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INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Margot Pottlitzer

THE TRAGIC PAST OF GERMAN JEWRY

Twenty-three years ago, the late Dr. Siegfried Moses, first president of the Leo Baeck Institute, defined the tasks which the Institute had set itself in its publications: "The era of German Jewry, so irretrievably past, could only be retraced and preserved for ourselves, our children and the Jewish world at large, if we, the generation that had set out from Germany, could take this cultural task upon ourselves. In our minds, the German Jewish scene is still alive, and in our midst forces are still available who can present and analyse from their own affinity and experience the manifold manifestations of German Jewry." This statement is taken from the first Year book published by the Institute. Now its 23rd volume has appeared.*

In a way, the new volume marks the end of an epoch. Like its predecessors it has an introduction by its founder-editor Dr. Robert Weltsch, written before his wife's untimely death and his subsequent retirement to Israel. It also contains an important appraisal of the problems of Jewish historiography by Professor Hans Liebeschütz who died recently. Taken together, these two essays survey the present stage in the writing of German Jewish history. They both stress that historical events must not be judged in the light of what happened afterwards. Robert Weltsch gives a masterly description of the problems of Jews in the old Austrian Empire in which he grew up, and draws attention to the part that Jews have frequently played in regions where they lived in an environment of mixed nationalities in the frontier regions of German-speaking entities. He concludes that perhaps Jews were particularly suited for the role of mediators and agents for a better mutual understanding between people of a similar background, bitterly divided by political strife.

Professor Liebeschütz stresses the two main tendencies of German Jewish history-writing: to record and interpret the creative part played by Jews in the age of emancipation, and particularly in the "stimulating intellectual atmosphere of the Weimar Republic", and—as a warning to future generations—to describe the oppression and crimes which brought this period to an end.

The present volume, like the many others that have so far appeared, is an expression of both these tendencies. The first few of them published contributions by many survivors whose memories formed significant material which would otherwise have been irretrievably lost. Apart from personal memories scholars of the refugee generation evaluated the period of history which they had lived through. Many of these early contributors have since died, others have retired from active research, but in the meantime, the contacts of

the Leo Baeck Institute with the contemporary academic world have steadily increased, both in the countries of refuge and in Germany where we witness a considerable interest in the study of German Jewish history before and after the final catastrophe. Professor Liebeschütz points to the importance of studying the background of German history against which the history of the German Jews has to be seen and quotes an English professor of history as saying recently that neither professional knowledge nor methodical skill could enable any historian to foresee the future. How then could a population which had to rely on the limited information offered in daily life, have foreseen the catastrophe? Therefore, when outlining the future tasks of the writers of such history, Professor Liebeschütz concludes: In order to present a comprehensive critical presentation of the emancipation period, the Institute "will have to concentrate on the relevant factors in the different spheres of life which had an impact on Jewish existence, and at the same time describe the attributes and traditions of Jewry through many generations which produced co-operation and conflict. If this is done, it will be possible to describe the creativeness of the period without neglecting the root causes of the final catastrophe." A daunting task!

"Antisemitism and Philosemitism"

"Antisemitism and Philosemitism" is the main theme of the present volume. The subject covers a wide field. With the exception of our friend and board member Dr. E. G. Lowenthal who uses his extensive knowledge of post-war Germany for a third instalment of his survey of post-war publications on Jewish communal history in Germany, none of the contributors was born before 1920, and quite a few belong to the post-war generation of German, American and Israeli historians. This means, of course, that they lack the personal involvement which earlier writers invariably displayed to the advantage or disadvantage of their statements. To them, what happened to German Jews, is part of history to be learned from original sources in patient research, and to be evaluated with the critical equipment of the professional historian. It does not speak against them that survivors of an older generation sometimes disagree with their findings.

In a thoroughly researched important essay, Israeli-born Shulamit Volkov examines the basic philosophy of antisemitism, the "role of antisemitism as a cultural code". She says that antisemitism has never been a direct reaction to actual circumstances, but that it arose in strength after the economic depression of 1873, the "Gründerkrach". It was made *salonfähig* in bourgeois society and in the universities, when the historian Treitschke endorsed it, coupled with the emergent ideology of German nationalism. Emancipation and antisemit-

ism became the signposts of two cultures which co-existed in Imperial Germany, but were torn asunder in the Weimar years. Hitler and his associates found a ready weapon to be transformed into a battle-cry for intimidation and annihilation.

"Jews and Judaism in the Gartenlaube" by Henry Wassermann describes the treatment of the Jewish problem in the venerable "Gartenlaube", the first German mass-circulation periodical. Its founder, progressive Ernst Keil, believed in educating his mostly middle-class and middle-brow readers in an entertaining manner to support liberal causes. 1878, in its peak year, the "Gartenlaube" reached 375,000 readers. In its novels by best-selling authors of the time, Jews were shown in a favourable light, and a whole series of articles was devoted to the practice of Judaism, presented as a family affair in which *Gemütlichkeit* was tempered by quaint tradition-hallowed practices, though religion did not play a great part in them. Whereas the literature of the Enlightenment had created a rather bloodless image of the "noble Jew", the "Gartenlaube" showed the Jew just like any other honest and hard-working *Bürger*, i.e., like the readers to whom the paper appealed and which, in turn, included many Jews of just that type. After Keil's death in 1878, his liberal concept of Jews gradually evaporated, and when after the economic depression, liberal ideas began to founder, the "Gartenlaube", like its competitors, was not above applying to the Jews the stereotypes created by the anti-emancipation nationalist forces.

The nineteenth-century evolution both of the term and the meaning of "antisemitism" and the ambiguous reactions of the Liberals to the new ideology are dealt with in several essays. In "Two Generations in the History of German Antisemitism", Moshe Zimmermann traces its growth from Wilhelm Marr who actually coined the word in order to place the idea in a supra-religious context to Theodor Fritsch, the ill-famed author of the "Handbuch der Judenfrage" which inspired Hitler and Streicher and supplied them with a mass of stock propaganda material.

The First World War and its effects on the Jewish situation in Germany are investigated in a number of essays. Of particular value is Werner T. Angress' study in depth of the circumstances surrounding the infamous "Judenählung" in 1916. Despite the patriotic fervour of the great majority of German Jews, a mounting antisemitic campaign accused them of shirking their military duty, and the Prussian Minister of War, "in order to examine these complaints, and should they prove unwarranted, to be able to refute them", asked all military commands in the field, in occupied territories, and behind the front to submit suitable statistics based on a special census. Heated discussions in the Reichstag and angry protests from Jewish leaders were of no avail. The results of the census were not published at the time, and it was only many years later that the Federal German Govern-

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* Year Book XXIII. Published for the Leo Baeck Institute by Secker and Warburg, 1978. Founder Editor Robert Weltsch, Co-editor Arnold Paucker. 402 pp., 12 illustrations. £9.00.

The Past of German Jewry

Continued from page 1

ment officially recognised the sacrifices made by German Jews for their "fatherland" by making the figures available. However, Professor Angress sees in the census no more than a tactical blunder, which, if the course of German history after the war had been different, would have been "shrugged off as just another manifestation of Rishes on the part of the Wilhelmian military élite".

Volume 23 contains a great many more essays of value to future historians, because for the greater part they are based on source material which continues to become available, rather than on personal recollections and evaluations.

Carl J. Rheins' research into the "Schwarze Fahnlein Jungenschaft 1932-1934" makes use of a wealth of such new material. Conceivably, he might have been more tolerant in describing a pathetic attempt to conform and survive, bearing in mind what Robert Weltsch says in his introduction: we have to apply the standards prevalent at that time, though much of what then emanated from certain Jewish groups would seem to border on the ludicrous when we examine it today.

In its section "Jews in Literature," the Year Book brings some beautifully written and enlightening articles on a number of Jewish writers and poets, such as Daniel Lessmann, Lion Feuchtwanger, Franz Kafka, Gertrud Kolmar, Arnold Zweig, and Max Brod as well as studies on German-Jewish writers of Prague and on German Jews in Agnon's work.

As in previous years, there are nearly 80 pages of a Bibliography, meticulously compiled by Bertha Cohn, under the title "Post-War Publications on German Jewry." Excellently indexed, it covers books and articles published in 1977 and will prove indispensable to any student of German-Jewish history.

It is impossible to give more than a crude idea of the riches contained in this proud volume, but it must be gratifying to Robert Weltsch, its founder-editor, and Arnold Paucker who has taken over the gruelling day-to-day editing of the Year Book, that, together with the other publications of the Leo Baeck Institute, it has fulfilled most of the tasks envisaged by its founders and is highly regarded in Anglo-Saxon and German academic circles as well as in the Hebrew-speaking world. This has recently been specifically stated by G. Kressel, the leading Hebrew bibliographer, in an article on the Heritage of German Jewry which singles out the Bibliography for special praise.

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE STATUTE OF LIMITATION

During a visit to Israel, Mr. Jochen Vogel, the West German Minister of Justice, said he intended to bring in legislation in the Federal Parliament to preclude the application of the Statute of Limitation for major Nazi crimes and he hoped it would receive the support of a majority of deputies. The West German Government would give an opportunity to Israel to explain to the public on radio and TV why the statute should not become effective for such crimes by the end of 1979. Mr. Tuvia Riedmann, head of the Haifa Documentation Centre on Nazi Crimes, will visit West Germany for this purpose in the near future.

Mr. Hans Hellmuth Ruethe, the West German Ambassador to Britain, has told the Board of Deputies that he supports the claim for abolition.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

MAIDANEK TRIAL IN DANGER

The Düsseldorf court which has been in session since November 1975 to deal with 15 men and women accused of murder and torture at Maidanek, has released 68-year-old Wilhelm Reinartz, a former medical camp orderly as unfit to stand trial. Reinartz is severely ill following a heart attack and the court reached its decision after a special hearing at his hospital bedside. It was forced to do so because, according to German law, a trial will collapse unless it holds hearings at least once every ten days. State prosecutors argued that the proceedings should continue in his absence, because his condition was self-inflicted as he had refused to have a heart pace-maker inserted, but the court decided that he had a right to refuse. Already another of the 15 accused has died, as has one of the jurors. The judge kept in reserve as an "understudy" has also been taken seriously ill. At the same time, many witnesses have died, others are too old to remember or unwilling to travel to Germany.

MORE TRIALS

In a trial at Bielefeld, 70-year-old Wilhelm Westerheide, the former Nazi district commissioner in the Ukrainian town of Vladimir Colynsk, is charged with complicity in the murder of thousands of Jews. An Israeli witness accused him of shooting dead his 17-year-old sister-in-law in 1943 when she tried to smuggle food into the Volynsk ghetto.

In Stade, the trial has opened against 70-year-old Erich Scharfetter who is accused of cruelly murdering Jewish concentration camp inmates in Jeshvi, Ereda and Kuremear where he was employed as an SS medical orderly. He is alleged to have shot sick prisoners who were too ill to crawl to the outside lavatories. After the war, Scharfetter went to sea, but returned last year to the Federal Republic to claim his army pension. At the border he was arrested on the strength of a warrant for his arrest issued 11 years ago. Between 50 and 100 witnesses, mostly from Israel and the US have been summoned to appear in the trial which will probably last for some six months.

ISRAEL A SUBJECT OF POLITICAL EDUCATION

When Mrs. Ehrentraut Scholtz, expert on Israel in the Federal Centre for Political Education, retired for health reasons, representatives of Israel thanked her for her pioneer work in organising a great number of information tours of German citizens to Israel, the only country in the world for which such tours have been regularly arranged, thus enabling ordinary citizens of the Federal Republic to form their own impressions.

DR. HANS TRAMER

(Tel Aviv)

suddenly died on January 6.

It was his express wish that no tributes to his personality and work should be published.

His signal services will be greatly missed by the organisations of Jews from Germany with which he held leading positions, and his friends and colleagues all over the world deeply mourn his untimely death.

DEATH OF CARDINAL FRINGS

The Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Frings, who has died, aged 91, won wide acclaim for his stand against the Nazis. When he denounced their persecution of Jews in 1937, the Gestapo retaliated by closing down the priests' seminary of which he was the head. In his sermons and in writing, he continued to protest and called the Nazi policy an "injustice crying to heaven". However, after the war, he was equally opposed to the Allies' attempts to investigate the past of Nazi party members and to denazification in general. In 1967 he was quoted as saying to the late Rabbi Nussbaum, then head of the American section of the World Jewish Congress, that before 1933, the Jews wielded too much economical, political and cultural power in Germany, that they had flaunted their wealth and thus made it possible for Nazi propaganda to succeed. He also doubted whether the figure of six million Jewish victims might not be exaggerated. He subsequently said he had been misquoted, but offered to resign and had to be overruled by Pope Paul to stay in office. At the 1963 Vatican Council, he led the German delegation in advocating a new outlook of the Church towards the Jewish people and helped to bring about the Declaration which acquitted the Jews of collective guilt in the Crucifixion.

GERMAN CHURCHES AND THE JEWS

During a joint Jewish-Christian Service, the president of the Rhineland Protestant Church said the question "how could the synagogues be allowed to burn down 40 years ago" must not be forgotten, however bitter feelings it awakened. One answer was that Christians had forgotten that the God of the Patriarchs was also the father of Jesus and of modern Mankind. At a similar service in Krefeld, Rabbi Dr. Levinson asked the Christians not to suppress the memory of the past. Young people who were not told about the persecutions of the Jews in the Third Reich by their parents, were not immune to terrorism.

SALE OF NAZI TOYS

Members of the Young Socialist group in the Bundestag have demanded to prosecute business firms still selling toys with Nazi symbols. They expressed their concern at the obvious tendency among toy manufacturers to use such symbols notwithstanding frequent appeals to them not to do so. The toy trade replied by stating that in the whole of the Federal Republic not more than 1 per cent of toys had connections with the Nazi past, and the sale of U-boats, tanks and cannons was dwindling. Most department stores and toy shops refused to handle such merchandise. Most of such toys still being sold, came from abroad, mainly from Great Britain, Japan, Hong Kong, and the US.

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AT B'NAI BRITH MEETING

The president and the director of B'nai Brith in Europe gave a warm welcome to the Egyptian Ambassador in Bonn, Omar Sirry, who had accepted an invitation of the Düsseldorf Lodge. This was the first visit paid by an Egyptian Ambassador to any B'nai Brith Lodge in Europe. In his address, Mr Sirry said it was more important to abolish prejudice and mistrust after a confrontation of nearly 30 years than to cling to the interpretation of clauses and paragraphs. President Domberger of B'nai Brith International thanked the Ambassador for his unbiased attitude and promised a visit to Egypt by his organisation as soon as political conditions were favourable.

HOME NEWS

Anglo-Judaica

BRITISH WAR AGAINST ISRAEL IN 1948?

Documents which have just been released by the Public Records Office under the 30-years' rule, reveal that in November, 1948 the British Government considered sending British troops to the Middle East to support the Transjordan Force operating in Palestine and thus clash with the Army of the new State of Israel. Fears were expressed at a Cabinet meeting that the Jews "in their present aggressive mood" might attack Transjordan whose ruler, King Abdullah, had a defence treaty with Britain. Lord Shinwell, who was Minister of War at the time, has stated that he knew nothing of such intentions.

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR GOLDA MEIR

Over 800 people gathered at Central Hall, Westminster, on January 8, at a memorial meeting for Golda Meir, arranged by the Israeli Embassy. The Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Abraham Kidron, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, and the president of the Board of Deputies, Lord Fisher, paid tribute to the woman they called "the mother of Israel". Those present included Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, Mr. John Tomlinson (Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office), Mr. George Thomas (Speaker of the House of Commons) and representatives from the embassies of several countries.

THE 1979 MACCABIAH GAMES AT LEICESTER

Dr. Israel Peled, mayor of Ramat Gan and chairman of Maccabi World Union, visited Leicester to discuss the 1979 European Maccabiah Games with Dr. Mac Goldsmith, president of the organising committee. He inspected the sports stadium, squash courts, tennis courts and accommodation for the athletes and said he was most impressed by the facilities provided by Leicester where the games are to be held—the largest Jewish sports gathering in Europe since 1939. There will be 630 participants from 14 countries who will compete in nine sports. Finland alone is sending a team of 20-30 people.

NAZI SHOUTS AT HITLER FILM

Record audiences saw the Joachim C. Fest film "Hitler—A Career" at the Classic Cinema in Oxford Street, London. Some of the audience came dressed in Nazi-style clothing and badges. According to a newspaper report, there were shouts of "Sieg Heil" and "National Front", and somebody cried "Jewish propaganda" when the Holocaust was mentioned. The manager of the cinema, Mr. Hall, said he had no knowledge of this, but there had been school parties and coaches from outside London with people who took a serious interest in the subject matter.

JEW IN THE NATIONAL FRONT?

Mr. Martin Webster, the National Front organiser, said in a letter to the "Hendon Times" that one of the Front's members, Mr. Albert Elder, was a member of the Eastbourne Jewish community. This claim has been emphatically denied by the community.

LITERARY AWARDS

Dan Jacobson and Dr. Lionel Kochan have won the annual Jewish Chronicle—Harold H. Wingate Award for fiction and non-fiction. The fiction award was won by Dan Jacobson for his book "Confessions of Joseph Baisz", the non-fiction prize by Dr. Kochan, Reader in Jewish History at Warwick University, for his book "The Jew and his History"; Dr. Kochan is also a member of the London Board of the Leo Baeck Institute.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF CLUB 1943

To mark the 35th anniversary of its foundation the Club 1943 had a beautifully arranged birthday celebration on December 18 at Hannah Karminski House. The members and friends of the Club were welcomed by Mrs. Berta Sterley, the joint hon. secretary of the Club, and congratulations were extended by Dr. Werner Kilian, Cultural Attaché, on behalf of the German Embassy, and by Dr. Werner Rosenstock on behalf of the AJR. Dr. Erwin Seligman gave a survey of the Club's activities during the last five years; the impressive record of the variety of subjects dealt with by expert speakers at the regular Monday meetings testifies to the undiminished strength of the Club and its invaluable services to people of our background.

RABBI SALZBERGER MEMORIAL LECTURE

The second of the Annual Dr. Georg Salzberger Memorial Lectures was given by Rabbi Dr. Louis Jacobs in the Belsize Square Synagogue on December 10, with Dr. F. Levy in the chair, and in the presence of Mrs. Salzberger.

As his subject, Rabbi Dr. Jacobs had chosen Rabbi Meir Simhah of Dvinsk (1843-1920), a renowned talmudic scholar, whose commentaries also covered aspects of Jewish theology and religious philosophy. It was the originality of his thought, at times "surprisingly modern and theologically advanced," which justified a survey and evaluation of his work and personality in the particular context of this memorial lecture. The speaker drew his lucid portrait of Rabbi Meir Simhah against a well-defined historical background, which was determined by the Jewish situation under Czarist rule and by the trends of Jewish thought within the Baltic countries.

Rabbi J. Kokotek thanked the speaker and underlined the importance of the observations which he had offered in his lecture.

H. W. FREYHAN

"BAR MITZVAH" MUSICAL CLOSING

"Bar Mitzvah Boy", the musical after Jack Rosenthal's successful TV play, has ended its run at Her Majesty's Theatre in London. The producer, Peter Witt, said it had been losing money consistently because there had been a lack of support from the Jewish community. He added that there had been a prejudice against the play because it did not portray Jews in a way people would like them to be seen. He thought this betrayed a lack of humour. He was himself a Jew and thought it funny. In the autumn, he will take the show to New York. Mr. Rosenthal, the author, did not think it was the Jewish audience that mattered all that much. The TV play had been a great success in Germany, where there was no longer a large Jewish population.

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Refugee Rabbi for Manchester

Rabbi Chanoch Ehrentreu, principal of the Sunderland Institute for Higher Talmudic Studies (Kolef), has been appointed Communal Rabbi for Manchester. He declined the title, though he will act as a unifying force for the Manchester community. Rabbi Ehrentreu was born in Frankfurt in 1933 and educated at the Hasmonean School in London. After coming to this country, his father, Rabbi J. Ehrentreu, became principal of the Prestwich Jewish Day School.

In Newcastle Rabbi Marcel Marcus, minister of the Reform Synagogue, will leave the city in the summer. He recently visited his parents who live in West Germany and said he was negotiating for a minister's post on the Continent with a congregation embracing all shades of Jewish opinion from Liberal to Orthodox Judaism.

Board's Radio and TV Committee

In succession to Lord Mishcon, who resigned because of other commitments, Dr S. J. Roth has been elected Chairman of the Board of Deputies' Radio and Television Committee.

Versatile Rabbi

The newly appointed rabbi at the Glasgow Queen's Park Synagogue, Rabbi Adrian Jesner, has been the subject of a heated debate, because he retains an interest in his family's automobile business in the city. According to the synagogue's constitution, the minister of the synagogue must not engage directly or indirectly "in any business or commercial venture". The clause was eventually deleted. The rabbi, who is aged 26, married with two children, studied for six years in Israel. During the Yom Kippur War, he served in a voluntary capacity as a relief mechanic for civilian and military vehicles and was a member of a pop group formed by Yeshiva students to entertain Israeli soldiers. Before going to Israel, he studied at the Springburn College of Engineering and he holds a City and Guilds London Diploma in motor mechanics. He is a director in the family business.

Jewish Servicemen's Week-end

Jewish servicemen and women in the armed forces of Britain, the United States and Israel, together with their families, took part in the annual "Jewish week-end" arranged by the Jewish Committee for H.M. Forces under the direction of the Rev. Malcolm Weisman, Senior Jewish Chaplain, at Ampert House, the RAF chaplaincy headquarters in Hampshire. Among the speakers were Rabbi Raymond Apple, senior minister of the Sydney Great Synagogue and Mr. Donald Samuel, president of the Jewish Committee for H.M. Forces.

Edgar Lustgarten

Edgar Lustgarten, the writer and broadcaster on criminal cases of the past, who has died, aged 76, was eagerly sought after to address Jewish meetings including those in support of the Hebrew University and the Haifa Technion. He was a member of the Board of Deputies' Radio and TV committee and a patron of the Society for Animal Welfare in Israel.

Herman Klausner

Herman Klausner, a life-member of the board of management of the Hendon Adath Yisroel Congregation, who has died at the age of 83, came to this country from Frankfurt in 1939. Having grown up in a deeply religious environment, he joined the congregation and in due course became its vice-president, chairman of its welfare committee and of a number of other religious and social organisations.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Persecution of Chasidim

After Irving Sussman, a 65-year-old Chasid plumber, was murdered on a Friday night, 200 angry Chasidim stormed the Brooklyn police station, declaring the murder was the last straw in a "sea of hatred". For a long time, Chasidim had been the targets of hooligans and the police had given them very little protection. Like thousands of other Orthodox Jews, Mr. Sussman was out on foot on the Friday night. Because of the Sabbath, he could not use public transport. For the same reason he carried neither a protective weapon nor money. State Assemblyman Samuel Hirsch, a leader of the Orthodox community, was beaten by police during the riot. He explained that it had become a Friday night sport of hooligans to cruise up and down in the district and to bully anyone they met. Sometimes they shouted obscenities like "Hitler didn't kill enough of you". The local police had refused to provide extra protection on the Sabbath. Only three police cars are patrolling the streets, where 140,000 people live between midnight and 8 a.m. Of 114 police officers in the area, five are Jews. When at one time a suspect was arrested, he could not be detained, because the Jewish victim could not come to give evidence on the Sabbath.

Henry Kissinger on Judaism

In an address to the American Jewish Committee, Dr. Henry Kissinger said: "No one could have gone through the experiences of my youth and my life without having a poignant reminder of the Jewish destiny. Nobody can have lived in a totalitarian state and left members of his family in concentration camps, without knowing that—for the Jewish people perhaps more than any other—the loss of justice anywhere in the world is a threat to their own existence, and peace anywhere is a guarantee for their own future. Obviously, it was my duty as Secretary of State to embed this into the policies of the country that received me as a refugee and gave me an opportunity to serve my country and my people".

New Director of Memorial Foundation

Dr. A. J. Sherman has resigned as Executive Director of the Memorial Foundation and Secretary of the Claims Conference to return to academic service at Harvard University. As readers will remember, Dr. Sherman is the author of "Island Refuge", a standard work on the admission of refugees from the Third Reich to Great Britain during the years 1933-1939. He will be succeeded in his office by Dr. Norman E. Frimer, who recently retired as the International Director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and has a long and distinguished career in Jewish educational administration.

CANADA HONOURS RABBI

Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, the 66-year-old president of the Canadian Jewish Congress and retired rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto, has been appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada, in the Canadian Government's Christmas List. Before the Nazis came to power, Rabbi Plaut lived and studied in Berlin, where he passed his first legal examination.

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PETER C. RICKENBACK

NEO-NAZIS IN AUSTRALIA

German immigrants in Adelaide, South Australia, have formed a secret neo-Nazi organisation, called the Australian-German Anti-Deformation League, in order to rehabilitate Hitler and his party. About 60 members meet on the last Friday of each month. Their main activity is the distribution of anti-Jewish and pro-Nazi propaganda. When the "Holocaust" film was televised, they are alleged to have told sponsors that the show was a Jewish fabrication and they should therefore withdraw their advertisements.

THE JEWS OF ETHIOPIA

The situations of the 27,000 Beta Israel (Falashas), the Black Jews of Ethiopia, has again deteriorated. Some 1,000 of them were killed during the civil war which led to the eclipse of Haile Selassie's regime. Before 1976, more than 200 Falashas settled in Israel, and they have now received reports that another 7,000 have been displaced from their villages and are destitute.

SPANISH COMMUNITY RESTORED

The new Spanish constitution gives full religious equality to Spain's 12,000 Jews. Article 16 states that everybody is guaranteed religious liberty, and nobody shall be obliged to declare his or her religion, ideology or beliefs.

Mr. David Sequerra was invited by the president of the Spanish Parliament to represent Spanish Jewry at the ratification of the new constitution by King Carlos. The president of the World Sephardi Federation, Mr. Gaon, sent a message of congratulations to the King, expressing the pride of Sephardi Jews "at this decisive step for the great good of Spain with which we have so many ties".

FRANCE

Drancy Synagogue burned down

Police and fire brigade officials in Drancy near Paris have confirmed that the fire, which destroyed the local synagogue, was caused by arson. Under the Nazis, Drancy was the largest deportation centre in France. From July, 1942 to the camp's liberation in August 1944, some 61,000 Jews were deported from there. The extreme Right-wing French National Liberation Front stated the fire had been an "act of resistance against Jewish dictatorship." It followed a bomb explosion at the Paris offices of Betar, the Herut youth movement, and the defacement of the wall of the Avignon synagogue with Nazi and antisemitic slogans.

German Woman Terrorist Jailed

Evelyn Barj, a 30-year-old German-born woman, convicted of terrorist activities in Israel in 1971, was sent to prison for seven years in Paris for being involved in a bomb explosion outside a branch of Rothschild's bank. Three of her accomplices were also jailed.

Paris honours Nobel Prize Winner

More than 2,000 people, many of them students, attended a meeting in the Sorbonne in honour of Isaac Bashevis Singer, the Jewish recipient of the Nobel Prize for literature, and gave him a great ovation. Members of the French Academy, the rector of Paris University, the Chief Rabbi of France, and the Ambassadors of the United States, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, and Israel were in the audience. Mr. Singer spoke first in Yiddish, then in English and was told by Mr. Imbert, director-general of higher education in France, that in future

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

Yiddish would be taught by a permanent teacher at French universities. Baron Alain de Rothschild, president of the main Jewish religious organisation in France, said that by writing in Yiddish, Singer had resuscitated a world which had been assassinated.

AUSTRIA

Cardinal Koenig visits B'nai B'rith

Cardinal Dr. Franz Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, recently paid a visit to the Vienna B'nai B'rith. In the course of his address to the members of the Lodge, the Cardinal stressed that the Vienna Synod had been the first which raised the demand for religious tuition without prejudice. He also dealt with the relationship between Jews and Christians, which had developed during the last years after the Second Vatican Council.

Growing Interest in Persecution Period

Students and pupils of secondary schools are showing a growing interest in the history of persecution. Both the former concentration camp at Mauthausen and the documentation centre of the Austrian Resistance in Vienna receive a constant stream of visitors and enquiries. Students of contemporary history from the universities of Linz and Salzburg have been engaged to act as auxiliary guides and providers of information.

NEWS FROM THE EAST

Satirist Refuseniks leave the USSR

Yevgeny and Olga Kozhevnikov, the husband and wife acting team, and their seven-year-old son, who were recently allowed to leave the Soviet Union, were one of 13 refusenik families whose cases were raised by Senator Edward Kennedy during his recent visit to Russia. Sir Laurence Olivier and Sir John Gielgud also wrote to President Brezhnev on behalf of their efforts to emigrate. They had applied in 1976 and were subsequently dismissed from their employment as highly trained actors. Later they put on shows in their tiny Moscow flat to cheer up their refusenik friends. Their humorous underground review became widely known. Their only stage props were suitcases for departing emigrants.

After their emigration, the Kozhevnikovs were interviewed in the "Tonight" programme on BBC 1. They said they had wanted to go to London or San Francisco, but were persuaded in Vienna by an Israeli official that it would be more appropriate for them to go to Jerusalem, where they were sent to an absorption centre. They told the interviewer that they were well and comfortably housed, but were still discussing with Israeli officials whether it would not be better for them to go to London or the United States in order to effectively campaign for the release of those they had left behind.

Demonstration by Hunger Strike

Between 50 and 60 Moscow Jewish refuseniks went on hunger strike on the eighth anniversary of the imposition of sentences in the Leningrad hijack trial. They had planned a silent demonstration outside the Lenin Library, but a number of them were arrested and others turned back and placed under house arrest with KGB cars stationed outside their flats. Those arrested were released at the end of the day.

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H. W. Freyhan

DAVID OISTRAKH REMEMBERED

A Biased Biography

In a very different way two recent publications provide information about the lives and careers of two of our century's greatest violinists. Yehudi Menuhin has given us his own account in a searching autobiography (reviewed in the April 1978 issue of *AJR Information*). His slightly older colleague and friend, David Oistrakh, died on a concert tour in 1974. Viktor Jusefowitsch, a Russian musician, had proposed to write a book on him which was to be based on interviews with the artist himself. Oistrakh had agreed to this, but his hectic working schedules forced him to postpone the matter until it was too late. The author then turned to Oistrakh's son Igor, and with his co-operation, and with the assistance of David's widow, he was able to carry out his project. The book is now available in Juri Elperin's German translation (*Viktor Jusefowitsch, David Oistrakh; Gespraech mit Igor Oistrakh. — Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart, 1977. DM 39.80*).

This is a coffee-table volume; handsomely produced and illustrated, it makes a suitable present for music lovers.

The text is one vast eulogy. While it would be unjustified, under the circumstances, to condemn this kind of approach out of hand it does tend, in this case, to defeat its own purpose by being rather repetitive and lacking in contrasting aspects. As a result it amounts to a biography of the hero-worshipping type which used to be not uncommon in Germany but is more or less out of fashion now. Yet the author is not a German, and the motivation for his approach lies elsewhere.

Everything in this volume reflects the official point of view. Now it may be a fact that David Oistrakh was a loyal Soviet citizen who had joined the party and in return

enjoyed all the favours which the régime grants to conforming artists and of which the book provides ample evidence. But it seems odd that not a single sentence refers to Oistrakh's Jewish origin and that the author's idyllic picture of musical life in the Soviet Union is devoid of hints about the difficulties with which composers like Prokofiev and Shostakovich, both Oistrakh's friends, were confronted. None of the later dissidents is mentioned. Likewise, among the chapters which are devoted to Oistrakh's musical colleagues all over the world there is none about Menuhin, a close friend, as confirmed by his own book. Admittedly, he is mentioned a few times, and in an uncontroversial manner. But the rather casual treatment of this relationship may well be due to fact that Menuhin had antagonised the authorities on various occasions.

Enlivened by Correspondence

Within these limitations the author presents the main biographical events, enlivened not only by the son's own reminiscences but also by many excerpts from David's correspondence with his family and his professional colleagues. These letters focus many important occasions. They include, for instance, his day-to-day reports from the international Ysaye Competition of 1937 which he won and which established his fame. We witness the ups and downs that he lived through during those decisive days of his career, and we are also made to witness the care and support which the Russian authorities extend to their country's contestants, whose success becomes a matter of national concern.

In Brussels Oistrakh met Queen Elizabeth

of Belgium, herself a violinist of professional standard (she had been a pupil of Ysaye). In later years, she became a great friend who played chamber music with him, visited him at his home in Moscow and bequeathed to him her Stradivarius violin.

During the war Oistrakh stayed in Moscow while his wife and his son were evacuated. In 1943 he played in besieged Leningrad. It is worth noting that in Russia, as in this country, the works of the great German composers continued to be performed.

Oistrakh's meetings with famous contemporaries — composers, instrumentalists and conductors—make fascinating reading. The Mozart bicentenary of 1956 brought him to Vienna where Bruno Walter's performance of the Requiem became an unforgettable experience. As Igor tells us, "Vater wiederholte immer wieder, nie habe er sehnliches empfunden wie an jenem Abend". It was the only time David heard the great conductor.

His relationship with Klemperer was one of mutual admiration. David and Igor attended Klemperer's *Fidelio* performance at Covent Garden—"sowohl fuer Vater wie fuer mich ein gewaltiges Erlebnis".

A great deal of his time was spent in teaching. He was devoted to his pupils, and they benefited from the warmth of his personality as much as from his actual instruction.

In his later years he also took up conducting—not an easy step to take at first, but one that is not surprising in the man who said: "Ich bin eher Musiker als Violinist".

About one thing the reader of this book is left in no doubt. David Oistrakh was not only a musician of towering stature but also a most lovable human being, not least within the circle of his own family, as confirmed by his wife's and his son's deep attachment to him.

* * *

P.S. — After this review was written, an article under the heading "Stateless Rostropovich" appeared in "Music and Musicians" (May, 1978), which carries the following quotation from M. Rostropovich: "I once saw David Oistrakh in tears in the Ministry of Culture. I asked him why he was crying, and he told me because he wanted to make so many records with Western orchestras before he died, and had been forbidden to. He had come there to discuss it with an official, who had said, 'We completely agree with you, but there can be no discussion.' That is the trouble with Russia—never a discussion."


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J. W. Bruegel

HITLER'S EXPATRIATION POLICY

Recently we reviewed the book by H. E. Tutas on the policy of the Third Reich against the German political emigration (Nationalsozialismus und Exil, Die Politik des Dritten Reiches gegenüber der deutschen politischen Emigration. 354 pp, Carl Hanser Verlag, München 1975). As far as the expatriation of the exiles is concerned, Tutas has meanwhile been most ably complemented by a book by Hans Georg Lehmann (In Acht und Bann. Politische Emigration, NS-Ausbürgerung und Wiedergutmachung am Beispiel Willy Brandts. 388 pp, Verlag C. H. Beck, München 1976) which likewise deserves high praise. Lehmann who came into contact with the problem while working in the Political Archive of the Bonn Foreign Ministry is, however, mistaken in assuming that because no special study had yet been devoted to the subject, "nothing had been known" about this matter; he even suspects some dark intention behind the complete silence about it. Nobody could have been prevented from dealing with the problem but no other author would have been equally qualified for this task as Lehmann (born 1935) who combines the necessary political and legal erudition with a special flair for tracing relevant documents and the ability to analyse them. Lehmann coupled the treatment of the general problem with a description of the special case of the expatriation and repatriation of Willy Brandt, which is interesting both in view of the personality in question and with

regard to the methods used, even though the fate of the then 20-year-old refugee was an extraordinary one and by no means typical of the political emigration.

Lehmann describes the genesis of Hitler's expatriation law of July 14, 1933, which in no less than 38,766 cases led to the individual expatriation of enemies of the régime who had already fled abroad. The victims of these measures were politicians, artists, writers and all kinds of ordinary people. We are indebted to Lehmann for bringing to light the hardly believable fact that even on March 17, 1945, when the general disintegration of the Third Reich had set in, the expatriation of thirty-one persons was announced. To these individual cases came in 1941 the collective expatriation of all those German citizens living abroad which the régime categorised as Jews plus those unfortunate ones who had been transported from Germany to Poland to their death. But is Lehmann right in speaking of the "devastating" consequences of expatriation? Was it really—even if those in power had it in mind—the Nazis' "strongest weapon" in their endeavours to fight and discriminate against refugees? Was it, as Lehmann pretends, really the expatriation which led to the physical and mental breakdown of many émigrés and even drove some to suicide? Or was not the real reason for their plight rather the passport problem (which existed before expatriation)?

In great detail Lehmann describes the fate of Willy Brandt before and after 1933, his flight to Norway and the later events already known from the various biographies. He defends Brandt against the "blame" of having accepted Norwegian citizenship after losing his German one in 1938 but here and there he does so quite unnecessarily with the stern attitude of an investigating magistrate. To justify his expatriation the Luebeck Gestapo stated in 1938 that before 1933 Brandt had been a frequent speaker in the Communist youth organisation. Brandt assured Lehmann that this was one of the usual Nazi lies and that he had never had anything to do with a Communist youth organisation. The author nevertheless maintains the view that Brandt "may" have spoken in discussions in Com-

munist meetings. Is such a suspicion really justified on the basis of a vague Gestapo report? In April, 1933 Brandt was sent by the Sozialistische Arbeiterpartei (SAP) to Norway to organise the party's activities abroad and was obviously chosen for this task because he was not yet well known and had some connections with Norway from before. With a certain satisfaction one can register that Brandt's illegal stay in Berlin in 1936 never became known to the Gestapo. Lehmann must be fully commended for his unambiguous denunciation of the dastardly campaign of vilification engineered against Brandt, "the man in the Norwegian uniform", by political opponents in the 'fifties and 'sixties.

An important part of Lehmann's book is the description of the post-war endeavours to have Hitler's acts of expatriation revoked by the authorities of the Federal Republic. They were crowned by a decision of the Federal Constitutional Court of 1968, proclaiming the nullity "ab initio" of the Order of 1941 regarding the collective expatriation of the Jews. The author is of the opinion that it is *implicite* valid for all cases of expatriation.

It is to the credit of the Federal Republic, as Lehmann says, that it had learned the lesson and embodied in its Basic Law the inadmissibility of expatriation, while the German Democratic Republic even extended this Nazi law for people living inside the country in cases of alleged "crude violation of civic duties", and has since become responsible for some arbitrary acts of expatriation.

Lehmann's book with its valuable documentary appendices is a most positive contribution to the understanding of a dark period of history and its repercussions still felt at the present time.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BAVARIA UNDER THE NAZIS

A cousin of mine was among the first Jews and anti-Nazis to be arrested in Nuremberg and killed in a concentration camp; I should have liked to know more about those early acts of violence during the Hitler régime. In Munich, the majority of the personnel of Knorr & Hirth (now the Sueddeutscher Verlag), including nearly all the editors, were arrested soon after Hitler had become Chancellor, and kept in prison while the whole publishing firm was *gleichgeschaltet*, meaning that their jobs were being usurped by Nazi party members. It would be most enlightening to read some details. At a higher level, Bavaria put up a surprising amount of resistance to the country's take-over; some members of the Bavarian Government declared that if a Nazi *Kommissar* were sent to Bavaria to enforce the *Gleichschaltung*, he would be arrested at the frontier. This, too, seems to have been an historical incident which could do with some more investigation.

Alas, I could find nothing about these or other matters of interest to us survivors in the 700-plus pages of *Bayern in der NS-Zeit*, a title which promises a comprehensive work on an important subject. Published by R. Oldenbourg, Munich (DM 38), commissioned by the Bavarian Ministry of Education, and edited by the *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* in Munich from the material collected by three researchers, it might have turned out to be a formidable contribution to modern history. But the whole effort is restricted to revealing what the internal reports of Bavaria's provincial civil servants told their superiors in districts such as Aichach and Ebermannstadt, all scrupulously documented, annotated and so forth for the use of posterity, if it wants to know.

There is one chapter of 60 pages about the persecution of the Jews, starting with the editor's disclosure that antisemitism had been "an important element of the N.S.D.A.P.'s ideology and propaganda since its beginnings." Then we are told that the official documents of local authorities in Munich, Nuremberg, Fuerth, Wuerzburg, Augsburg and Bamberg—i.e., the towns with the largest Jewish communities—were unfortunately unavailable. The documents which do appear in this fat volume are of such ridiculous unimportance and of

such banal parochialism, compared to the tragedy of the Holocaust, that their publication is almost an insult. The book is certainly not, as the publisher's blurb claims, a "new aspect of the problem of resistance"; what comes to the reader's mind is rather a Goethe quotation: "*Ein grosser Aufwand schmähhlich ist vertan.*"

EGON LARSEN

POWER POLITICS AND THE REFUSENIK

"In appearance, Alexander Feldman is not impressive. He is neither handsome nor eloquent. He is not accustomed to making ostentatious gestures such as thoughtfully posing with a cigarette or a pipe or uttering brilliantly witty comments. And he is not a scientist or an artist or even a poet. No, he is the son of a worker and is a worker himself. . . ."

This simple portrait of an almost faceless man, a *refusenik* who, after prolonged harassment by the Soviet authorities, ended up with a long sentence in prison instead of liberty in Israel where he wanted to go, is characteristic of the unemotional, objective account of such case histories collected by Colin Shindler in his first book, *Exit Visa: Détente, Human Rights, and the Jewish emigration movement in the USSR* (Bachman & Turner, 291pp., £7.50). Shindler is a young chemistry teacher at a London College, born in Hackney in a milieu created by the successive waves of pogroms in Eastern Europe; for a dozen years he has been active in students' and academic movements in support of Soviet Jewry, and the compilation of this meticulously researched, factually reliable and completely non-sensational volume cannot have taken up less time.

But the real value of the book is not only that it is a welcome work of reference. Shindler, as a conscientious academic, sounds his subject in much greater depth than the innumerable newspaper and magazine articles on the trials and tribulations of Orlov and Ginsburg, of Shcharansky and Slepak have been able to do. *Exit Visa* is also an account of the power-political struggle for Soviet-American détente, and of the effects which the vacillations of that super-power duel have right down to the level of people like Feldman. The book is concerned not only with human rights and the violations of the Helsinki Accord but with individuals and their sufferings.

Naturally, Shindler also deals with the movement of the dissidents—or, as he prefers to call them, the democrats—in Russia, many of whom are not Jews and do not want to emigrate but to transform their homeland into a truly socialist country. "Whatever ideals the Soviet State was founded on," says the British writer Alan Sillitoe in his foreword to *Exit Visa*, "—and it would be idle and unfair to deny that in the beginning many of the leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution had ideals—an aspect of what they have led to is presented here.

E.L.

PROFESSOR GUIDO KISCH 90

One of the most prolific scholars in our midst, Professor Guido Kisch, celebrated his 90th birthday in Basle on January 22. Born in Prague, he was professor of law in Koenigsberg and, from 1922-1933, in Halle. When he had to leave Germany, he went to New York, where he worked as a research professor at the Hebrew Union College. After the war, he returned to Europe and finally settled in Basle. On his 70th birthday, the university of that city appointed him an honorary professor. His varied career and his numerous scholarly activities are described in his autobiography "*Der Lebensweg eines Rechtshistorikers*" (Sigmaringen, 1975), reviewed by Robert Weltsch in the March, 1976, issue of "AJR Information".

What makes Professor Kisch's position unique is the fact that he is at home both in the field of history of law and in Jewish history. Therefore, he has to his credit not only works on each of these two subjects but also publications which blend his two spheres of interest. Only recently, the second edition of his "*Forschungen zur Rechts- und Sozialgeschichte der Juden in Deutschland während des Mittelalters*" (Jan Thorbecke Verlag Sigmaringen, 1978. 336pp., DM 75) was published as the first volume of his "*Gesammelte Werke*". It is a standard work. One section describes the position of the Jews in public law and the development of the "*Judenschutzrecht*". Another part deals with the commercial law applicable to Jews and the history of the "*Judeneid*". The book quotes a great amount of source material and is enhanced by a comprehensive bibliography.

To exemplify Professor Kisch's versatility, his monograph "*Judentaufen*", published in 1973 and reviewed in "AJR Information", January, 1975, also deserves to be singled out among his publications which comprise more than 30 books and about 300 treatises.

Notwithstanding his age, Professor Kisch is as alert and creative as ever. We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to the nonagenarian.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO HERBERT SULZBACH

On February 8, our friend Herbert Sulzbach will celebrate his 85th birthday, still in harness and working with undiminished enthusiasm for the tasks he has set himself. Only recently, his efforts were recognised anew by the award of the European Peace Cross to him. Members of our community have special reason for being grateful to him. He is a trusted and helpful friend to many in our midst and, throughout the years, has acted as a kind of unofficial liaison officer between the German Embassy, where he works, and the AJR, which represents his Jewish fellow refugees from Nazi Germany. Whenever he addresses German gatherings on past and present political questions he stresses that he himself is a Jewish victim of Nazi persecution. His numerous contacts include many leaders of the Anglo-Jewish community. His activities in the wider sphere and, above all, his delightful personality are described in the following tribute by the well-known author Terence Prittie, a personal friend of his and a champion for many causes of vital concern to all of us.

W.R.

A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

by Terence Prittie

There have been few more pleasant duties assigned to me as a writer than that of paying a small personal tribute to Herbert Sulzbach. And I find that I have written all too little about him and his work during the last quarter of a century's enjoyment of his friendship.

Herbert is the best kind of proselytiser, in the very best sense of the word. Ever since World War Two, he has been seeking, and making converts in three fields—those of Anglo-German relations, German-Jewish relations and what, for lack of a more precise definition, can be termed the "European Idea". Ambitious men seldom set themselves more than one objective, and most men set themselves none at all. Herbert has just been able to content himself with three, all of them of considerable importance and all requiring a high degree of tact as well as a wealth of human understanding.

He has pursued these objectives with the charm of a Pompadour and the persistence of a fox-terrier. He has been remarkably successful, and perhaps the apex of his success has been in promoting better relations between Britain and Germany, and in convincing even the wisecracks and cynics of the "media"—especially of the British press—that two countries which have been enemies in two world wars have every reason and right to be friends today.

This has, at times, been a daunting mission indeed. For the British are slow to forgive and forget, and the Germans have perhaps suffered more from inhibitions about themselves than any great nation in history. To his task Herbert has brought a rare candour which may be the quality most needed in order to tell people about themselves. Added to this has been the energy and ubiquity of a Figaro, and an agelessness which suggests that the celebration of an 85th birthday is only a piece of propaganda, designed to make us all believe that he has at last qualified for the role of Elder Statesman.

In saluting Herbert Sulzbach we are paying tribute to the exceptional human qualities of this very exceptional man. And one additional quality which has imbued all his work has been an astonishing youthfulness of spirit. To remain deeply and enthusiastically interested in people, and in life, is an attribute which we minor and junior greybeards must envy most of all. This is why we shall be able confidently to look forward, during the next decade and a half, to celebrating his 100th birthday in his illustrious and charming company—if we ourselves last that long!

RELUCTANT OCTOGENARIAN

Dr. Charlotte Wittelshoefer, 80

When the most thoroughly modest friend in our AJR-circle, but equally well-beloved and meriting the highest appreciation and gratitude for her untiring services to our community, asks us to ignore a forthcoming jubilee of hers, where are we to find a way out of the quandary? If we give in to her request, we may spare her some embarrassment she wanted to escape. On the other hand we would deprive ourselves of the heart-felt desire to enhance an extraordinary event with the extraordinary disrespect of a dear friend's wishes. If we disregard these wishes we would yield to our slightly egotistic urge to express our own affection and thankfulness which, we feel, is the bare minimum our meritorious friend deserves on this special day. There is, I am afraid, no other solution than to cut the Gordian knot by revealing the closely kept secret—hoping that her never-failing generosity and tolerance will dispose her to grant us forgiveness. Be it then boldly said: Our friend Dr. Lotte Wittelshoefer will be 80 on February 8.

Lotte Wittelshoefer's reluctance to enter the limelight of publicity, be it even in the friendly frame of our AJR-circle, is no surprise. It is entirely in keeping with her personality. She

is a doctor who worked with notable success in Germany and in this country in hospitals as a paediatrician. Her medical standard by far exceeds the boundaries of her speciality. Thanks to an excellent medical training and her continuing devotion to her profession outlasting her formal retirement, her knowledge is comprehensive, one might almost call it encyclopaedic. About whatever question of physical—even psychological—suffering she may be approached—now only as a friend—she will always provide a suitable advice or, at least, a knowledgeable hint. But with the same veracious certainty she will limit her suggestions when she feels not fully enough informed. All this is performed in a totally matter-of-course way, quietly and kindly, without the slightest touch of self-importance.

Dr. Lotte Wittelshoefer has been an exemplary doctor, one of a species nearly extinct nowadays within the whirl of insatiable professional obligations. Osmond House, the AJR Home for the chronically sick, still enjoys her regular visits, her care and co-operation. On top of Dr. Wittelshoefer's medical abilities she possesses numerous qualifications in entirely different fields. It would, I am afraid, almost certainly exhaust her benign endurance if we dared to give even a vague account of them all. Be it then only said that she is a deeply cultivated personality of many interests among which perhaps politics and social conditions hold pride of place but are by no means the only ones.

Now that we have broken the silence we also claim the right to express our warmest wishes to the reluctant octogenarian. The fact of her belonging to our circle, her helpfulness and her friendship are among the most highly treasured values we possess. May the knowledge of what she means to her many friends be a constant inspiration to herself aiding her to many more years of happiness and prosperity.

E.G.R.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

ISRAELI JOURNALIST'S WORKS
EXHIBITED IN GERMANY

UNSUNG HEROES HONOURED

A Yad Vashem Medal was handed by the Israeli Ambassador in Bonn to a Berlin couple, Wilhelm and Margarete Daene who risked their lives to save a number of Jewish women in the Nazi period. Two of these women attended the ceremony. During the war, Mr. Daene was works manager in a Berlin factory producing goods for the Army, while his wife ran a bookshop. After 1941, the factory employed a number of Jewish women. In spite of the fact that he was himself under suspicion as an old Social Democrat, Mr. Daene personally applied to the Gestapo to secure better food and working conditions for the women and to prevent their deportation. The couple gave shelter to three Jewish women, and after Mr Daene's arrest in 1944 because he had joined a resistance group, Mrs. Daene continued to look after them.

In Austria, Yad Vashem medals were given to Mrs. Maria Potesil who looked after an orphaned Jewish child during the war, to Mrs. Hilde Oelsinger who hid a Jewish couple in her tiny flat for two years, to a priest, Bruno Boguszewski who saved a number of Jewish children by providing them with Polish birth certificates, and to Dr. Sterneck who hid a Jewish mother and her daughter in his house in Czechoslovakia and eventually smuggled them out of the country.

AMIN AND ISRAEL

To everybody's surprise, President Amin praised Israel in a broadcast on Radio Kampala after his recent frontier war with Tanzania, by saying that his victory had been solely due to the fact that he had only used Israeli weapons and he was deeply grateful to Israel. He said he had received "these effective weapons" free from Dayan when he was the Israeli Defence Minister in the Rabin government, and from Colonel Barlev, once the head of the Israeli military mission in Uganda. Amin ended by saying that in spite of his gratitude to Israel, he condemned its illegal occupation of Palestinian land. Colonel Barlev will be remembered for the telephone calls during which he managed to delay Amin's action while the Israeli commando troops prepared their Entebbe rescue action.

THE JEWS OF ETHIOPIA

Three young student representatives of the Beta Israel in Israel have issued an urgent appeal to the authorities to save the Falashas from being killed or sold into slavery and accused them of deliberately concealing the urgency of the situation. The campaign against them had been stepped up after Mr. Dayan disclosed last year that Israel had sent military equipment to the Left-wing régime in Addis Ababa. The students claimed that some officials in Israel regarded them as primitive and a potential burden, despite the fact that they had served in the Army and that some of them had been wounded in war. Mr. Zacharia, the son of the group's religious leader in Israel, said he himself had been wounded, but his brother had been refused a permit to visit him in Israel. A spokesman for the Ministry of the Interior said that permits were readily issued to Beta Israel applicants.

MORE NEW HOSPITALS

The foundation-stone for the first hospital in the Orthodox town of Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv has just been laid. It will cost £7 million and provide 300 beds. As Bnei Brak has the highest birth rate in Israel, the gynaecology, maternity and paediatrics departments will have special importance. So far £500,000 has been raised for the project which will be completed within five years.

In Norway, a non-Jewish Committee has promised to contribute about £150,000 to equip a 50-bed ward at the new Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem.

RESCUE OF IRANIAN JEWS

Since the beginning of October, when conditions in Iran deteriorated seriously, over 8,500 tourists from Iran have reached Israel. The Jewish Agency and the Chief Rabbinate Council have appealed to the Iranian community to take all necessary steps immediately to emigrate to Israel. Mr. Moshe Katzav, an Iranian-born member of the Knesset who has just returned from a trip to Iran undertaken to urge more people to emigrate, accused the Agency of applying a selection process when interviewing prospective emigrants. Families who had sick or disabled members were discouraged. Iranian students said that during their studies in Israel, their fellow-students had been unfriendly to them and they had their main contacts at Israeli universities with Arab and Druse students. The Agency has denied all these accusations.

VISITOR FROM SWAZILAND

Mr. Diamini, Prime Minister of the southern African Kingdom of Swaziland, paid a five-day visit to Israel and said his visit "had made all our dreams come true. Now we know that the Jordan river exists and that Jerusalem is a city on earth and not in heaven." Mr. Diamini toured the country accompanied by Cabinet Ministers and senior officials who agreed inter alia on the establishment of a joint shipping co-operative by Zim and the Swazi national shipping company. Swazi is landlocked and operates most of its shipping through Mozambique at present. It is one of the four black African States which did not sever its ties with Israel in 1973. Mr. Begin expressed the hope that the visit would encourage other African States to resume friendly contacts.

ANGLO-ISRAEL TRADE

In 1978, the two-way trade between Britain and Israel amounted to about £450 million. Imports from Israel rose by 16 per cent, exports to Israel were 6 per cent lower. The UK favourable trade balance dropped from £96 million in 1977 to only £54 million in 1978.

Israeli-made solar panels were installed in a Staffordshire school and have been praised in the "Building Services and Environment Engineer" trade paper. After an exhibition in Birmingham, the order was placed with Electra Air Conditioning Services, because the firm was able to provide complete back-up facilities of information and research.

ISRAELI HONEY EXPORTS RISING

Exports of gift packs of Israeli honey from the Sharon Valley to Britain have been so successful that next year some 4,000 will be sent over—the 2,000 sent this year were sold out immediately. Some 15 tons are exported all over the world.

END OF SCHOOL STRIKE

More than 200,000 secondary school pupils returned to school after a six weeks' teachers' strike. The teachers won a 27 per cent increase in salary, but did not get the desired assurance from the Government that it would unconditionally accept all the findings of a national commission on the status and situation of the Israeli teaching profession.

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In the course of its regular literary exhibitions the Municipal Library of Dortmund has arranged the display of works by the journalist *Erich Gottgetreu* (Jerusalem), who also repeatedly wrote contributions for AJR Information. It comprises two books in which a number of his reports are collected as well as other articles and photos. It is the first exhibition dedicated to a journalist who had to emigrate after the Nazis came to power.

COLOUR TV FOR JERUSALEM

Israeli Television Ltd., headed by Mr. Eddie Soffer, a former Israeli TV announcer and Mr. Leon Tamman of Hove, vice-president of the World Sephardi Federation, have applied for government permission to open a commercial colour TV station in Jerusalem. The application is supported by a group of politicians and investors. Nine other applications for a commercial channel are before the Ministry of Culture and Education, but before permission is given, the Knesset must pass a law ending the present monopoly of the State Broadcasting Authority for a black and white programme.

BRITISH TV PERSONALITIES IN CHARITY APPEALS

The most popular programme in Israel outside the news, is the BBC TV serial "The Brothers", surpassing even the appeal of the "Forsyte Saga". Cinemas are nearly empty on Wednesday nights when the programme is shown. The stars of the programme have now agreed to visit Israel and to take part in four appeal dinners to help disadvantaged Jerusalem children, arranged by the Israel branch of the Variety Club International. The cost of attending one of the dinners, held in the four main cities, is about £20, and £24 for fans who want to talk to the stars.

GAG FOR KNESSET MEMBERS

Mrs. Geula Cohen and Mr. Moshe Shamir, two ultra-nationalist Knesset members who have repeatedly rebelled against Government policy, have been suspended from taking part in Knesset debates for the next two months by the Likud executive committee. They refused to vote with the Government on an opposition amendment calling for national service for religious girls which was defeated.

ORTHODOX COMPROMISE

The ultra-Orthodox Neturei Karta sect, which does not recognise the State of Israel or Israel's control of East Jerusalem since 1967, has—for the first time—allowed members to attend the funeral of one of its leaders on the Mount of Olives. Rabbi Katzenellenbogen, a co-founder of the sect who died at over 80 years of age, insisted on being buried on the Mount of Olives where Jews used to be buried before 1948. When another co-founder, Rabbi Blau, died some years ago, he was buried in West Jerusalem.

"SELF-HELP" HOUSING SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY

A self-contained building complex with 150 flats for elderly people will be built in Kiryat Hayoval, a suburb of Jerusalem. The scheme has been inaugurated by would-be residents under the auspices of the American and Canadian Settlers' Association. The cost will be between about £2,630,000 and £3,160,000. Participants will pay some 40 per cent, and the balance will be collected from various sources. There are already 75 subscribers for the flats which are expected to be ready for occupation in 1981.

IN MEMORIAM

MOSHE TAVOR

Dr. Moshe Tavor, for more than a decade the Israel correspondent of the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", died in Jerusalem aged 75. Born in Olmuetz, Fritz Tauber (as he was originally named) was active in the German language press in Prague until Czechoslovakia was invaded by the Nazis. His Zionist education in the so-called "Prager Kreis" made itself felt when he decided in 1939 to emigrate to Mandatory Palestine. After difficult beginnings, he became proficient in Hebrew and returned to his journalistic profession as correspondent and finally as head of the Jerusalem bureau of the "Davar". From 1957 to 1960 and then again from 1963 to 1966 he headed the Information Department of the Israel Mission in Cologne and later of the Israel Embassy in Bonn. He also translated two of Ben-Gurion's books into German.

LORD STOW HILL

Lord Stow Hill, formerly Sir Frank Soskice, who died at the age of 76, was a Christian of Jewish extraction and a warm supporter of the Jewish State. His father had been a Russian Jewish doctor, a leader of the Bund, imprisoned for anti-Tsarist activities, who escaped to England in 1893. Here he became well known in the Jewish Labour and Socialist movement. Sir Frank's grandmother was an Orthodox woman known for her extreme piety. Before his retirement, Sir Frank was first Attorney-General and later Home Secretary in the Wilson Government and responsible for the first Race Relations Bill in 1965.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

The AJR Club extends belatedly congratulations to Mrs. Charlotte Weiss and Mrs. L. Israel on their birthdays. The Club is happy to wish good health and contentment to Dr. Charlotte Wittelshoefer who has given so much help over the years to the AJR Club and whose 80th birthday will be on February 8. All good wishes as well to Mr. Joseph Drelich who will celebrate his 80th birthday on February 9. Warburg.—Mrs. Warburg, of 258 Kenmore Street, Glasgow, G41, will celebrate her 90th birthday on February 5. Heartiest congratulations from Miss Ilse Fuss.

Deaths

Bergmann.—Edith T. Bergmann (née Planer), formerly Berlin, Vienna, Glasgow, died suddenly on Tuesday, January 9. Her daughter, Marion Babington, and son, Derek Bergmann, will always remember her strength, courage, kindness and wisdom.

Freiwald.—A much loved and respected lady, Mrs. Edith Freiwald (née Meyer), of Heathview, N.W.5, passed away on December 26, 1978, after much suffering bravely borne. Sadly missed by Hilde Sanderson and many more friends.

Friedlaender.—Mrs. Anna Friedlaender passed away peacefully on December 22, 1978, aged 87. She will be missed and always remembered by her daughter and son-in-law, Lotte and Arthur Ney, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren.

OTTO PROBST

The Deputy Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, Mr. Otto Probst, who has died at the age of 67, served as a Deputy since the first post-1945 elections. He was the first president of the Austria-Israel Society, but relinquished this post early in 1978 in protest against the anti-Israel remarks of Chancellor Kreisky in a Dutch newspaper. He said at the time that he had been an inmate of a concentration camp himself and had witnessed the suffering of the Jews there.

LIPPE DISTRICT REMEMBERS ITS JEWS

The November/December 1978 issue of the periodical "Heimatland Lippe", published by the "Lippische Heimatbund" (Bismarckstr. 8, Detmold), carries a detailed article about the destiny of the Jews in Lippe under the Nazis. The author, Heinrich Boedeker, states that the first victim was the editor of the "Volksblatt", Felix Fechenbach, who was shot dead on March 5, 1933. The article also quotes examples of the humiliations and persecution the Jews had to endure under the Nazi régime. In 1933, the number of Jews in Lippe amounted to over 600. After the war, there were only 24 survivors, most of the others as far as they had not emigrated, perished in the extermination camps. The article, headed "Schmerzliches Gedenken" is illustrated by photos of cemeteries and memorials in Detmold, Horn, Lemgo, Barntrup, and other places.

LONELY DOCTOR'S WIDOW, 63, seeks social contact. Box 761.

Information Required

Personal Enquiries

Grimberg.—I am looking for the address of my school friend Berta Grimberg, born December 2, 1924, address until 1939, Berlin-Gesundbrunnen, Prinzen-Allee 77, emigrated to London in summer 1939 together with her married sister, Lotti, and brother-in-law. Any information should be sent to: Mrs. Ingeborg Brachlow (née Rode), Alt-Hermsdorf 12, D.1000 Berlin 28 (previous address Berlin-Gesundbrunnen, Prinzenallee 77).

Mendelssohn.—Information required about Catherine Mendelssohn, grand-niece of the composer. She survived Auschwitz. Last known address in 1953 Clamart, France, in 1949 at Venosc, France. Professor Weil, her brother-in-law, taught at the Sorbonne in 1952. Please contact Mrs. Marie-France Cumin, 13810 Eygalieres, France.

Kohlberg.—Mrs. Ida Kohlberg (née Rosenthal), formerly Dortmund, died peacefully on January 14. Mourned by her sisters, Hilde Becker and Dr. Trude Brown.

Pototzky.—Luz Pototzky, born April 15, 1890, died on January 2, 1979, deeply mourned by us. He was the centre of our family.—Hertha Pototzky and family.

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POGROM MEMORIAL PLATE

KPM, the State Porcelain Factory in Berlin, has issued a plate, designed by the painter Reinhold W. Timm, to commemorate the destruction of the Berlin Fasanenstrasse Synagogue in 1939, and the new communal centre opened in its ruins in 1959. It is executed in blue and white china and depicts both buildings with a quotation from Isaiah: "And thou shalt build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations". On the reverse side, there are explanations of the events in German and English. The plate can be ordered from china and glass shops for DM 82.00.

MAX GOSSELS

The former Berlin Magistratsrat, Max Gossels, who in 1933 was appointed principal of the newly created "Wirtschaftshilfe" of the Berlin Jewish community, died in Caracas, 77 years old. After having been severely pressed by the Gestapo, he managed to escape to France in May, 1939. In 1940 he fled to Venezuela, where he worked in the pharmaceutical industry for many years. EGL.

HEINE PRIZE FOR SEBASTIAN HAFFNER

The Heine Prize of the City of Düsseldorf, which carries a monetary award of DM 25,000, was bestowed on the Berlin publicist Sebastian Haffner, in recognition of his book "Anmerkungen zu Hitler". The citation describes the work as "an essential contribution to the understanding of our German past and thus also of our present". Sebastian Haffner, (71) whose real name is Dr. Raimund Pretzel, spent the years of the Nazi régime in England, where he was also editor of the German language journal "Die Zeitung".

A.J.R. Enquiries

Bienheim.—Mrs. M. Bienheim, last known address 2 Enfield Road, Baidon, Shipley, Yorks, BD17 5PZ.

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Letters to the Editor

"THE JEWISH PAST IN GERMANY"

In seinem "Letter to the Editor" (AJR Information December, 1978) behauptet "F.R.", dass vor Hitlers Machtuebernahme von einer Seite Kantstrasse zur andern ein Band mit der Aufforderung zur Ermordung aller Juden gespannt war. Diese Behauptung kann nicht den Tatsachen entsprechen. Die Atmosphäre in Berlin haette dies nicht ermöglicht. Es ist ja gerade umgekehrt. Die antisemitischen Ausschreitungen konnten in Berlin mit seiner sozialdemokratisch-kommunistischen Mehrheit und seiner ueberwiegend sozialdemokratischen Polizei erst viel spaeter einsetzen als an andern Orten. Auch der von "F.R." zitierte Wortlaut des Banners erscheint mir verdaechtig: er hoert sich an wie eine Uebersetzung der Parole "Juda verrecke".

Da der Brief von "F.R." auch von juengeren Menschen gelesen wird, die die Wahrheit nicht beurteilen koennen, und da "AJR Information" als Geschichtsquelle mit authentischen Berichten angesehen werden wird, waere ich fuer Abdruck dieser Richtigstellung dankbar.

43 Nightingale Lane,
London, S.W.12.

S. W. NELKI

BERLIN CABARETS OF THE TWENTIES

Sir,—As a post-graduate student at Bristol University now engaged in a year's Film and Television course after a degree in German and History, I am at present researching into the Berlin Cabarets of the 1920's and early 30's, with the intention of making a television programme on the subject in the University's studios. I would be interested to hear from any of your readers who have memories of the cabarets or any kind of documentation — programmes, photographs, drawings, articles or reviews, or texts of sketches and songs. Any material borrowed will be promptly returned and postage will be refunded.

1 Gatehill Road,
Northwood, Middx.

ANDREW SOLOMON

"WEIMAR CLIMAX"

Sir.—I regret that in Egon Larsen's article published in your January issue, the name of Walter Hasenclever is not mentioned. He was not only a great dramatist but also a great humane personality.

HERBERT SULZBACH

54 Aberdare Gardens,
London, N.W.6.

ROSA ALBACH-RETTY'S MEMOIRS

Sir,— With reference to Rosa Albach-Retty's memoirs "So kurz sind 100 Jahre" (mentioned in the Theatre and Culture column of your December 1978 issue) I should like to express my surprise that your reviewer did not mention the fact that the book carries an amiable description of Hitler. We meet him as a builder's mate doing some repair work in the Strakosch Villa, humbly borrowing two volumes of books (Nietzsche's works) from the (Jewish) owner and returning them punctually. We also meet him, at a later date, as Reichskanzler, graciously remembering his youthful passion for the soubrette Magda Schneider. The persecution, deportation and extermination of the Jews are not mentioned at all. Instead, we are treated to a letter by Kainz (in print and facsimile) in which Kainz caricatures the way of Jews writing a (wholly invented) German. Kainz knew very well that Jews did not speak like that; his nearest friends were the highly cultured Mauthner Markhof family. It would be silly to reproach a centenarian for her somewhat selective memory. The fault, of course, lies with the person who concocted these memoirs for today's market. No wonder the book is a best-seller in Germany.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Festivals: Salzburg and Edinburgh. Apart from the undeniable topographical similarity of these two cities, there is also a fundamental artistic parallel between the two important venues. Salzburg, having started the European Festival idea as far back as 1921, owes its undisputed fame to the genius of Max Reinhardt. Equally, Edinburgh's Festival, initiated in 1947, owes much to men of Continental origin who created, sponsored and continued its success: Sir Rudolf Bing and, later, Peter Diamond, have put the Scottish capital firmly into the forefront of European cultural summer activities. Both cities promise important events in summer 1979.

Vienna. Under the heading "Famous Jewish Women", prominent Austrian actresses gave a reading of texts from works by Rosa Luxemburg, Nelly Sachs, Lise Meitner, Anna Freud, Else Lasker-Schueler and others to a deeply impressed audience. A regular weekly radio programme "Guten Morgen am Montag" is chaired by a veteran actor Hans Thimig; it is devoted to senior citizens with advice for their health, leisure, comfort and holidaying.

"This is Your Life"—Géza von Cziffra. The German TV programme of that name is almost identical with its British counterpart. One of the recent personalities confronted with the red book of his biography was Hungarian-born Géza von Cziffra, 78, who directed more than 75 films and wrote the scripts for over

140, from silent ones to modern musicals. When asked, how he managed to weather the unbelievable changes of style and fashion and to engage female stars as varied as Marlene Dietrich, La Jana and Martha Eggerth, the "Grand Old Man" had a simple reply: "All I wanted to do is to give the public two hours of entertainment". Cziffra, a pupil of Sir Alexander Korda, has certainly achieved this aim.

Birthdays. On the occasion of his 75th birthday, the German character actor Werner Hinz spoke the title role in the tele-recorded "Nathan der Weise". "Nathan" will be performed as part of the celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of Lessing's birth, indicating that the author's play of tolerance (together with "Minna von Barnhelm" and "Emilia Galotti") has survived many historical changes. All three plays are frequently performed in German-speaking theatres.

S.B

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Painting and drawing can give a great deal of pleasure and personal satisfaction. At the Leo Baeck Centre, 17 Daleham Gardens, NW3, Mrs. Edith Galliner, a well-known artist in her own right, runs a class for senior citizens every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. and specially welcomes those who have never tried to

paint or draw before. A number of places are still available in the class and the charge is only £1 per year.

An exhibition of the work of the students of the class was recently held at the Marylebone Institute. It included delightful patterns and bright coloured paintings. The more advanced students showed some really good flower pictures, especially some delicately coloured hydrangeas, a number of portraits and also arrangements of groups of leaves in pots.

The participants seem to enjoy everything they do and quite clearly Mrs. Galliner is doing an excellent job in teaching people to exercise their imagination in such a worthwhile way.

ALICE SCHWAB

ERICH WOLFSFELD 1885-1956

It is gratifying to know that the name of Erich Wolfsfeld, whose fame was eclipsed for so many years, is once more coming to the fore. A new exhibition of his work is currently showing at Turner House (a branch of the National Museum of Wales), Penarth near Cardiff, and will be transferred to the Belgrave Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, London, SW1, from February 6 to March 1. An exhibition of Wolfsfeld's work was previously held at the Belgrave Gallery in 1977 and examples of his work can be seen there at any time. A catalogue raisonné illustrating each of 160 images of Wolfsfeld's work will be published in February, and will be available at the exhibition.

A.S.

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