

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Margot Pottlitzer

BENEVOLENCE, BROTHERLY LOVE
AND HARMONY

The History of B'nai B'rith in Britain

Freemason Lodges were established in Europe at the beginning of the eighteenth century in an attempt to replace the medieval guilds with new forms of association for men and women who shared a common code of morals and beliefs and who had been alienated from traditional religion. For many years, they remained closed to Jews, but before the emancipation, European Jews found a focal point in their religious life and the need for a different kind of communal experience did not arise for more than another century. When it did, it happened in America, among Jewish emigrants who had left Germany to escape from local waves of petty persecution. In 1843, 12 of them met in Sinzheimer's coffee-shop in New York and decided to set up the Order of B'nai B'rith, thus perhaps creating the first Jewish refugee organisation. They started with lofty aims: to inculcate the purest principles of philanthropy, honour and—significantly—patriotism, to support science and art, to alleviate the wants of the poor and needy, to visit the sick, to come to the rescue of victims of persecution and to protect and assist widows and orphans.

From these small beginnings sprang all the B'nai B'rith Lodges now in existence, and during their long history they were, at one time or another, called upon to act in accordance with their high ideals. In 1976, two Lodges in this country celebrated anniversaries and used the opportunity to publish accounts of their history. Walter M. Schwab, himself a descendant of German Jews, wrote the history of District 15, established in 1926* and C. C. Aronsfeld that of the Leo Baeck Lodge, founded in 1943, one hundred years after that New York venture, by another group of Jews from Germany**. The two booklets which in many ways complement each other, illuminate a period of Jewish history which the Lodges helped to shape. It has not been an easy task for the authors: anybody who has attempted to deal with aspects of organisational life, and Jewish organisational life in particular, in recent years, has come up against the fact that owing to the war and often for sheer lack of space, valuable source material has been destroyed or lost, and that therefore there must be inevitable gaps. This should be remembered by those long-standing members of both Lodges who have been heard to complain that important events and issues have not been dealt with as exhaustively as they would have wished.

The First Lodge of England was set up in 1910***, and was followed by a handful of local lodges in English cities and in Edinburgh during the next 15 years. In 1923, an indepen-

dent Women's Lodge was established—the first in the world. At first, members came almost exclusively from middle-class circles, usually of German-Jewish descent. Snobbery, says Walter Schwab, kept out the others.

However, as the structure of Anglo-Jewry gradually changed, East End Jews of Eastern origin joined in increasing numbers. At the same time the need arose to find ways to attract an emancipated younger generation on whom organised religion was rapidly losing its hold and who had therefore hardly any communal affiliations. At this stage, an application was made to the Mother Lodge in America, the *Constitutional Grand Lodge* for the right to form a District Grand Lodge in Britain. When this right was granted, District 15 came into being and took its place among the B'nai B'rith Lodges of the World. It began at once to establish relations with communities and Lodges in Paris, in the Dominions and in the Colonies in order to extend B'nai B'rith activities to those regions, at the same time initiating a policy of expansion in this country. By 1936, District 15 had 18 Lodges with a total membership of over a thousand, but its ambitious programme suffered from a lamentable lack of funds, as even the small membership fee of 4 shillings was not always promptly paid. Nevertheless, a number of committees were formed to deal with a diversity of tasks: to give advice and aid—other than financial—to members of the Order, and to foreign members in particular, on such matters as the prospects for young men coming to London, on schooling and accommodation for children, and on questions of business, whereas the Women's Lodge supported 17 beds in a Convalescent Home on Hampstead Heath and ran the Stepney Jewish Girls' Club with a daily attendance of 40-50. Similarly, the Glasgow Lodge provided scholarships for graduates of the Glasgow Hebrew College.

The old German Lodges

In Germany, Lodges had existed since 1882. There were more than a hundred with over 12,000 members in 1933. In the Twenties, they joined the European *Arbeitsgemeinschaft* which had the task of maintaining contacts between the various European districts. Matters of mutual interest were discussed at regular meetings. At one such meeting, in 1928, Rabbi Leo Baeck who was then Grand President of the German District, regretted that the American and British Lodges held themselves too much aloof. He said it would add to the prestige of the Continental Lodges if their work was seen to be supported by British and American Brethren. District Lodge 15 took this to heart and decided to foster collaboration with the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft*.

However, the advent of the Nazis in Germany fundamentally altered the situation. Whereas the German Freemason Lodges, under pressure from the Nazis, soon went into voluntary liquidation, the B'nai B'rith Lodges refused to do so, though much harassed by Nazi persecution, until they were finally closed down in 1937.

District 15 was faced with new and unexpected tasks when all this happened. It made it one of its main concerns to rescue children and to care for German-Jewish students who wanted to continue their education at British universities. On the political level, representations were made to governments and institutions at home and abroad. The Lodge, and in particular Mr Schwab's parents, were instrumental in starting the Refugee Committee which at first operated from the B'nai B'rith room at Woburn House, London. Practical work for refugees continued up to the outbreak of war and, in spite of great difficulties, during the war. By 1939, more than a thousand children, many of them the sons and daughters of Lodge members, from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and the German-Polish no-man's land had been brought to this country and looked after, often in specially converted hostels. After Mr Julius Schwab became Grand President of the District Lodge in 1940—an office which he only gave up in 1947 because of failing health—he played a major part in these activities.

Among the refugees from Central Europe, and from Germany in particular, there were a great number who had been prominent in the Lodges of their home countries. Very soon they decided to revive the "Continental Lodge". As Arnold Horwell said at the Guildhall Silver Jubilee Celebrations, 200 refugees felt at that moment that in time of adversity the old principles of the Order—Benevolence, Brotherly Love and Harmony—had to be re-stated. Like the concept of the AJR, the idea of a new Continental Lodge was first mooted in the men's internment camps in the Isle of Man. For the first time, paradoxically, internees did not have to worry about their daily bread and had leisure to discuss more fundamental matters. In the camp, a suspicious commandant vetoed a planned meeting, but soon after their release, these men came together in order to establish their own Lodge.

They might have joined the First Lodge of England, but many of the latter's activities had been suspended for the duration of the war, and there were certainly no meetings in London after May, 1940. There were, however, more serious considerations to be taken into

* Walter M. Schwab, *B'nai B'rith, Fifty Years of Achievement 1926-1976*. Published by B'nai B'rith District 15 of Great Britain and Ireland, B'nai B'rith, Hillel House, London, January, 1976.

** C. C. Aronsfeld, *Leo Baeck (London) Lodge 1593, The First Thirty Years*. Published by the B'nai B'rith (London) Lodge No. 1593, 1 & 2 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1. Ed. Arnold Horwell.

*** Walter M. Schwab, *B'nai B'rith, The First Lodge of England, A Record of Fifty Years*. Oswald Wolff (Publishers) Ltd., 1960.

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HISTORY OF B'NAI B'RITH

Continued from page 1

account. Walter Schwab relates that the First Lodge felt "that the accretion of a large number of German brethren which would swamp its own comparatively small membership, might temporarily impair the standing and reputation the Lodge had built up over the years. . . . It did not wish to convert itself into a refugee organisation, and it could not but feel that the immigrant members needed time to adjust themselves to their new environment". Nevertheless, Julius Schwab maintained at the time, accredited German brethren had an absolute right to join the main Lodge, and "if so desired, a special branch would be formed within the First Lodge, embracing Continental brethren".

Thus, on Sunday, May 30, 1943, a body calling itself "Section 1943" emerged within the First Lodge under the leadership of the first chairman of the AJR, Adolf Schoyer, and of Heinrich Stern, once a board member of the Berlin Jewish Community. The 200 members included members of Lodges in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia. Their background is described in Mr Aronsfeld's booklet: "They were shabby-genteel, pathetically labouring to keep up status and appearance, forced to work as waiters, factory-hands, store-keepers, book-keepers, odd-job men, confounded by the English way of life as much as baffled by the foreign language". However, "they affirmed their loyalty to a grand tradition which they felt they were the last to preserve". Since that day in 1943, the regular meetings of the Lodge have become the focal point of the lives of many refugee families and they continue to do so. At first eminent British Jews and non-Jews were enlisted to give talks on the British way of life and the affairs of Anglo-Jewry in particular. Gifted members gave artistic performances, and social gatherings, continuing to the present day, have given rise to a strong sense of community.

By the end of the war, Section 1943 had a capital of at least £1,500, a remarkable achievement considering that until 1957 contributions relied entirely on "self-assessment". In that year they were fixed at 5 guineas p.a., at the moment they stand at £11, but many Lodge members whose circumstances have changed for the better, continually provide much larger amounts both for special and general purposes. This applies both to the Men's and to the Women's Lodge which, fostered by tireless community workers like Dr. Erna Goldschmidt, wife of the Section's first chairman Dr. Frederick Goldschmidt and the late Ruth Berlak, Dr. Baeck's daughter, has inaugurated a great number of social services which have proliferated to the present day and culminated in the running of the Leo Baeck Day Centre for the Over 60s and Clara Nehab House, a small and caring old-age home. There is also a youth section, the Otto Hirsch Chapter, which has been instrumental in giving a sense of belonging and of identity to young Jewish men and women.

Section 1943 became independent on November 4, 1945 when Grand President Schwab, in a solemn session of the Grand Lodge, installed the Leo Baeck (London) Lodge No. 1593. Its first president was Henry Minden. It was named after Leo Baeck who after he came to this country from Theresienstadt in July, 1945, was given a rousing welcome by the Lodge and agreed to serve as its honorary Life President. In 1946, the Leo Baeck Men and Women's Lodges had a joint membership of 600, the largest B'nai B'rith body outside the USA.

Since then, the work of all the Lodges has diversified in many fields. Their tasks have grown with the means available for them. Restitution, too, has played its part. In 1955, about £15,000 from the Jewish Trust Corporation, obtained from restitution for former Lodge property in the British Zone of Germany, was put at the disposal of a specially constituted committee. The money had been earmarked to help victims of Nazi persecution in Britain, not only former Lodge members. Many needy people were helped from this fund, which was added to by substantial donations from members. By 1973, it had distributed some £80,000. On the other hand, there was some wrangling about the compensation due to the Lodge as a body. Before 1958, the majority of members of the Leo Baeck Lodge were former refugees who felt they had a claim to the compensation for lost German Lodge properties, properties which had been valued at 5 million marks in 1937. The Lodge Headquarters in Washington, however, claimed the whole of the compensation paid for such property, maintaining that the members of the destroyed Lodges were scattered across the globe. After long and protracted negotiations, it did receive all the benefits, a total of about 10 million DM, some £800,000 at the time, but eventually allocated \$60,000 (£21,500) to the Leo Baeck Lodge. This sum was put aside towards the provision of a proper Lodge home, badly needed after wandering from one place to another in search of a proper venue for the regular meetings and events. It took a few more years before the Lodges together with the Hillel students' organisation joined forces to build the present dignified B'nai B'rith Hillel House in London's Endsleigh Street.

Public Recognition

It is impossible to enumerate the manifold projects undertaken by the Lodges since the war. They cover the whole field of cultural activities, major schemes such as the Leo Baeck Forest in whole-hearted support of Israel, and innumerable charitable activities with special stress on the care for old and lonely people. The booklets contain countless details which fill the reader with admiration for the comparatively small group of people who achieved all this. To a great extent there is close co-operation between all Lodges, and many members of Leo Baeck Lodge have achieved prominence within District 15. The place the Lodges occupy in the life of the nation as a whole, can be judged from the style in which anniversaries were celebrated. The 21st birthday of the Leo Baeck Lodge was marked by a banquet attended by over 400 members, including more than 50 representatives of Lodges it had helped to set up throughout the country. Its Silver Jubilee in 1968 was celebrated by a banquet at the London Guildhall, attended by James Callaghan, then Home Secretary, and Quintin Hogg (Lord Hailsham), a former Lord Chancellor. On that occasion, the present Prime Minister said he admired "the sinuous strength of the Jewish community" and that he was proud that the Lodge "sought refuge in this country and not only found it but has contributed so much to our history and our welfare". Finally 1976 saw the Golden Jubilee of District 15 remembered everywhere in England and attended by leading Lodge members from all over the world. For the present year, the Order has set itself the target of doubling its membership.

It might be worth mentioning in this context that there are again B'nai B'rith Lodges in Germany. Constitution Grand Lodge in Washington withheld its consent for a long time in view of the unhappy past, but in December, 1959, the first new *Leo Baeck Tradition Lodge* was established in Berlin. There is now a second Lodge in Berlin, and there are very active Lodges in all cities in the Federal Republic where there are Jewish communities.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

PRISON SENTENCES FOR BELSEN DESECRATION

Four men were sent to prison for six months to one year for desecrating the Belsen memorial, overturning 18 tombstones and removing flower pots and wreaths. The presiding judge said that such deeds were detestable to every German and to the German State.

NAZI LAWYER STRUCK OFF REGISTER

Hans Dietrich Ernst, a former SS troop leader who practised as a lawyer in Leer, Oldenburg, was removed from the German bar, because during the last war he had shared responsibility for the deportation of old people, mothers and children to concentration camps. He had been regional commissioner of the SS security police in France, and had acted against the principles which should guide the behaviour of a German lawyer, according to the legal document excluding him from the bar.

BERLIN SENATOR HONOURED IN ISRAEL

A tree was planted in the Avenue of the Just in Jerusalem to honour Professor Radke the West Berlin Schools Senator who in 1941 as a corporal in the Army had met Albert Pinkas, a former Berlin musician and record manufacturer in a Yugoslav village and offered him help. He risked death by opening up Pinkas' confiscated flat in Belgrade in order to get hold of his identity documents which enabled him to flee to Turkey and from there to reach Palestine, where he died recently. Pinkas' widow and daughter learned from tourists that Radke was still alive and invited him to visit them in Israel.

WITTLICH SYNAGOGUE RECONSECRATED

On March 11, the synagogue building of the now extinct Jewish community of Wittlich near Trier was reconsecrated. It had been empty for 30 years and, was acquired by the city of Wittlich in 1975. The restored interior of the building will be used for lectures, musical evenings and exhibitions. The Thora Ark has been left in the original prayer room, and a tablet carries the following words: "The Wittlich Synagogue, built in 1910, was the spiritual centre of a once flourishing Jewish community. A memorial to the victims of the National Socialist persecution. A Memento to the living."

BERLIN EXHIBITS IN ISRAEL

An exhibition "Berlin—a city searching for its future" has been opened in the new exhibition centre on Mount Carmel near Haifa. Afterwards it will be displayed in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Beersheba. The West Berlin Senate, the Builders' Trade Union, the German Foreign Office and the German State Lottery have contributed to it. The Berlin Senator for planning and building, Mr. Ristock, said during the opening ceremony that Berlin was trying to build a new future on the ruins of an inglorious past. The exhibition shows the development of the city of Berlin since its early beginnings, and the part Jews played in its achievements. A special section is devoted to the topic "Berlin and the Jews" and Nazi atrocities are truthfully and fully documented.

HOME NEWS

Anglo-Judaica

GIRL PRESIDENT OF STUDENTS' UNION

Twenty-seven-year-old Miss Susan Slipman, daughter of a London taxi driver and a member of the Communist party's national executive, was elected the first woman president of the 800,000-strong National Union of Students. Miss Slipman owed her win by 417 to 261 votes to the Conservatives who voted for her, because her rival was Hugh Lanning, a member of the extreme Socialist Students, Alliance. The post carries a £2,900 a year salary. Miss Slipman is a qualified teacher with first-class honours won at St. David's College, Lampeter.

A QUESTION OF RACE RELATIONS

Mr. Patel, an orthodox Hindu from Uganda and a leader of the British immigrant community, said at a B'nai B'rith Luncheon Club meeting, presided by Mrs. Susanne Horwell, that he had visited Israel and was a supporter of the country and of the Anglo-Jewish community which had much to teach immigrants. He expected race to be a major issue in the next General Election when the National Front proposed to have 320 candidates and demand equal time on radio and television.

NO ADMISSION FOR PRO-NAZI

A pro-Nazi American, Gary Lauck who came from Denmark to Harwich in order to continue his activities in Britain, was refused entry and sent back to Denmark.

BARCLAYS BANK DEFIES BOYCOTT

Mr. Anthony Tuke, chairman of Barclays Bank, said in his annual statement that the Bank would not submit to pressure from the Arab Boycott Committee over its long standing presence in Israel. He added that the bank had taken substantial participation in loans to Arab countries which must have been aware of its over 50 years business activities in Israel.

POLITICS AND PING PONG

At the Birmingham Table Tennis tournament, Chinese worldmaster Wang Chun refused to play against the Israeli Shlomo Mendelson. When he tried to explain his attitude by saying that the Chinese supported the Palestinians "in their just war against Israel", the President of the International League, Roy Evans (Wales), interrupted him and said the tournament had been arranged to play table tennis, and not to talk politics.

HEBREW IN SCHOOLS

As part of the Sixth Form Enrichment Courses of the Inner London Education Authority, the Jewish Free School which is now comprehensive, will hold three courses in Modern Hebrew, open to all pupils in ILEA schools, who will enter sixth forms next September or will be finishing their A-level courses. The courses will cater for beginners and for pupils who are taking Hebrew for their O and A level examinations. There will also be lectures in English on social and cultural life in Israel.

JEWISH MAYOR OF BOURNEMOUTH

Dr. Gabriel Jaffé, the next mayor of Bournemouth, is the second Jew to hold that office. He has been a Conservative member of the borough council for years. During the last war, he was a surgeon-commander in the Royal Navy.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle

URGENT CBF APPEAL FOR ROMANIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The Central British Fund, which has sent already £5,000 to Romania to aid the Jewish victims of the earthquake there, has launched an appeal fund with the view to raising £50,000 by May 31. Romanian Jews, the appeal states, have been hard hit by damage to and destruction of their homes, the Old Age Home, synagogues and cemeteries. Whilst the Romanian Government will help, without discrimination, in the reconstruction of buildings, furniture, household equipment would go beyond what they can provide. "Romanian Jews are entitled to look to the Anglo-Jewish community, not only for sympathy but for urgently needed help in money," states the Appeal.

Cheques should be made payable to: C.B.F., crossed "Romanian Earthquake Appeal" and sent to: Central British Fund, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0EX.

YAD VASHEM HALL OF NAMES

Roll of Holocaust Victims

In our March issue we informed our readers that a "Hall of Names" had been constructed at Yad Vashem (Jerusalem) to preserve the names of the martyrs. We also stated that the forms for registration would be obtainable at the AJR office. The number of requests we received was so great that our supply was soon exhausted, and we had to ask several applicants to wait until we get further forms. Meanwhile, a special Yad Vashem Committee has been set up in this country under the auspices of the Board of Deputies. All demands which we could not meet have been sent to their office. Any readers, who have not yet applied for forms should send their requests to: Mrs. U. Webster, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H. It may, however, take some time, until the forms, which will be specially printed in this country, become available.

MAURICE EDELMAN REMEMBERED

A chestnut tree in memory of Maurice Edelman, M.P., who died suddenly in 1975, was planted by his widow at Hughenden Manor, once the home of Disraeli, about whose life Edelman had written two novels. The Edelmanns occupied a flat in Hughenden Manor, and Mrs. Edelman still lives there.

Farewell to Israel Ambassador

An unprecedented number of functions were held to say farewell to Mr. Gideon Raphael; the outgoing Israeli Ambassador. During his formal leave-taking at the Foreign Office, he discussed with Mr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary his visits to Israel and to a number of Arab States this summer. Mr. Raphael described the relations between the British and Israeli Governments as "solid, comprehensive, close and intimate". At a lunch at the House of Commons, Mr. Hugh Fraser, chairman of the parliamentary branch of the Conservative Friends of Israel, presented Mr. Raphael with two metal goblets embossed with the emblem of the House of Commons. A farewell reception by Labour Friends of Israel was attended by a number of Ministers. Finally Mr. Raphael was made an "honorary Irishman" at a St. Patrick's Day Press Lunch and presented with a shamrock decorated with the blue and white colours of Israel by Princess Elizabeth Galitzine, a native of County Wicklow. (Mr. Raphael had also been Ambassador to Ireland).

25 Years Anti-TB League

£15,000 was raised after a 25th anniversary dinner of the Women Friends of the Anti-Tuberculosis League where the guests of honour Dr. Rhodes Boyson, MP and Professor John Yudkin, the nutritionist, appealed for funds. Since its formation, the League has raised over £250,000 to build and equip new clinics in Israel.

Topol in Glasgow

Actor Chaim Topol told the guests at a dinner of the Friends of the Hebrew University about his activities in audio-visual coverage of the Bible on location in Israel and his involvement in a pre-university training scheme for those on military service. It enables potential university entrants to complete their first year of study whilst serving in the Army by using video-tape material.

Broadcast Collaboration

The Seder broadcast on Radio 4, from the Kenton home of the Kosmin family was produced by journalist Thena Heshel, daughter of a rabbi and reported by Roman Catholic Anne MacNamara.

Hebrew Studies in Britain

Under an agreement reached between British and Israeli officials about cultural cooperation between the two countries during the next eight years, a series of Hebrew studies will be introduced at the London School of Economics. School textbooks in both countries will be reviewed to ensure fair representation and there will be an Anglo-Israeli symposium on the historical aspects of the Balfour declaration to mark its 60th anniversary in November. In April there was an exhibition "The Old Testament in World Music" at the Festival Hall. It has already been shown with great success in Italy. Next year, one of Britain's major drama or music companies will go to Israel to take part in the celebration of its 30th anniversary.

Synagogue on Monastery Grounds

For fourteen years, the Solihull and District Congregation has had to hold services in various halls because no suitable land was to be found where to build a synagogue. The council of Solihull which has a growing Jewish population, refused planning permission for various sites. Eventually, a local community of Franciscan friars offered the community the use of a plot of land in Monastery Drive, and the foundation-stones of the synagogue and communal buildings have now been laid.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Nazi Bookshop smashed

In a working-class district of San Francisco, about 150 Jews and others wrecked the Neo-Nazi Rudolf Hess bookshop and burnt its literature soon after it opened in premises belonging to 67-year-old Nathan Green, an Auschwitz survivor. He only learnt that his new tenants were Nazis when they paraded in brown-shirt uniforms, swastika armbands and jackboots at the formal opening of the shop with martial music and Nazi flags. American Nazis retaliated by damaging five large stained-glass windows of a synagogue opposite the shop, founded in 1947 by a group of German Jews who survived the war. Mr. Green's father, two brothers and two sisters died in concentration camps.

Stained Glass Windows from Manchester

An American-Jewish organisation is said to be the buyer who paid less than £1,000 for 12 stained glass windows, up to ten feet high, of the disused Manchester Great Synagogue which were nearly 100 years old. Vandals had already broken three other windows and looted the building. The Great Synagogue is the oldest in Manchester.

COURT CASE ABOUT ENTEBBE RAID

42 passengers and crew aboard the Air France plane sky-jacked in June last year in Athens have sued Air France and Singapore Airlines for \$127 million (abt. £74 million) for alleged failure to take adequate precautions against the sky-jacking. The suit, filed in Chicago, claims that Air France did not screen passengers boarding the plane and therefore failed to detect the weapons they carried. The sky-jackers had arrived from Bahrain on a Singapore Airline plane and had not been screened there either. The suit was joined by the relatives of two Israelis killed during the rescue operation and of Mrs. Dora Bloch, the British victim who disappeared from a Ugandan hospital after the raid. The two airlines were accused of "gross and wilful carelessness, recklessness, negligence and wilful and wanton disregard for life". The plaintiffs are said to have suffered "physical and other injuries and . . . mental anguish, psychic injuries and pain" and do require continuing medical treatment.

AMIN'S ANTICS

Uganda has become a major training base for the Palestine Liberation Organisation and one of its most important political centres. After Entebbe, President Amin was angry with them for failing to stop the Israeli rescue of the hi-jack victims and dismissed a special Palestinian unit serving as his bodyguard. Three of their members had joined the hi-jackers when their aircraft landed at Entebbe. Later on he relented and now he has openly identified himself with their cause and provides military training for them. A squadron of PLO pilots is being trained on Russian MiG planes, others are on parachute and tank courses at Ugandan Army bases. The Ugandan capital, Kampala, is the headquarters of the resident PLO mission whose leader, Khaled el-Sheikh, is responsible for planning all PLO operations and propaganda in East Africa. He lives in the former residence of the Israeli Ambassador, expelled in 1972. George Habash's Popular Front and the Iraq-backed Popular Revolutionary Front are also active in Uganda. Amin has brought in several hundred Palestinian civilians to do the administrative and public service jobs formerly performed by Asians. The PLO has threatened that 1977 will be its year of revenge for the Entebbe rescue. In January 1976, the Kenyan intelligence authorities thwarted an operation when Palestinians in Uganda planned to shoot down an El Al airliner bound for Johannesburg in Nairobi.

NETHERLANDS

Statue for Anne Frank

Dr. Ivo Samkalden, the Jewish Mayor of Amsterdam, has unveiled a statue to Anne Frank, the Jewish girl who hid from the Nazis until 1944 and who died at Bergen-Belsen to where she was subsequently deported. The statue stands in front of the Westerkerk whose steeple she could see from her hiding-place. It is mentioned in her diary. The house Prinsegracht 287 where she hid until she and her family were betrayed, is not very far from the church. Her 88-year old father, the only survivor of the family, who now lives in Switzerland, attended the ceremony. Dutch publishers paid for the statue and handed it to the city of Amsterdam.

M.P.s' letter to Carter condemned

All parties in the Dutch Parliament criticised five MPs for asking President Carter in a letter to "sweep away Israeli obstructions to the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State." The MPs had signed a letter sent by the Paris-based Parliamentary Association for European-Arab Co-Operation to the US Ambassadors in Holland, Belgium, France, Italy and Britain. In this country, the letter was also signed by Mr. Andrew Faulds, Mr. Colin Jackson, Mr. Tom Urwin and Mr. David Watkins, Labour, and by Mr. Dennis Walters and Robert Hicks, Conservative. In a heated debate in the Dutch parliament, Mr. Ed van Tijn, Jewish leader of the Labour section of the Labour-Catholic Government coalition — which has since resigned — disapproved strongly of the contents of the letter, but supported the Palestinians' right to their own State.

INSULT FOR CONSUMERS' ADVOCATE

The American Jewish Committee has asked for the resignation of Mr. Dixon, the American Federal Trade Commissioner, for calling Lebanon-born Mr. Ralph Nader, the campaigner for the rights of consumers, "a dirty Arab".

DENMARK

Pro-Palestinian Film withdrawn

After protests from large sections of the population, the Danish documentary film "The Palestinians — A Suppressed People is Always Right" has been withdrawn. It had been made by a young Danish film maker with the support of the National Film Fund and distributed to schools and organisations. The film described British soldiers as murderers and Britain's role between 1945 and 1948 as treacherous and claimed that in 1948 there was a secret agreement between Israel and some Western powers that the new state should extend from the Nile to the Euphrates. A still picture was alleged to depict an Israeli officer torturing an innocent Arab. In fact, it showed an Israeli officer trying to revive an Arab who had fainted in the heat, by throwing water on him.

AUSTRIA

Soviet Jews in Vienna

In February, more than 1,000 Jewish emigrants from the USSR arrived in Vienna, and 49 per cent of them decided not to go to Israel.

700,000 JEWS IN FRANCE

According to the latest census, France's Jewish population has now grown to 700,000. 56 per cent are married, more than 27 per cent to non-Jewish partners. 67 per cent are aged between 15 and 49 and only 16 per cent over 65. This is in striking contrast to the position in other countries where the majority are over 50.

JEWS AND APARTHEID

A recent radio commentary implied that Jewish doctors were relinquishing their patriotic duties and fleeing South Africa. Rabbi Rosen whose Capetown congregation is the largest in the country, protested against this statement and said that "Jews had no unpaid debts to S. Africa", they had given back tenfold in every sphere what they had received. Subsequently the "Afrikaner Yiddische Zeitung" attacked the rabbi in a front page leader which was reproduced under six-column banner-headlines in the pro-Government newspaper "Die Vaderland". Mr. Levi Shalit, editor of the Yiddish paper, who is a concentration camp survivor, said that it was understandable if Afrikaners took offence when Jewish doctors left S. Africa for countries other than Israel. He asked in his article: "Didn't Jews, even religious Jews, know when they came to this country that apartheid was the rule here — and not merely from today?" The "Jewish Times" the most widely read Jewish paper in the country, points out that never before had there been such a high proportion of Jewish councillors in the Johannesburg city council. Since the last elections one third of its members were Jewish. 14 of the 19 seats won by the Progressive-Reform Party at the municipal elections, were Jews. This, says the paper, should give the lie to loose talk about a Jewish "exodus or disengagement" from S. Africa.

Rabbi Rosen is a son of the late Rabbi Kopul Rosen of Britain.

NAZI BOOKS IN ARGENTINA

Last September the Government of Argentina seized Nazi and antisemitic publications printed and distributed by the Editorial Milicia group and banned the firm from further dissemination of such material. Now a new firm has been set up which widely distributes copies of the Tsarist forgery "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" as well as a collection of speeches by Julius Streicher.

INDIA

Pro-Israeli Premier

Eighty-one-year-old Mr. Morarji Desai, India's new Prime Minister, has always maintained cordial relations with Indian Jews and he is also pro-Israeli. As Chief Minister of Bombay State, he used to send an annual New Year's message to the community on Rosh Hashana.

THE JEWISH CATACOMBS OF ROME

The Vatican will shortly restore to the Jewish community in Rome the catacombs which were used by Jews between the first and fourth century. Since the concordat between Mussolini and the Vatican, they had been administered by the Vatican and closed to the public. They will now be re-opened.

SOVIET SEDER FILM

In spite of official discouragement, Seder services were held in many Russian towns this year. In Moscow, a State television team filmed the Passover Service in a newly-painted synagogue which was attended by about 500 worshippers, most of them elderly. The TV director said the film would be transmitted abroad, it was not intended for Russian screens.

ROMANIAN EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The Chief Rabbi of Romania, Dr. Rosen, has announced over the telephone that more than 100 Jews had been killed and many were still missing. Two synagogues were almost totally destroyed, and hundreds of Jews rendered homeless. Many of the dead were so badly injured that they could no longer be identified. Those known to have perished included many intellectuals such as the eminent poetess and novelist Veronica Porumbacu, one of the leading literary figures in Romania. A doctor and his wife were killed on the eve of their departure for Israel.

Egon Larsen

JEWISH LIFE IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY GERMANY

What was it like for Germany's Jews to live in the age of emancipation? We know a great deal about the Rothschilds and the Heines and the Mendelssohns, but very little about the everyday lives of their ordinary contemporaries. Yet the period from the end of the eighteenth century to the establishment of the German Empire was one of the most significant in the social history of the German Jews, and much of what happened in our own time had its origins in the development of the German-Jewish bourgeoisie.

That gap in our knowledge has been splendidly filled by Monika Richarz, a social historian who graduated in Berlin in 1970 and is now working at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, whose archives provided the basis of her 500-page book, *Jüdisches Leben in Deutschland: Selbstzeugnisse zur Sozialgeschichte 1780-1871* (Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 1976 DM39.80). The Leo Baeck Institute began in 1955 to collect unpublished memoirs by German Jews; about 600 have by now been filed, and the work by Monika Richarz is the first volume gleaned from that material (with the support given by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, and the Robert Bosch Stiftung).

Who are the writers of those memoirs? They are all largely unknown, and what they wrote was meant for family usage, not for publications. Two dozen of the fifty or so writers were merchants or manufacturers, one third professional people such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, and only a few could be classified as "lower orders". The reason is that most Jewish families rose during the nineteenth century from the pedlar's and small shopkeeper's class to that of the middle-class citizens, and their very success in social life, says Dr Richarz, prompted many of them to write their reminiscences. Four had been weavers who became textile manufacturers; one printer rose to the position of newspaper owner, and one glove-maker ended up as the New York representative of a leading German glove factory.

The population movement among the Jews in the last century is most interesting. Between 1816 and 1871, the number of Jews in Prussia grew from 124,000 to 325,000; in Saxony from 874 to 3,360; in Baden from 17,600 to 25,700. Only Bavaria lost 3,000 Jews in that period, while Hamburg doubled their numbers. Another set of figures compares the Jewish population of the Prussian provinces in 1825 with that in 1871: East Prussia, Silesia, Pomerania, and the Rhineland show enormous rises, and so does of course Berlin—from 4,000 to 36,000 Jewish inhabitants; but Posen lost a few thousand.

Emancipation, which came in various stages and at different times in the Central European principalities, meant more than just the granting of citizens' rights. It meant the destruction of the ghetto mentality by the Jews themselves. "The Jews had been living outside society", says Dr Richarz, "not only because of their religion and their legal status, but their seclusion, especially in the cultural and social sphere, had been of their own volition. . . . Even where, as in most German towns, there was no enclosed ghetto, they settled in a confined neighbourhood for religious reasons. This social separation was strengthened by further isolating factors such as clothes and language, by which a Jew could at once be identified. The language of the

German Jews in the eighteenth century was the so-called *Judendeutsch*, called 'western Yiddish' by the philologists".

A significant result of emancipation was—almost as a matter of course for a people like the Jews—their branching-out into the cultural life of the country. Traditionally, Jewish girls had been given only a rather elementary schooling, and they were even excluded from religious studies. Now it was the women who began to read contemporary literature and to introduce it to the rest of the family. They adopted the habit of reading aloud from the classics on the Sabbath evening, and even the Orthodox Jews did not see anything objectionable in this. Newspapers and journals came next—the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, the "Voss", the *Gartenlaube*. Heine was a favourite, including those of his works that had been banned by the Prussian censor; but the most popular classic among the German authors was Schiller, and wherever there was a theatre, the Jews would flock to it, most of all to the Schiller plays.

Antisemitism?

One searches in these fifty memoirs for evidence of antisemitism among the German people, but there is surprisingly little of it. Among the middle and upper classes, the "new" citizens were rarely made to feel unwelcome; it was obviously bad manners to be nasty to them, though there was, of course, much resistance against that Jewish invasion behind the scenes of the professional circles, the civil service, the right-wing political parties. Yet the notorious antisemitism of the students seems to have begun only after the foundation of the German Empire—in 1848 they were the standard-bearers of the democratic revolution. What the memoir-writers recall as Jew-baiting incidences happened mostly at school and in the villages.

Ascher Lehmann from Franconia, for instance, was still a pedlar in the countryside around 1800. Peasant lads ran after him, shouting: "*Jud, mach Mores!*" and if he did not respond by taking his hat off they would throw stones at him. But the Catholic farmers, and particularly their wives and daughters, would often say, "Oh you handsome man, what a pity that you'll go to Hell—get baptized!" Another writer recalls that as a schoolboy he heard only one antisemitic remark against himself; he complained to the director, and the offender was punished, with the result that no other boy opened his mouth against the Jew.

However, there were some anti-Jewish riots. At Viernheim near Mannheim the peasants attacked the Jewish houses in 1822 and 1830; furniture was smashed, feather-beds were "emptied" in the street, but there were no assaults on the Jews personally. A Catholic priest offered them asylum and protection. A company of soldiers was called in to quell the riot, and the ring leaders were sent to prison for a few years. The chronicler explains that the reasons were the "desperate situation of the peasants, who had become paupers through having to pay war taxes" and the general hunger through crop failures; they had bor-

rowed money from the Jews and called them usurers.

Other times of economic crises, in 1819 and again in 1835, led to anti-Jewish riots, called "*Hep-Hep-Sturm*", in Franconia, Hamburg, and several other German areas. At Bischofsheim in Baden there had been rumours that on Good Friday, 1848, there would be an organised Jew-baiting, writes a citizen called Levi Strauss. The local Jews asked the authorities for military protection on that day. But as Baden could not spare any soldiers, the Bavarian government was asked to help, and it sent a company of infantry and a squadron of *Chevaux légers*. The Friday was quiet, yet at night the soldiers fraternised with the local mob; arms linked and drunk, they all reeled through the town, singing anti-Jewish squibs.

"As such a drunken, bawling crowd gathered outside our house", continues Levi, "my 22-year-old brother David climbed up to the top floor with his loaded rifle, opened the window, and shouted down to the tipsy mob, 'Break it up, or I'll shoot!' This worked wonders. The crowd dispersed quickly, the singing stopped. . . . Peace was restored, and no harm came to any Jew in Bischofsheim and its surroundings".

In the middle of the last century there began a substantial Jewish emigration to America. Young Abraham Kohn from Fürth went in 1842. He could not get a job in New York—"Business is too bad", he writes, "and like all the other immigrants I had to shoulder my pack, go to the country, and try to sell all kinds of things there, whether I liked it or not. So this is the praised paradise of the Bavarian immigrants", he continues. "Oh you blind fools, oh you people deluded by greed and love of money! This is what you left your parents and relatives for, your friends and acquaintances, your homes and your fatherland, your language and your customs, your faith and your religion—to sell a few things here and there in America's wild steppes, in lonely farmhouses, in little villages. . . . Is it worth all we've lost? Is this what you call freedom of thought and action when you have to buy a licence for 100 dollars to do business in one of the States? . . . All right, you don't hear the name 'Jew'. Why not? Because you don't mention it. I wish I had never seen this America".

PRESERVATION OF JEWISH MONUMENTS

To work for the preservation of Jewish Cultural Monuments in Europe, a "Rashi Association" has been founded in New York under the chairmanship of Professor Werner J. Cahnmann. The Committee in Formation comprises more than 60 personalities who hold leading positions as scholars or communal workers in U.S.A. and Canada and many of whom are of Central European origin. Among them are Dr. Curt C. Silberman and Prof. Herbert Strauss of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe and Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald and Dr. Fred Grubel, president and secretary respectively of the New York Leo Baeck Institute.

The first circular of the Association carries reports about the present condition of monuments in various places, and reveals that some of them have been restored whereas in other cases negotiations with the German authorities in charge and the re-established Jewish communities are still pending. Places to which the Association has paid special attention include Worms, Hechingen, Floss (near the concentration camp site Flossenbürg), Augsburg, and the cemeteries of concentration camp victims of Dachau. No intervention, the report states, was needed in Berlin, Cologne and Braunschweig.

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MARGARET JACOBY 95

"EIN WEISES HERZ"

Es gibt Menschen, die leiden furchtbare Not und koennen nicht erzaehlen, was in ihrem Herzen ist, und sie gehen einher, voll der Not. Kommt ihnen da einer entgegen mit lachendem Angesicht, er vermag sie zu beleben mit seiner Freude. Und das ist kein geringes Ding: einen Menschen beleben.

Worte des Rabbi Nachman

The smiling face springs to mind first when one thinks of Margaret Jacoby. Her smile enchants and consoles, and more than most "vermag sie zu beleben mit ihrer Freude", as Rabbi Nachman describes it so movingly.

Mrs. Jacoby's vitality belies her age. One can hardly believe that this remarkable woman will be 95 on May 22. There is no need to assure Mrs. Jacoby of the gratitude of the members of "her" Club, whose lives have been enriched by her care. It is the care of a mother for the well-being of her "children", who know that she will help where she can and listen to their sorrows and joy.

Mrs. Jacoby once said:

"Sie wissen alle, das mein Herz an dem Club haengt, und ich weiss auch, dass Ihre Herzen an mir haengen. Und das ist etwas, was ich in meinem Alter als etwas ganz Wunderbares empfinde, und dafuer moechte ich Ihnen von ganzem Herzen danken."

There is so much one would like to say on such a special day to a chairman who is unique and so lovable. But words fail and it remains to express the heartfelt wish that Margaret Jacoby will continue to lead the *AJR Club* in good health and spirits with her inspiration, enthusiasm and dedication, certain of the love and admiration of its members.

The son of one of the Club members, after offering personal congratulations and thanks, writes:

"Congratulations . . . on the enormous work done for the good of others, on the selfless devotion to your work. . . I find it beyond words to thank you for the provision of a home from home for so many of my mother's and the preceding generation. The rays of sunshine which you enable to pierce their lives are truly appreciated. Your constant cheerfulness, and even the well-ordered discipline you emanate, are greatly appreciated. You represent all that was great in the Great Families of the bygone age. You make yourself the model for us, of my generation; for we can respect only the unpretentious and sincere, and follow only the devoted and selfless . . ."

(C.G.)

Three years ago, Rabbi Dr. Georg Salzberger paid tribute to Mrs. Jacoby on her birthday. His words are as apt today as they were then, and as this year May 22 is also the beginning of Shavuot, the address is fitting in more than one respect:

"Wenn ich ueber diese Feierstunde ein Wort aus unserer Heiligen Schrift setzen soll, so ist wohl das schoenste und passendste das, das in dem 90. Psalm, ueberschrieben Das Gebet Moses, des Knechtes Gottes, geschrieben steht

und lautet: Unsere Tage zaehlen lehre uns Herr, auf dass wir ein weises Herz gewinnen!

Jetzt gerade stehen wir am Ende der sogenannten Zaehlzeit, der Omerzeit, und nur wenige Stunden trennen uns von einem grossen Fest, Chag haSchowaus, dem Fest der Wochen. Aber wir zaehlen natuerlich auch die Jahre und die Jahrzehnte. Gerade in jenem Psalm, von dem ich ausgegangen bin, steht das Wort: "Die Tage unseres Lebens waehren 70 Jahre und wenn es hoch kommt, 80 Jahre,



und was darueber ist, ist Muehsal und Nichtigkeit". Was, das sagt Moses, Moses, der 120 Jahre geworden ist und von dem steht am Ende unserer Torah, dass sein Auge nicht getruet war und seine Wangen nicht eingefallen waren? Das sagt Moses, der gerade auch noch in den letzten 30, 40 Jahren seines Lebens so viel getan und gewirkt hat fuer unser Volk? Ich glaube garnicht, dass dieser Psalm von Moses stammt. Die Ueberschrift datiert wahrscheinlich aus einer viel spaeteren Zeit.

Wenn wir ein Beispiel dafuer haben wollen, wie wenig Muehsal und Nichtigkeit die Jahre nach 80 sind, sehen wir auf unser liebes Geburtstagskind. "Unsere Tage zaehlen lehre uns, Herr, auf dass wir ein weises Herz gewinnen". Ja, das hat sie wirklich sich gewonnen, ein weises Herz. Die Weisheit hat weniger mit Verstand und mit Vernunft als mit dem Herzen zu tun und mit solch weisem Herzen blickt unser Geburtstagskind laengst um sich in einer Welt, die wahrhaftig nicht schoen und nicht erfreulich ist. Aber wer

von uns hat sie anders als laecheln gesehen, laechelnd in diese Welt trotz aller Uebel, von denen die Welt heute so voll ist.

Ein weises Herz gewinnen, das war und ist ihr Ziel, und mit diesem weisen Herzen nimmt sie nicht nur jedes auch truebe Schicksal gelassen und gleichmuetig auf sich, mit diesem Herzen wendet sie sich allen Menschen zu in ihrer grossen Guete. Wir wissen, wenn wir sie sehen, wie gut sie es mit uns meint trotz unserer Fehler, trotz unserer Maengel. Sie sieht das Gute, weil sie es mit weisem Herzen sieht. Und was von Mose steht, dem Hundertzwanzigjaehrigen, dass sein Auge ungetruet geblieben ist und seine Wangen nicht eingefallen, das gilt ganz gewiss auch von ihr. Bluehende Wangen, strahlende Augen, ungetruet. Wir koennen nur von ganzem Herzen wuenschen, dass diese strahlenden, ungetrueten Augen, diese bluehenden Wangen, dieses weise Herz ihr getreu bleiben zunaechst bis zu Moses Alter, bis 120."

D.S.

GRACE, ENERGY AND HUMOUR

When our dear friend, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, celebrated her 90th birthday five years ago, the tributes published in *AJR Information* included a detailed description of her life, first in Germany and later in this country. Since then, it has become an annual habit to convey to her our birthday wishes in these columns, repeating our admiration for her indomitable youthfulness. Yet now, as another lustrum has passed and she is going to celebrate her 95th birthday on May 22, a brief reference just would not do. In any case, our congratulations had to be accompanied by a new photo. There we had a wide choice and



were even in a predicament. For only a few months ago, she sent her friends a photo depicting her sitting on a motor bike. We cannot resist the temptation to use it for this issue, not to pretend that she has obtained a driving licence, but to show our readers one of the latest examples of her sense of humour.

And yet, humour or—to use a more adequate term—charm is not her only quality.

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MARGARET JACOBY

What makes her personality so outstanding is the rare balance between charm and creativeness. As chairman of the *AJR Club* she holds the reins in her hands. She copes with the general problems of the day-to-day work with the same efficiency with which she keeps personal contacts with the individual members. It sometimes happens that members who are ten or 20 years her junior—after all, they, too, are over 70—just feel too frail for carrying out a small job, and then Mrs. Jacoby steps into the breach.

Whenever there is a public function of the Club, she impresses the members by her addresses and, even more, by her self-made verses in which she uses her poetical talent and psychological insight to characterise in an amicable spirit those in her charge. Yet, she never considers the work for the *AJR Club* under a parochial aspect. She knows that the Club has to fulfil a serious function which has to be in keeping with present-day standards of social policy. Her reports at our annual Board meetings, to which all Board members are looking forward, testify to this approach.

All this is not surprising if we take her formative years and her own pre-war activities into account. Her father, Geheimrat Orgler, was the first Jewish lawyer in Posen and a Freeman of the town. Her husband, Professor Martin Jacoby, was a distinguished pharmacologist and physiologist at the Berlin Moabit Hospital. She herself was active in the German Democratic Party. At the same time she always played a leading part in the Juedischer Frauenbund. It is, therefore, no accident that it was her idea to name our Community Centre at Adamson Road after the unforgettable professional head of the Frauenbund, Hannah Karminski. Her activities for the Frauenbund reached their peak when, after the November pogroms, the Berlin Frauenbund under her guidance organised the emigration of women, mainly as domestic servants, to this country. Once the women were saved, more

often than not the children and husbands were able to follow. Thus many in our midst owe their lives to the untiring work of Margaret Jacoby.

She and her husband left Germany only a few months before the outbreak of war. Like many of her background, she did not harp on her comfortable life in the past but adjusted herself to the changed circumstances. She took up jobs in English hostels and other institutions. In this way she could not only make use of her experience as a social worker but also got a greater understanding of the English people than those of us whose lives after their immigration have more or less centred around Hampstead. Yet, to our good fortune, she ultimately joined the Hampstead folk and, since its inception 21 years ago, she has been the chairman of the *AJR Club*.

Though 21 years ago, she had already been in this world for a number of years, one sometimes feels that she is of the same age as the Club. Assuming this fiction for a moment as a fact we may say that she has now come of age. She combines the wisdom of her life-long experience with the open-mindedness of a youthful woman. That she may remain as she is for a very, very long time to come is our sincerest birthday wish.

W.R.

PERSONALIA

NEW GERMAN AMBASSADOR

As successor to Herr Karl-Guenther von Hase, Dr. Hans Hellmuth Ruete has been appointed Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in London. Dr. Ruete was born in Leningrad (then St. Petersburg) in 1914, the son of a medical professor. Since 1972 Dr. Ruete has been Ambassador in Warsaw — the first diplomat from the Federal Republic to hold this post.

LINA HALPER HONOURED

Professor Albert Neuberger, chairman of the executive committee of the British Friends of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, announced that an honorary doctorate will be conferred on Mrs. Lina Halper, 90, in July. Mrs. Halper is an aunt of Mr. Abba Eban, Israel's former Foreign Minister and the widow of Dr. Benzion Halper, editor of the Jewish Publication Society of America. She has helped many refugees in this country and during the war started to arrange balls for Jewish charities. Since 1944 she has arranged the annual dinner and ball for the Hebrew University. Professor Neuberger said no one had worked longer or more devotedly for the cause.

AWARD FOR "BARMITZVAH BOY"

Jack Rosenthal, the Manchester-born writer of TV plays, mostly with a Jewish content, received an award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts which considered his controversial "Barmitzvah Boy" the best single play of 1976. He received a further award as best writer of 1976.

BURSARY FOR FRANK MARCUS' SON

Paul Marcus, son of Berlin-born playwright and critic Frank Marcus, has won a Thames Television regional trainee director bursary which will take him to Salisbury Playhouse for two years. At the moment he is running the fringe theatre at the Rock Garden Cafe in Covent Garden.

JEWISH DEPUTY LIEUTENANT OF GREATER LONDON

Mr. John Cohen, 56, deputy chairman of Burberry's was appointed deputy lieutenant of Greater London. He is a member of the Glovers' Company and city liveryman.

ENGLISH WRITERS FOR ISRAEL

Lord Ted Willis led the first-ever mission of English writers to Israel. It included Iris Murdoch, Fay Weldon, Beryl Bainbridge, Melvyn Bragg and many others.

ALFRED KERR PRIZE

The "Börsenblatt für den Deutschen Buchhandel", published by the German Book Trade Association, has initiated an Alfred Kerr Prize of DM 5,000 to be awarded annually to a newspaper, periodical, radio or television station for outstanding literary achievement.

PROFESSOR KURT SCHWERIN 75

Professor Kurt Schwerin (Chicago) recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Though officially retired, he is still active both as a lecturer and as a research worker. Among other things, he continues the publication of bibliographies in the field of jurisprudence. Conscious of his German-Jewish heritage, Professor Schwerin is Chairman of the Chicago Chapter of the Leo Baeck Institute. We wish him many more years of undiminished health and creativity.

EGL.

LADY AVON IN ISRAEL

Lady Avon, the widow of the former Sir Anthony Eden, paid a private visit to Israel. It is the first time that she has visited the country.

IN MEMORY OF WERNER M. BEHR

Tombstone Consecration on June 5

The memorial stone in memory of our past chairman, Mr. Werner M. Behr, O.B.E., will be consecrated at Bushey Cemetery on Sunday, June 5, at 11 a.m.

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

reminds members and friends that it will hold its

GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, May 17, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House,
9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3
(Side Entrance)

I

Report on AJR Activities

Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive is published on page 10

II

MELVYN CARLOWE

Executive Director of the
Jewish Welfare Board

will speak on

NEW TRENDS IN SOCIAL WORK

Non-members are not entitled to vote but are welcome as guests at the meeting

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ERICH WOLFSFELD EXHIBITION

Belgrave Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, S.W.1

Professor of Painting and Etching at the Berlin Academy, winner of a Gold Medal in Berlin, exhibited at the Royal Academy, London, Associate member of the Royal Society of Painters, Etchers and Engravers, represented at the Tercentenary Exhibition of Jewish painters in England—and yet who of my readers has ever heard of Erich Wolfsfeld (1885-1956)? The avalanche of new movements and schools since the beginning of our century was rolling over and almost burying the life work of this important and very likeable German-Jewish artist. Menzel and Leibl were his admired masters. As a boy he had attended Menzel's funeral. Later he himself showed in his own pictures that simple and austere way of painting so often found in painters and writers of the Mark Brandenburg. Liebermann comes to mind. But his work is never brittle or dry.

Whoever has known Wolfsfeld personally has experienced his warm-hearted personality, his deeply felt humanity. Thus we fully understand that more often than not his objects are the poor and downtrodden and especially the Polish Jews before and during the First World War. He liked the Jews where they were just "Menschen", exposed to all the ills of fate. To me this is one of his most endearing qualities. As he was so inexplicably

driven towards the under-privileged, he went to North Africa where his heart went out to the poorest Arabs and his palette also. Innocent long forgotten times, when a Jewish artist was able to embrace Jews and Arabs with the same sympathy.

How dignified those beggars and poor peasants look, standing almost motionless like the proud statues of antiquity, evoking the canvasses of the brothers Le Nain, the French painters of the seventeenth century.

But in addition Wolfsfeld was an outstanding draughtsman: We have only to look at his moving drawings of the First World War, and he was a wonderful and superbly skilled etcher. As an example I mention the portrait of Professor Gerhards who looks like Karl Hauptmann. There is also a masterly portrait of his first wife, Illa, now Mrs. Walter, in London.

It would be invidious to single out any individual picture, be it oriental, biblical or whatever. Go and see them for yourself. Although the official exhibition was held only until April 19, and many works will have been sold, the Belgrave Gallery will keep the rest for a time and show examples of Erich Wolfsfeld's works on request.

ALFONS ROSENBERG

IN MEMORIAM GRETE FISCHER

Mit Grete Fischer ist eine der eigenwilligsten und am tiefsten veranlagten Persoenlichkeiten der juedischen Emigration aus Deutschland am 28. Maerz dahingegangen. In Prag am 6. Februar 1893 geboren, wurde sie zunaechst von dieser Stadt und ihrer unvergleichlichen deutsch-juedischen, altoesterreichisch-boehmischen Geistigkeit gepraegt. Sie war einer ihrer letzten Vertreter. Hier begann sie zu dichten, was sie zeitlebens tat, und Germanistik zu studieren, was sie 1917 abgebrochen hat, als sie nach Berlin zog, um selbstaendig zu sein und Prag zu entfliehen, wie so viele andere deutsch schaffende Schriftsteller.

Berlin wurde die zweite sie formende Stadt. Zunaechst war sie Lektorin bei Paul Cassirer, dann bei Ullstein, wo sie besonders fuer den Propylaeen-Verlag arbeitete. Sie schrieb auch viel fuer Ullsteinzeitungen, namentlich Kritiken und vorzugsweise ueber Musik; sie selbst war eine gewandte Geigerin und Kammermusikerin. 1933 verliess sie Berlin und reiste nach Palaestina. Ein Ergebnis dieses Besuches war ihr Buch "Das erlaubte Land".

Seit 1933/34 bis zu ihrem Tod blieb London ihr staendiger Wohnsitz. Sie widmete sich weiter der Literatur, schrieb auch englisch, so ihr famoses "Bananenbuch" fuer Kinder; wie zuvor uebersetzte sie aus dem Jiddischen und nun auch aus dem Englischen. Ihre deutschen Fassungen der Nonsensegedichte Edward Lear waren ihre Hauptleistung auf diesem Gebiet. Beruflich jedoch wendete sie sich, einer alten Neigung folgend, mit grossen Erfolgen der Erziehung hirngeschaedigter Jugendlicher zu. Aus der Spaetzeit stammen der Memoirenband "Dienstboten, Brecht und andere" (1966) und der Gedichtband "Die Schuld der Gerechten" (1974), ihre zwei groessen und wahrscheinlich bleibenden Leistungen.

Im Gemeinschaftsleben der Einwanderer aus Mitteleuropa spielte sie als Vorstandsmitglied des Club 1943 eine fuehrende Rolle. Sie nahm einen besonders taetigen Anteil an der Programmgestaltung und hielt auch selbst haeufig Vortraege ueber literarische Themen.

Vor allem aber stand sie den Mitgliedern des Club, dem sie fast seit seiner Gruendung angehorte, menschlich nahe, und ihr Hingang ist fuer sie ein schmerzlicher persoenerlicher Verlust.

Charakterisieren wir Grete Fischer ganz knapp, dann duerfen wir sagen: Sie war die personifizierte Wahrheitsliebe ihren Mitmenschen und sich selbst gegenueber. Wer sie kannte, wird sie nie vergessen.

H. G. ADLER

"FLOW OF WAR FILMS"

At a recent conference in London organised by the Anglo-German Association and attended by English and German delegates, Lord Inglewood, chairman of the association, said that Anglo-German relations had shown "steady and continuing improvement". He drew, however, attention of the conference to one special point "which may seem small when seen against the larger picture . . . : the interminable flow of war films, documentaries and reports on television and in other news media". Lord Inglewood described as particularly harmful the war comics, "concentrating far too exclusively on violence and atrocities, which are offered to our young in massive quantity".

JAIL FILMS ON ISRAELI TV

An 8 mm film, said to have been smuggled out of Russia and showing prisons and hospitals allegedly used by Soviet authorities to imprison and torture Jewish dissidents, was shown on Israeli TV. Three former Jewish activists, now in Israel, identified the buildings shown.

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Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

TO LIVE IN JERUSALEM...

When Golda Meir visited Liberia, the negro state in Africa, her charming young companion from the Liberian Foreign Office told her that her mother did not believe that there was a city of Jerusalem with streets and houses, because for her Jerusalem was in heaven. Golda Meir replied: "The heavenly thing about Jerusalem is that it still exists".

I live in Jerusalem. Can one live in Jerusalem as one lives in London, Paris, Frankfurt or Zurich? In Jerusalem the question arises: Which Jerusalem do you mean? The spiritual or the secular Jerusalem, the religious centre for Jews, Christians and Moslems, the capital of Israel, or the Arabian town? Its name means "Legacy of Peace", but there is no other city that has been so ardently fought for.

For many years even its geographical position was a subject of legend: it was looked upon as *umbilicus mundi*, the navel of the world. Its very existence contradicts all rules of geography. It is neither situated on a river nor near the sea, it is far away from the great military roads of the past and the motor roads of the present, isolated on a mountain range of 800 metres above sea-level. Which sea? In fine weather the Mediterranean coast can be seen in the West, and the banks of the Dead Sea, linking it with the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, in the East. It is thus situated on a watershed between Europe and Asia.

What is life like in Jerusalem? It is often the same as in other great cities: frustrating with wrong telephone connections and traffic jams. Yet people greet each other with "Shalom"—peace—at all times.

Jerusalem is 6,000 years old. 3,000 years after its first beginnings, King David made it the capital of the Jewish State. He was followed by Babylonians and Persians and Romans and Arabs and crusaders, Turks and Britons. The city has been burned to the ground and rebuilt, reduced to cinder and re-erected—and it has always risen again from the ashes.

Many nations fought for Jerusalem, but only one, the Jews, wept for it. To this day, Jews all over the world fast on the anniversary of the destruction of the Temple, and at Jewish weddings the groom must crush a glass, remembering the splendour of the Temple that was destroyed.

I live in Jerusalem myself. During the day, there is a lot of noise—cars and buses and barrow-boys joining in everywhere. At night, however, there is silence. There is no other city as silent as Jerusalem at night. Sometimes there is a wind from the desert in the East—dry, warm and full of sand-dust. It irritates everybody. Drivers become even more impolite, surgeons cancel operations, everybody is on edge. Eventually evening envelops the city. A poet said once that the evening envelops Jerusalem like a dark cool blanket.

Now and then a bomb is planted by terrorists and explodes and people are killed and maimed. But does this not also happen in London and Paris? Whatever history will remember of our present time, it is a fact that for a decade there has been some kind of co-existence between the citizens of Jerusalem, the Jews, the Mohammedans and the Christians, the Arabs and the Israelis. Jews eat in Arab restaurants, Arabs consult Jewish doctors. The streets are swept for all citizens, and the schools are open to all children. It

is not necessary to love each other in order to live together in one city—all that is needed is mutual acceptance.

Since the unification of the city in 1967, there have been crises and wars elsewhere, but in Jerusalem people have co-operated with each other. When there is a power-cut, Jewish and Arab houses alike are in the dark, when there are floods they cover Eastern and Western districts, and when there is a drought, Jews and Arabs are without water. People have many common interests, centred on the city. The fact that the system works, shows that—outside political ideology—two nations and three different religions have been able to live side by side in Jerusalem.

I live in Jerusalem, and my fellow-citizens are priests and car-thieves, bricklayers and scholars, beggars and firemen, monks and shopkeepers, rabbis and road-sweepers, artists and public employees, leaders of industry and pensioners, professors and profiteers. Sometimes it is possible to forget that this city is situated between the past and the present, between the desert and the Promised Land and on hills near the sky. Recently the Jerusalem police succeeded in arresting a gang of young people who terrorised and blackmailed the owners of discotheques and night-clubs. There were Jews and Arabs among them: yet another indication of Jerusalem's special situation.

There are some 230,000 Jews in the city, 73,000 Moslems and 11,000 Christians. It is the only city in the world with three days of rest, Friday for the Moslems, Saturday for the Jews, and Sunday for the Christians, a city venerated by three religions and rooted in the history of mankind. Under its sky the idea of one single God was born, David's cymbal resounded here, and Jesus and Mohammed walked on its pavements.

Is it possible to live in Jerusalem unless one is an angel or a saint or a prophet? It is much more difficult to be a mere human being, and this does not only apply to Jerusalem. If I am asked how I spend my life, I say that I work and rest, I meet friends and spend week-ends in the neighbouring hills. I get annoyed about political issues and look forward to concerts. There is a lot of music about.

Jerusalem is a city like many others, and yet totally different. I live in Jerusalem. And I should not like to live anywhere else.

PLANS FOR JEWISH OLYMPICS

In July, the Tenth Maccabiah Games—the all-Jewish Olympiad—will be held in Israel. They will be opened by President Katzir. More than 2,500 athletes from 30 countries will compete in 25 sports.

"THE LAST OF THE POLISH JEWS"

A 70-minute documentary film "The Last of the Polish Jews" which has Simon Wiesenthal as narrator, was given its British première at the Thames Film Festival organised by the National Union of Students. It shows the fate of 25,000 Jews and half-Jews who were forced to leave Poland in the wake of the Six-Day War. Many of them found refuge and new homes in Denmark. As most of the practising Jews had been killed by the Nazis, those surviving were often scarcely aware of their Jewishness and wholly Polish in their loyalties. They did not want to go to Israel, but their only escape from persecution was to apply for visas to Israel.

E. G. Lowenthal

PUBLICATIONS ON GERMAN JEWRY

BERLIN

A recently published essay by the art historian, Professor Dr. Peter Bloch (Director of the Sculpture Gallery Preussischer Kulturbesitz) on "Grabmaeler in Berlin" (Berliner Forum 9/76) also carries references to personalities of Jewish origin who are buried in the St. Matthaeus Cemetery, Berlin-Schoenberg. Among them are the actor Ludwig Dessoir (originally Dessauer; 1810-1874), who was a member of the Berliner Schauspielhaus from 1849 to 1872; the writer David Kalisch (1820-1872) co-founder of the "Kladderadatsch"; the architect Alfred Messel (1853-1909), well known by his creations in Berlin and Darmstadt; and the "Railway King" Bethel Henry Strousberg (actually Baruch Hirsch Straussberg; 1823-1884), who went bankrupt in 1875.

The latest volume of "Der Baer," the 25th year book of the "Verein für die Geschichte Berlins" carries an essay by Dr. Gerhard Kutzsch about "Second Men in the Berlin Municipality of Berlin," i.e., former deputy mayors of Berlin. They include Max Kirschner (Freiburg/Schlesien 1842 - Berlin 1912), who later became Lord Mayor of the city, and Fritz Elsas (Stuttgart/Cannstadt 1890 - K.Z. Sachsenhausen 1945).

The symposium "Berlinische Reminiszenzen" (Haude und Spensersche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Berlin 1975) carries an essay by Max Mechow about "Die Ost- und Westpreussen in Berlin". Among the first prominent Jews who came to Berlin are the champion for Jewish emancipation and follower of Moses Mendelssohn, David Friedlaender (Koenigsberg 1740—Berlin 1834), and the authoress Fanny Lewald (born in Koenigsberg 1811). Later arrivals include the politician and High Court President Eduard von Simson, the historian of medicine August Hirsch (Danzig 1817—Berlin 1894), the banker Carl Fuerstenberg, also born in Danzig, and the lawyer and Socialist politician Hugo Haase (born in Allenstein). The bookseller and publisher, Hugo Heimann, who was Social Democratic member of the Berlin Municipal Assembly and later of the Reichstag, was born in Konitz in 1859; he died an emigrant in New York in 1950.

Mechow also mentions the architect Erich (Eric) Mendelsohn, who was brought up in Allenstein and died in San Francisco in 1953, and the producer and director of the State Theatre, Leopold Jessner (Koenigsberg 1878—Los Angeles 1945).

RHINELAND-PALATINATE

The sixth volume of the documentation of the history of the regional Jewish population (sponsored by the Landesarchivverwaltung Rhineland-Palatinate) carries statistics about the former geographical distribution of Jews in the territory. The figures reveal that in the course of the last quarter of the 19th century the number of Jewish residents in about 200 smaller places constantly decreased, whereas their number in the towns remained static or even grew.

HAMBURG

In his latest biography of Hamburg personalities of Jewish origin, Erich Lueth deals with the Hamburg Mayor Ferdinand Haller (1805-1875). Haller was a member of the Senate from 1844 onwards and repeatedly held the office of Mayor during the years between 1863 and 1873. He was particularly successful in the field of economics and also as a promoter of the City's social and technical developments. During his student days in Heidelberg, he was a close friend of Gabriel Riesser who was later to become one of the foremost champions for the emancipation of the Jews. Haller himself had been baptised as a child.

AJR GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 17

As readers will have seen from the announcement published on page seven of this issue, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, at 7.45 p.m. in the Hall of Hannah Karminski House (side entrance), 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

As in previous years, the business of the AGM will be followed by a talk on a subject connected with the wider issues of our day-to-day activities. We are very pleased that the Executive Director of the Jewish Welfare Board, Mr. Melynn Carlowe has agreed to address the Meeting on "New Trends in Social Work". The AJR has constantly co-operated with Mr. Carlowe and his colleagues on the Welfare Board. The relationship has become even closer since the establishment of the Central Council for Jewish Social Services, of which Mr. Carlowe is the Joint Secretary and to which the AJR is affiliated. It is the object of this Council to pool experience between the various Jewish welfare organisations and to avoid duplication of work. In his talk, Mr. Carlowe will, among other things, deal with problems of accommodation, ranging from sheltered flatlets to Homes for the Infirm. He will also describe measures for the benefit of those who want to retain their independence in private accommodation and yet need care of one kind or another. In the administrative sphere there are also new trends with regard to the relationship between lay leaders and professional welfare workers. Mr. Carlowe's talk and the ensuing discussion will certainly make the Meeting an interesting function, and we hope that we may welcome many of our members on that occasion.

The talk by Mr. Carlowe will be preceded by reports on the activities and finances of the AJR and the election of the AJR Executive and Board members. The following election proposals are submitted by the Executive:

Committee of Management (Executive): It is proposed to re-elect the following members of the Executive: Mr. C. T. Marx (Chairman),

Dr. F. E. Falk (Vice-chairman), Mr. L. Spiro (Treasurer), Mrs. S. Taussig (General Secretary), Dr. W. Rosenstock (Director), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. S. Bischheim (Trustee), Mr. A. S. Dresel, Mr. C. F. Flesch, Mr. O. E. Franklyn (Trustee), Mr. E. K. Heyman, Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Dr. E. A. Lomnitz, Mr. E. A. Sonnenberg.

It is also proposed to elect as new Executive members Mr. M. Kochmann and Dr. Laura Stein.

Board: It is proposed to re-elect the following members of the present Board: Mrs. O. Albrecht, Mr. R. Apt, Miss M. Babington, Mrs. A. Berent, Mrs. R. Berlin, Dr. J. Bondi, Dr. W. Breslauer, Rabbi I. Broch, Mr. F. Dannen, Dr. W. Dux, Dr. R. Elton, Dr. H. Feld, Dr. A. Fleiss, Mrs. A. Fleiss, Dr. H. G. Francken, Mr. R. J. Friedmann, Mrs. Elisabeth Goldschmidt, Dr. Erna Goldschmidt, Mr. R. Graupner, Sir Ludwig Guttmann, Mr. S. F. Hallgarten, Mrs. G. Hamburg, Mr. E. Haymann, Mr. Herbert M. Hirsch, Mrs. Susanne Horwell, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Dr. A. Kaufmann, Mr. E. C. Kent, Mrs. F. Kochmann, Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek, Dr. H. Lawton, Miss J. Lee, Dr. Rita Lehmann, Dr. G. Leon, Dr. F. Levy, Mr. A. Lieberman, Dr. Julius Loeb, Mrs. Ilse Loewenthal, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Dr. E. Magnus, Mrs. M. Mautner, Mr. H. C. Mayer, Mrs. Gabriele Meyer, Mrs. L. Meyer, Dr. L. Nelken, Dr. H. Neufeld, Mr. E. Plaut, Mrs. M. Pottlitzer, Mr. W. R. Powell, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. E. Reifenberg (Gabriele Tergit), Mr. J. Sachs, Mrs. Charlotte Salzberger, Mr. F. Samson, Dr. H. G. Sandheim, Mrs. Ruth Schneider, Mrs. D. Segall, Dr. W. Selig, Mr. P. E. Shields, O.B.E., Mr. Julius Strauss, Mr. G. Streat, Mr. G. L. Tietz, Dr. U. Tietz, Mrs. Eva Trent, Dr. Valerie Wills, Dr. Charlotte Wittelshofer, Mr. F. S. Worms, Mr. H. Wreschner.

It is proposed to elect as new Board members Mrs. Berta Kanter and Mrs. Alice Schwab.

The Board also includes representatives of the Provincial groups.

Letters to the Editor

HISTORY OF GERMAN-JEWISH REFUGEES IN SCOTLAND

Sir,—I am at present engaged in research work on the history of German-Jewish refugees in Scotland, especially in the Glasgow area. I am therefore anxious to get in touch with any refugees through whose help I might gain first hand knowledge of their experiences. Their information will, of course, be treated with the strictest confidence.

I am attached to Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, and to Heidelberg University.

RAINER KOELMEL

28 Scotland Street,
Edinburgh EH3 6PX

(Mr Koelmel has repeatedly been in touch with us in connection with our research on the general history of the Central European immigration to this country. The AJR endorses Mr Koelmel's scheme, because any monograph which deals in depth with one particular aspect of the vast subject is to be welcomed.—The Ed.)

GLUECKEL VON HAMELIN MEMOIRS

Sir,—When David Kaufmann, in 1896, edited the famous Yiddish memoirs of Glueckel of Hamelin (Glück Hamel, 1646-1724), he had two handwritten copies of the memoirs at his disposal. One of them, then in Eugen Merzbacher's collection in Munich, is now in the Stadtbibliothek Frankfurt/Main. The other, formerly owned by Theodor Hecht, of Frankfurt/Main, is now missing and badly needed for research work.

We would therefore be grateful to any of your readers, who might be able to help us in tracing either descendants/heirs of Theodor Hecht or the missing manuscript itself or to give some information about the fate of the latter.

Dr. GUENTER MARWEDEL
Institut fuer die Geschichte der
Deutschen Juden

Rothenbaumchaussee 7,
2 Hamburg 13,
German Federal Republic.

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 the 15th of the month.

Birth

Mars.—On March 17, at University College Hospital, London, to Mike and Helen (née Grundmann) a son, Daniel Paul. First grandchild for Margaret and Ralph Grundmann, of Elston, Newark, Notts.

Deaths

Dukes.—Ilse Dukes passed away on April 14 after a long illness bravely borne. Sadly missed by Irma and Ernest Lindley and other friends.

Gerber.—Mr. H. L. Gerber, chiropodist, of 59 Paddock Road, London, N.W.2, much loved husband, father and papa, passed away peacefully on March 24.

Glueck.—Mrs. Melitta Glueck (born Vienna), beloved mother, passed away peacefully on March 16 in her 90th year. A founder-member of the Ilford and District Wizo. Sadly missed by her two sons, Karl and François, and many friends.

Landau.—Mrs. Charlotte Landau (née Fuchs), widow of the late Leopold Landau (of Breslau), lately resident of Heinrich Stahl House, passed away on March 22, at the age of 83. Sadly missed by her son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and niece.

Landsberg.—Mrs. Martha Landsberg, of 1 Priory Court, 47 Shepherds Hill, Highgate, N.6, died peacefully in her 84th year on March 21. Sadly missed by her daughter, Ursel, son, John, and family and many friends.

Porges.—Miss Edith Porges died in Osmond House on April 20.

CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 25p for five words plus 20p for advertisements under a Box No.

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Personal

ATTRACTIVE LADY in early forties would like to meet educated gentleman between 40-50 years with view to friendship and marriage. Widower or divorcee preferred. Box 654.

WIDOW in the 60s, independent, no relatives, comfortable home, would like to meet gentleman for companionship. Please reply giving telephone number. Box 653.

INTELLIGENT YOUNG man, if possible professional, 30-35, with matrimony in mind, could meet my friend, a very attractive bilingual secretary. Box 657.

YOUNG MAN, aged 29, above average intelligence, non-Orthodox, non-smoking, enjoys walking/classical music, wishes to meet similar, slightly younger girl—preferably London area. Box 656.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiries

Leighton-Felbowicz.—Would any member of the family Leighton-Felbowicz, formerly of 22 Wolsey Road, Moor Park, Northwood, please contact Mrs. B. Lowenberg of 2 Amberden Avenue, London, N3 3BJ, for the return of some personal documents.

Ollendorff.—Any descendants of Robert Ollendorff, who was born in Rawicz in 1823 and died in Breslau in 1876, and of his wife Seraphine (née Bandmann), are asked to get in touch with Goodwin & Knipe, solicitors, 204 Portobello Road, London, W.11, in connection with the estate of the late Kate Becher (née Ollendorff).

Szinberger.—Ilse Szinberger, daughter of owner of shoe shop Paga, Vienna, Taborstrasse, is wanted by Blanca Fischer-Curtis. Phone 01-942 8079.

OBITUARY

LIZA FUCHSOVA

The Czech-born pianist, Liza Fuchsova, died on February 27 in London at the age of 63. She frequently appeared on the concert platform and for the BBC, being much in demand for her authentic performances of Smetana and Dvorak. For some years she was pianist in the Dumka trio and in later years she was also a highly appreciated teacher. She frequently gave concerts in aid of Jewish good causes.

MARTIN SOBOTKER

Martin Sobotker, who played an important part in the German-Jewish youth movement in Berlin, died in New York in his 78th year. For many years, he was one of the most influential leaders of the Deutsch-Juedische Jugend-Gemeinschaft (DJJG). He was also head of the Berlin Landesverband of Jewish youth organisation and, from 1933 onwards, principal of the youth department of the Berlin Jewish community. In New York, he was executive director of the congregation "Habonim", founded by German-Jewish immigrants. Though officially he retired from this position a few years ago, he continued to look after the well-being of "his" congregation. He will be remembered with particular gratitude by his numerous former comrades in the youth movement, now spread all over the world.

DR. STEFANIE FELSENBURG

Dr. Stefanie Felsenburg who has died, aged 74, came to this country on a domestic permit in 1939. Two years later she went to Bloomsbury as a consultant psychiatrist. She persuaded the Jewish Board of Guardians to open three hostels for mentally disturbed borderline cases, mainly young people, and looked after them in addition to her professional work at Friern Barnet Mental Hospital. She also did voluntary work for "Alcoholics Anonymous". After her retirement, she went to evening classes and took "A" levels in French, German and English.

MISS GRETE SONNENBERG

Miss Grete Sonnenberg recently died in her 84th year. Her life story is typical of many Jews from Germany who had found refuge in Britain. Having worked as a secretary in her home town of Hanover, she was for many years a domestic in this country. Later, she joined the staff of URO and of the AJR, where she was in charge of the so-called Revolving Fund. After the settlement of her compensation claims she was granted a carefree life in retirement. Her strong sense of solidarity is reflected in her decision to leave part of her assets to the Belsize Square Synagogue and to the AJR. A modest and unassuming person, she will be remembered with affection by all who knew her.

DR. FREDDY HIMMELWEIT

Dr. Freddy Himmelweit, the eminent virologist and bacteriologist, has died, aged 74. He was born in Hanover and studied bacteriology at Berlin University. He came to Britain as a refugee in 1933, gained a Ph.D. at London University and afterwards the M.R.C.P. and F.R.C.P. (membership and fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians) at Edinburgh. He worked with Sir Almoth Wright, the bacteriologist, and became director of virus research at the Wright-Fleming Institute, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. From 1966 to 1973, after retirement, he was research fellow at the biochemistry department of Imperial College of Science and Technology and worked with Professor Sir Ernst Chain, the Nobel Prize-winner on the application of Interferon to virus diseases. He pioneered the introduction of an influenza vaccine. From 1942 to 1945 he was honorary bacteriologist of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, and after the war he received a professorship at Frankfurt University. To mark his 70th birthday, his family endowed a scholarship in his name at the Haifa Technion. His widow, Dr. Hilde Himmelweit, professor of social psychology at the London School of Economics, whom he married in 1940 (they were the first couple to be married at Cambridge University Synagogue), is widely known for a number of research projects she has undertaken in recent years. His daughter, Susa, is lecturer of economics at Birkbeck College, London.

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THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

ISRAEL

Tel Aviv. Israel does not lag behind English-speaking countries in staging contemporary plays; Slade's "Same time next year" (at the Bimot Theatre) was skilfully adapted to Israeli conditions, "Equus" was praised for presenting the required stage nudity "in a decent way", and "Moon Children" by the American author Michael Weller (dealing with American student life) pulled many young people back into the auditorium of the living theatre.

Berlin. The 1977 German "Theatertreffen" is to be held there from May 3 to 23. Among the productions selected for the occasion are such old favourites as Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler" (Schauspielhaus Bochum under Peter Zadek), "Medea" (Schauspielhaus Frankfurt), and "Faust I and II" (Wuerttembergisches Staatstheater, Stuttgart).

Im Weissen Roessl (and elsewhere) at St. Wolfgang, Upper Austria, a Robert Stolz Festival will take place from May 2 to 18.

50 Years ago was the date when the first Jazz opera "Johnny spielt auf", by Ernst Krenek, appeared on the scene. After a world premiere in Leipzig in 1927, the opera was performed two years later at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, with Michael Bohnen and Friedrich Schorr in the cast. Schorr, Hungarian born and, during the 'Twenties, considered one of the greatest Wagner baritones (Cologne, Prague, Berlin), was a member of the New York Met. until 1943; he died in 1953 in Farmington, Connecticut.

Lilli Palmer has added a second volume to her bestseller "Dicke Lilli, gutes Kind" (which last year was issued in Britain under the title "Lobster Quadrille"). The new book, published by Droemer-Knaur Verlag, Munich, is called "Der rote Rabe", and deals with the years when the authoress lived and worked in London; it is well written, with a good measure of excellent, sometimes self-deriding humour.

Birthdays. Zarah Leander, born in Sweden, discovered in Vienna, from where her almost legendary song "Gebundene Haende" went around Europe, has attained the age of 70. **Wilhelm Borchert**, member of the Berlin Schiller and Schlosspark Theater, and remembered for his most impressive portraying of Wallenstein, "Fuhrmann Henschel" and—later—Sauerbruch in the film of that name, celebrated his 70th birthday and his 50th year on the German stage.

Obituary. **Isy Geiger** who died at the age of 90, was amongst the best-known band-leaders of pre-war Austria, and one of the pioneers in the early 'Twenties when radio concerts began at the Vienna Radio station RAVAG. In London, he and his band became very popular with the BBC for which he played for over 20 years, and his open air concerts in Battersea Pleasure Gardens were enjoyed by thousands. He was active until one month before his death in early spring this year.

S.B.

WOMEN'S PARTY IN ELECTIONS

Twelve women were nominated as candidates in the elections for the "Women's Party" founded by Marcia Freedman, an American immigrant. Its programme pledges to help women achieve greater satisfaction and demands "essential service" for prostitutes and professional status, pensions and insurance for housewives. It wants the army to cancel cosmetics and home economics courses and extend the compulsory service for women to the same length as that of men.

FLOWERS FOR EXPORT

More than 170 million fresh flowers have already been sold this season to Europe and North America. They are picked late at night and sold by florist abroad the following day. The United States and Canada alone have taken up over 3 million and by the end of the season, this export will have earned nearly £15 million for Israel.

MORE AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

In 1975 only 842 American Jews settled in Israel, in 1976 their number rose to 2,334, i.e. by 177 per cent.

PASSOVER TOURIST BOOM

El Al had to put on an extra 12 flights to accommodate tourists from Britain who spent the Passover in Israel. Bookings were up 40 per cent on last year.

PRAISE FOR ISRAELI TANK

An American tank warfare expert, Mr. K. S. Brower, wrote in the Washington "Armed Forces Journal" that the new Israeli "Chariot" tank was the only true innovation in tank design for decades. If such a tank was hit in battle, it would not be destroyed, but become stationary and could either be repaired in a few hours or act as a practically invulnerable pillbox. Mr. Brower estimates that some 300-400 such tanks are being produced per year.

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