20 Israeli citizens had been a Youth Aliyah ward.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE AWARDS

The special Jubilee Queen's awards medals were awarded to the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, Lord Janner, Miss Catherine MacLennan, matron of the Jewish Home and Hospital in Tottenham, and Dr. Margot Shiner, a consultant of the Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton, and at Northwick, Park Hospital.

ADVISER ON ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Rabbi Uri Thernal, erstwhile rabbi of Leeds, Berlin, and Perth, has been appointed to Australia's new Ethnic Affairs Council which will advise the Australian Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs on the integration of immigrants into Australian life.

CENTENARY OF THE "B.Z"

To mark the 100th anniversary of the "B.Z. am Mittag," an 80-page special edition was published by the Ullstein Verlag (printed by Axel Springer Verlag). It carries commemorations of Leopold Ullstein (1826-1899), the founder of the publishing house, and his son, Louis, who in 1904 converted the morning paper "Berliner Zeitung," acquired in 1877, into the B.Z. Among the other personalities mentioned in the special issue are Ernst Wallenberg, once chief editor, Else Ury, the author of children and youth books (who was deported under the Nazis), and Egon Jameson (formerly Jacobsohn), who was star reporter of the B.Z. until 1933 and died in England in 1969. E.G.L.

ISRAELI SCHOLARSHIP

Professor Amos Banin who is a scientist in the faculty of agriculture in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has been invited to join an American research team studying soil and water on the planets under the auspices of Nasa, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He is the only non-American member of the team. For the past three years he has been taking part in a study of the properties of frozen soils in the periglacial laboratory of the University of Washington in Seattle.

After seven seasons of intensive diggings on the edge of the Negev desert near Beersheba, the distinguished Israeli archaeologist Yohanan Aharoni who died recently, discovered the great well of Abraham with a shaft of six feet in diameter. The finds confirm the bible stories of the importance of Beersheba as the cultural and religious centre of the Israelites as they wandered out of Mesopotamia towards Canaan 4,000 years before the Christian era. Water was the key to Abraham's frontier policy, and his family were committed to maintain the well. It called for considerable expertise in building.

DR L. GUMPEL

Dr. Lilo Gumpel about whose career and award of a Cambridge fellowship we wrote in our June edition, is Associate Professor of German at the University of Minnesota, not Assistant Professor as was erroneously stated in that report.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

RABBI DR. JOACHIM PRINZ 75

To honour Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz on the occasion of his recent 75th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his career as a rabbi and communal leader, his congregation, Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingstone (New Jersey), arranged a special celebration. Dr. Prinz intends to retire at the end of the year but will retain his close contacts with the congregation as "Rabbi Emeritus".

Readers from Berlin, where he officiated until 1937, will remember Joachim Prinz's gift of strengthening the Jewish consciousness of the community, especially of its younger members, by the modern way in which he got the message of Judaism and the unique position of the Jewish people across. This became particularly essential after the Nazis had come to power. His courageous addresses, which ultimately resulted in measures against him by the Nazi authorities, gave the Jews self-confidence in those dark days.

In the United States Dr. Prinz also plays a leading part in the national organisations of the country. For many years he was President of the American Jewish Congress and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations. In 1963, during the fight for civil rights of the underprivileged black people, he closely associated himself with the activities and objectives of Martin Luther King.

His former followers and pupils from Germany in this country feel united with their fellow Jews in the States in extending their cordial congratulations to Joachim Prinz on the occasion of his two-fold jubilee.

WOLFGANG S. MATSDORF 70

On August 9, Dr. Wolfgang S. Matsdorf (Jerusalem) will celebrate his 70th birthday. He has been associated with Jewish activities from his early youth onwards, when he joined the "Deutsch-Juedische Jugend-Gemeinschaft" (DJJG) in Berlin and later, as a student, the K.C. fraternity. When the Nazis came to power and he was dismissed as a "Referendar", he rendered valiant services under the auspices of the Central-Verein during the first turbulent months, taking special interest in the problems of the large retail concerns, which at that time were under constant pressure of liquidation and boycott. Later, he became "Syndikus" of the Hesse Regional District of the C.V. Considering the particular situation of the Jews in that part of Germany, especially in the smaller towns and in the villages, this work called for much courage and energy. In 1938, he emigrated to Australia, where he first worked with the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, and, until the outbreak of war, was instrumental in the admission of many persecuted German Jews to that Continent. Later, he became a probation officer.

CLUB 1943

Vortraege jeden Montag um 8 p.m.
in Hannah Karminski House
9 Adamson Road, N.W.3.

1. Aug. Dr. Gabriele Tergit spricht ueber das Buch von Werner Landsburgh: "Dear Doosie".
- 8 Aug. Dr. Felix Fifer (Lecturer at Whitelands College): "Bolivia, the Country and the People" (with slides).
- 15 Aug. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Jerusalem, Die Stadt und das Problem".
- 22 Aug. Dr. Else Meidner: "Walter Benjamin und die Wahlverwandtschaften".
- 29 Aug. Bank Holiday.
- 5 Sept. Mrs. Jane Seglow: "Changing Attitudes in Social Welfare."

After his retirement, he and his wife re-emigrated to Israel. Though free of any office duties, he is still as active and full of energy and initiative as he had always been. He takes a leading part in the work of the B'nai B'rith Lodge and edits its English language bulletin. He also helped to organise the planting in Israel of a forest of 10,000 trees in memory of the perished members of the K.C. At the same time, he is a proficient research worker, and one of his publications is a work on the fate of the former pupils of the Gross-Breesen training centre under the title "No time to grow". He also has been the correspondent to several Jewish papers including the "Jewish Chronicle".

Yet even more gratifying than his manifold general achievements in the Jewish field is his personal loyalty to his friends, with many of whom he spent his formative years under the guidance of Ludwig Tietz. All of them, wherever they may live now, feel united in their cordial wishes for Wolfgang Matsdorf, the youthful septuagenarian. W.R.

MR. MAC GOLDSMITH 75

Mr. Mac Goldsmith (Leicester) who celebrated his 75th birthday on July 3, is one of those former refugees who by their technical knowledge enriched the industrial life of this country. At the same time, he is associated with many Jewish and non-Jewish causes as a generous benefactor. He brought with him skills in the bonding of rubber to metal for shock absorption that created revolutionary improvements in the Midlands car industry. When the University of Leicester conferred on him the honorary doctorate, the public orator remarked that Mr Goldsmith combined "outstanding technological and commercial initiative and deeply humane cultivation." In recognition of his generous services, which among many other things include the endowment of the Goldsmith Record Library, he was made a Freeman of the City of Leicester.

Mr. Goldsmith also holds numerous offices in the Jewish field. He is Treasurer of the Leicester Hebrew Congregation, Life-Governor of Hillel House (London) and Life President of Leicester University Jewish Students' Association.

Whilst this enumeration does not aim at being complete, we have to add a special word of thanks to Mr. Goldsmith for his constant interest in the AJR. He has been a member almost since its inception and, whenever approached, proved a most helpful and understanding friend. His numerous activities in the wider Jewish and general sphere are thus enhanced by an unreserved identification with his community of origin. In gratitude we extend our sincerest birthday wishes to Mr. Goldsmith.

A VETERAN ZIONIST

Mr Ernest Frankel, an hon. vice-president of the Zionist Federation recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Mr. Frankel was born in Frankfurt and took part in one of the famous Hachsharat at Markenhof in the Black Forest. He met and married an English girl, now herself vice-president of Wizo, and the two came to Britain in 1933. He was a founder member of the Israel Office of the Zionist Federation and a treasurer of the Federation for many years.

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ALICE GOLDBERGER 80

On August 15, Miss Alice Goldberger will celebrate her 80th birthday. A kindergarten teacher by profession, she was a superintendent of Anna Freud's Hampstead Nurseries during the war and for years lived with the evacuated children in the country. After the war, she did spade work in the rehabilitation of the orphan children who had survived the concentration camps and were brought to this country. She looked after them first in the reception centre in Windermere and afterwards in the hostel which was opened for them in Lingfield and later transferred to Isleworth. Miss Goldberger now lives in retirement but she has remained the "mother" of the children of the post-war years, many of whom have meanwhile become parents themselves. She keeps contact with them and also travels to countries where some of them have settled. Furthermore, she does much voluntary work in London for the benefit of people who need help and encouragement and assists Anna Freud in her Hampstead Child Therapy Clinic. We wish Miss Goldberger many more years of active life in undiminished health and vigour.

Dr. HUGO MARX 85

On June 27 Dr. Hugo Marx, retired "Landgerichtspraesident", celebrated his 85th birthday in Basle where he now lives. Born in Heidelberg, he studied at that University under Max Weber and was appointed first public prosecutor and later a High Court Judge in Mannheim. He was a co-founder of the Union of Social-Democratic graduates. When he had to leave office in 1933, he went to Paris and Brussels once more to study law and to acquire academic degrees in France and Belgium. In 1941 he fled to the U.S. In 1965 he published a "politico-sociological picture of our times" in which he discussed, as he did in a number of other publications, his own experiences and the conclusions he drew from them. His friend, the writer and philosopher Margarete Susman (1872-1966) who also lived in Switzerland, revealed in her autobiography that Hugo Marx was also a gifted graphologist.

THE MANDELL COLLECTION

The founder of the unique private collection of works on Jewish musicology, Eric Mandell (formerly Erich Mendel), recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Before he emigrated, he was chief cantor of the Bochum Jewish community. In the U.S., he was until his retirement Musical Director of the Har Zion Congregation in Philadelphia. His collection is now deposited with the Gratz College of that city, where it serves as a most valuable source of information for scholars and artists.

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OBITUARY

NELLY ENGEL

Many old and new friends mourn the death of Mrs. Nelly Engel who has died in London at the age of 83. She played a prominent part in the work of Wizo, the Joint and in refugee work generally and wrote many spirited contributions to "AJR Information". One of them last year was on the occasion of the 85th birthday of Dr. Robert Weltsch, an old friend from her youth in Prague. She related how he made her take over the editorship of the "Selbstwehr" (Self-Defence), the Prague Zionist weekly, when he was joining the Army in the First World War. At the time, she took part in the aid to Jewish refugees from Galicia who fled to Prague, providing them with shelter, housing, employment and education for their children. At the age of 22, she became local director of the American Joint Distribution Committee. After the war she travelled widely, lecturing and negotiating on behalf of the Jewish National Council to convince the Czechoslovak authorities that the Jews constituted a nationality of their own. This was subsequently recognised by law. When she married in 1919, she was given the distinction of wearing the jewelled gold crown, given to the Prague Jewish communities for services rendered to a King of Sweden. It has never been worn since. In 1933 she visited Palestine and met Bialik. She sat with Chaim Arlosoroff on the terrace of the Kaete Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv just before he left for a stroll on the beach and was murdered. When in 1934 the first German Jewish refugees arrived in Czechoslovakia, the Engels established a Kibbutz Hachsharah in the grounds of their china factory in a rural area five miles from the German border and sheltered dozens of chaltzim who crossed the border illegally. Sometimes there were as many as 60 people sleeping in the cellars of the Engels' villa which had been adapted for the purpose. Several hundred such refugees eventually went to Israel. In October, 1938, the Engels themselves came to England as refugees, and Nelly Engel became one of the seven members of the Women's State Council appointed by President Benes on the recommendation of Jan Masaryk, her old friend, to represent the Jewish women of Czechoslovakia. For 30 years she was chairman of the Maria Schmolka Wizo group which she had helped to found. She was chairman, later hon. president, of the Bayswater Synagogue ladies' guild and hon. vice-president of the Federation of Women

Zionists. The women's centre in Ofakim in the Negev was named after her.

All those who had the good fortune of meeting Nelly Engel were bound to feel immediately attracted by her personality. Her widespread knowledge and experience was linked with charm and a strong sense of humour.

DR. HANS G. REISSNER

Dr. Hans G. Reissner, Princeton, N.J., unexpectedly passed away on June 8, in his 75th year. Born in Berlin, he studied history and was a pupil of Friedrich Meinecke. After having obtained his degree, he became private secretary to the late Wilfrid Israel and obtained a responsible position with the N. Israel Department Store. At the same time, like Wilfrid Israel, he took an active interest in Jewish affairs and belonged to the small circle of young communal workers, Zionists and non-Zionists alike, who gathered around Ludwig Tietz and Wilfrid Israel in 1932 to prepare the ground for the emergency situation which was bound to arise as soon as the Nazis would come to power.

Unlike many other big firms, the house of N. Israel went into liquidation only at the end of 1938, and Hanns Reissner was one of those who remained in Berlin throughout the pre-war Nazi years. During the last months after the November pogroms, his honorary offices in the Jewish sphere included the membership of the committee in charge of the selection of applicants for the Kitchener Transit Camp in Richborough (Kent). He and his family left Berlin only shortly before the outbreak of war and emigrated via England to India, where he obtained an executive position with the Firestone concern. After the war, he re-emigrated to the United States. There he held first positions in the banking trade and later, until his retirement, was professor at Queens College of the City University of New York and at the New York Institute of Technology.

Throughout his life, Hanns Reissner was active as a research worker and author. He was co-editor of the Philo-Lexikon and of the Lexikon des Judentums, which appeared after the war. His biography of Eduard Gans was published in the "Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts". His literary works also include many articles and monographs in the field of modern Jewish history and of genealogy, and this journal frequently had the privilege of publishing contributions by him. He was a

Fellow of the LBI, New York, and, during the last years of his life, took part in the work of the research and collection centre of the International Biographical Archives and Dictionary of Central European Emigres, 1933-1945.

A member of the steadily decreasing generation whose work on German Jewish historiography is based on first hand background knowledge, Hanns Reissner will be sadly missed as a thorough and knowledgeable research worker. Yet beyond this, his death is deeply mourned by all those who knew him and to whom he had been a loyal friend throughout the years. They feel united in their sense of loss with his wife, Yvonne, and his children and their families.

W.R.

RABBI SHMUEL NATHAN

Breslau-born Rabbi Shmuel Nathan died at a hospital in Malaga, Spain, aged 63. He attended a World Tourism Organisation meeting as one of the longest serving members of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. A few years ago, he had been appointed adviser for international relations and in that capacity represented Israel at conferences all over the world. During the Second World War, he was a regional chaplain in the RAF and held the rank of Wing Commander. He was also senior Jewish chaplain, RAF Mediterranean and Middle East.

FRITZ STERN

Mr. Fritz Stern who came from Fulda, a centre of the German Jewish Orthodoxy, has died in Cardiff, aged 76. He came to Cardiff in 1938 and became a pillar of the local Orthodox community.

REMEMBERING THE DEAD OF GURS

On Memorial Sunday for the victims of deportation, the population of Gurs and adjoining villages held special memorial services for the Jews from Southern Germany who were deported to Gurs and died there or were sent to extermination camps in the East. The commander of the district police Dr. Vanoni and Councillor General Massey expressed their horror at what happened and pledged to do everything in their power to prevent a repetition. A former inmate of Gurs, O. Althausen represented the Jewish Oberrat of Baden and thanked the brave men of the Basque province who had helped him and many of his friends to regain their freedom and who now took such good care of the cemeteries of victims. A Catholic priest said a prayer asking for forgiveness for the perpetrators of the crimes and for those who had refrained from helping the suffering.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge; any voluntary donation would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Meyer.—Mrs. G. Meyer, (née Ullmann), of 6 Wycombe Gardens, London, N.W.11, will celebrate her 90th birthday on August 15.

Lichtenstein.—Mrs. Hede Lichtenstein, of 9 Redcliffe Road, Nottingham, celebrated her 81st birthday on June 28. Heartiest repeat congratulations from daughter Charlotte and other family members and friends.

Forthcoming Marriage

Kobner.—Dr. and Mrs. Kobner announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Caroline to Ytzhak Steinreich.

Deaths

Abraham.—Max Abraham, of 132 The Albany, Bournemouth, Dorset, passed away suddenly on June 23. Deeply mourned by his devoted wife, Celina, relatives and many friends.

Gutherz.—Margarete Cantele, née Gutherz (Dresden-Mailand) died in June. She was such a lovable and courageous person. We miss her very much. Her sister and brothers.

Hirschfeld. — Mrs. Florence (Florry) Hirschfeld passed away on July 5, aged 78. Deeply mourned by her son, Arthur, his wife, Eva, family and friends.

Lewy.—Miriam Martha Lewy, formerly Danzig, Berlin and London, passed away on July 2 in Tel Aviv. Mourned and affectionately remembered by her family and friends.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

INFORMATION REQUIRED

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WIDOW, OWN HOME, independent, no children, wishes to meet kind, sympathetic gentleman, about 68 years, for companionship; marriage considered. Please reply with telephone number.—Box 672.

CONTINENTAL, recently widowed lady, own home, independent, would like to meet educated, kind, Continental gentleman about 65-70 years for companionship. Please reply with telephone number. Box 676.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

NAZI VICTIMS' COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION

For the past ten years, former members of the SS have met unopposed in Nassau in the Lahn valley. This year members of the Hitler Youth and of the infamous "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler" did so again, but they were met by a counter-demonstration of young people, of members of the Council of Christians and Jews and of survivors of concentration camps who silently marched through the town carrying black posters to commemorate the dead. A band of young musicians who had agreed to play for the SS were so impressed that they withdrew their consent. Nazi victims in the Netherlands announced that they would henceforth boycott Nassau and other centres of tourism which lend themselves to SS reunions.

The Jewish community in Regensburg protested against a meeting of the *German Reich Freedom Movement* which was held in premises belonging to the Archbishop of Regensburg. Speakers used Nazi invectives against Jews. During a parade, offensive weapons and black, white and red banners were on open display, but the police did not intervene. They intervened, however, during a second parade when Left-wing youth organisations staged a counter-demonstration.

PAROLE FOR MURDERERS?

The Hamburg Senate refused to extend the parole granted to 62-year-old Wilhelm Rosenbaum who received a life-sentence for killing more than 100 Jews and who had been released on parole for six months last December, but stated it would consider an act of clemency for him in two years' time. Another former Nazi, 73-year-old former SS colonel Krahnner who also received six months' parole in December, will be allowed to remain free for another year. The senate said in a statement that acts of clemency were not open to justification and that it therefore did not give any explanation of its decision.

FRANKFURT JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Frankfurt Jewish community has about 5,000 members, yet the actual number of Jews living in the city is probably considerably higher. According to the official statistics of the Jewish central organisations, it is the second largest community in the Federal Republic. The largest community, Berlin, comprises over 5,600 members, and the third largest, Munich, 3,800. This means that more than half of the Jews in Germany are resident in one of these three cities; the rest are spread over about 60 smaller communities.

A recently published list of addresses of the Frankfurt Jewish community and its institutions reveals that there are altogether two synagogues and four prayer rooms in Frankfurt. There are also two Jewish butchers and one kosher midday restaurant. The community, whose spiritual head is Communal Rabbi Dr. Sobel, maintains an infants school, named after the late Rabbi Dr. Lichtigfeld, a kindergarten, a youth centre, a large Old Age Home, a community club and a Social Department, linked with the community administration. The older Jewish cemetery (Rat-Beil-Strasse) and the New Jewish cemetery (Eckenheimer Landstrasse) are looked after by the community. E.G.L.

EUROPEAN B'NAI B'RITH IN BERLIN

For the first time, a cultural conference of all European B'nai B'rith Lodges was held in Berlin. The participants discussed their work in the fields of education, in the fight against discrimination and defamation and the recent change in the structure of Lodges which guaranteed complete equality to women members. Berlin's mayor Wolfgang Lüder said that of all the cities of Germany, Berlin was the one where all parties had from the very beginning unwaveringly stood up for the cause of Israel and the Jewish people.

DESECRATIONS

In Cham in Bavaria a 100-year-old cemetery was desecrated by unknown criminals. Some 52 of the 57 tombstones were dug up and overturned, and 32 children's graves were damaged. The police are investigating the case, and the Bavarian Government expressed its indignation to the Jewish community. It will cost about £75,000 to restore the cemetery. Wooden memorial boards at a nearby concentration camp cemetery were also dug up and burned. The same thing happened at the memorial in the notorious Flossenbürg camp. Two banners were burned on the altar of the chapel, the offertory was pulled out, and a number of tombstones were defaced with white oil paint.

In Karlsruhe a 20-year-old slater and two of his friends were sent to prison and fined for having painted antisemitic slogans on walls and on a memorial for Nazi victims in Freiburg.

NEO-NAZI MEETING IN DACHAU BANNED

The Bavarian Ministry of the Interior have informed the Central Council of Jews in Germany that it had prohibited a planned meeting of Right-wing extremists in Dachau because it would have been an intolerable provocation which would have been condemned by the general German public and by world opinion. The Ministry stressed that it kept constant watch on extremists of the Left and of the Right who were likely to offend against the basic liberty of individuals and the security of the State.

JEWISH INDUSTRIALIST HONOURED

On the occasion of his 60th birthday and of the 30-year Jubilee of his enterprise, Mr Henry Ehrenberg was made an honorary senator of Tübingen University and awarded the Baden-Württemberg Order of Merit during a ceremony which was attended by leading politicians, economists and scholars in the beautiful baroque castle of Bebenhausen/Ludwigsburg. Mr. Ehrenberg is largely responsible for the renewal of Jewish life in Württemberg.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT BECAME OF REFUGEE CHILDREN?

Sir,—I read Margot Pottlitzer's article in the June issue. It referred to a lecture by Professor Grenville which was also reported in the "Jewish Chronicle" and which I feel needs correcting.

In the first instance it would appear that the Professor is mistaken in involving the Jewish Refugees Committee; he presumably intended to refer to the Refugee Children's Movement which was financed by the Baldwin Fund and which sponsored some 10,000 children from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, including the Professor. Its chairman was Lord Corell, and I myself was a member, having arrived as a refugee a short time earlier. We were working under the greatest pressure, and our first priority was to bring over as many children as possible, since the Home Office had set no limit on numbers, provided that no financial burden fell on the government. We faced many problems including the finding of suitable accommodation and educational facilities. After the outbreak of war, we had the additional task of evacuating the children, and this meant fresh schooling arrangements. Naturally finance was a consideration, and in the ordinary way it was not possible to provide higher education—but this of course equally applied to many British-born children. Nevertheless many of our children passed their School Certificates by going to evening classes and have since achieved success in the same way as the Professor.

LOLA HAHN-WARBURG

Lexten House,
Middleton Cheney,
nr. Banbury, Oxon.

SPINOZA REHABILITATED

Sir,—According to your issue of June, 1977, under the heading "Spinoza Rehabilitated" the information seems to be not quite correct. According to the historian Simon Dubnow the ban on Spinoza was lifted in 1927. The relevant passage reads: "So konnte denn am 25. Todestag des Philosophen eine Stimme ertönen: Der Cherm gegen Spinoza ist aufgehoben." (Dubnow, Weltgeschichte des Juedischen Volkes, Band VII, Seite 475.)

HANS LIBROWICZ

212 Bradford Road,
ShIPLEY, West Yorkshire.

CONTACTS WITH NAZI VICTIMS SOUGHT

Sir,—I am a teacher of junior high youth here in California. Beginning next December I will commence a course for the mentally gifted entitled "War and Revolution in the 20th Century". A major theme/unit of mine will be the plight of refugees and the Holocaust. I make it a point in my other classes to inform my students of the tyranny Jews lived and died under during the Hitler Era. If you could be of any aid to me this would be most appreciated. What I would like is to have my individual students correspond with some of your people so that they can become more personally involved with the people who lived during that terrible era. Books and statistics don't seem to involve the students as well as personal contact. Thank you for your help and interest.

DEAN R. BOWMAN

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180 El Sereno Drive,
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THE PROBLEM OF MENTAL ILLNESS

Psychiatrists and psychologists have recently published results of research which seem to indicate that more Jews than non-Jews suffer from psychoses and neuroses and that some mental hospitals in and around London have a frighteningly high number of Jewish patients. Mr. Eric Wain, public relations officer at Friern Barnet Hospital, said that there were 300 Jewish patients out of a total of 1,200 there. Many of them were long-stay patients who had come to this country as refugees. Mrs. Mary Steinberger, voluntary social worker and vice-chairman of the Barnet Association for Mental Health, said there was a shortage of volunteers for visiting and befriending and there were many long-stay patients who have not had visitors for some considerable time. She is convinced that a special organisation for Jewish patients, taking account of the cultural background of the family, was needed.

JEWS TO HELP NEW IMMIGRANTS

At the annual meeting of the Jewish Welfare Board, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits, urged the Jewish community to make available its know-how to the next generation of immigrants in the field of welfare and self-help. The passing on of expertise would go some way towards making a contribution "towards paying the debt we owe to Great Britain".

PLIGHT OF WIENER LIBRARY

"In Danger—Memorial to the Nazi Victims" was the splash headline of an article in the earlier editions of the "Evening Standard" of June 17. Hilary Macaskill interviewed the present head librarian, Mrs. Christa Wichmann, from whom she received information about the history of the Library, its importance as a source of information to researchers from all over the world and the serious financial position in which it now finds itself. The article concludes: "The financial situation is precarious and there is the possibility that it may have to move to Tel Aviv. It would be a tremendous loss to writers and historians . . . as well as the radio and television companies and to countless individuals who telephone the Wiener Library daily".

PLAYS ABOUT JEWISH SUFFERING

The Bolton Octagon Theatre presented a play "No Parasan" ("They shall not pass") at the Half Moon Theatre, a converted synagogue in Stepney. It tells the story of a German Jewish boxer who fought in Berlin before 1933 and at the 1936 Olympics acted as a sparring partner to a British boxer who made him come to England and fight in the East End confronting the British Fascists. He returns to Germany to rescue his parents, but does not return. After the war, the British boxer goes in search of him and finds that he has been killed in a concentration camp. The author of the play, Dave Holman, is not a Jew and explained that he wanted to counteract the considerable amount of present-day Fascist activity in the Bolton area. The play has already been presented at a number of schools in Lancashire.

Another play "The Friday Murder" by Benjamin Kuras, shown at the Soho Poly, shows a Cockney Jewish Scotland Yard chief who is asked by a bearded Orthodox Jew called Freitag to arrest him for the murder of his neighbour. It turns out that Freitag was originally a Nazi leader at Belsen who is expiating his sins and the loss of the Jewish girl he loved by practising Orthodox Judaism. The murdered man was his superior officer whose American disguise he penetrated. The detective finds the pull of Jewish blood stronger than the call of duty and refuses to arrest him.

BEQUEST TO AJR

Mrs. Lotte Moser who died last September, left £150 each to the Jewish Blind Society and to the Association of Jewish Refugees.

THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

Our friend S. B. is on holiday. His column will appear again next month, as usual.

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