

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Eva G. Reichmann

THE SUBLIME MYSTERY

Twenty-one Contemporaries in Search of their "Judaism"

This is an eminently Impressionist book. Should anyone expect to find in it anything resembling the "Essence of Judaism"—a topic masterly expounded by one of the sages of our age, Rabbi Leo Baeck—he would be sadly disappointed. The contributors to this anthology (Mein Judentum. Herausgegeben von Hans Jürgen Schultz. Kreuz Verlag Stuttgart—Berlin 1978. DM 24.—) writers, artists, scholars, poets, musicians—do not seek to approach Judaism in its grandiose totality; they merely deal with what this totality has meant to them personally: how they met it on the very different ways of their lives, the impacts they felt during these encounters, the values they attached to them, the effects they had on their future. No coherent picture emerges from their expositions. Rather are we presented with strokes and dots of a multitude of observations—just as Impressionist painters combined strokes and dots to what eventually resulted in paintings of a higher artistic veracity than those which contented themselves with merely copying reality.

The majority of the authors are persons of Jewish descent for whom Judaism is conspicuously remote from the centres of their lives. Many of them were actually motivated to think about it only when the South German Broadcasting Company, whose initiative we have to thank for the collection, invited them to take part in a transmission on the subject. Over and over again these marginal Jews emphasize how little they know of Judaism, how distant they feel from it, how hopelessly unimportant they regard it as an influence in their lives. Not a few remember the Christmas celebrations of their youth, but there are pretty few who recall having observed Jewish holidays, with the endearing exception of Isca Salzberger-Wittenberg who, after all, is the daughter of our beloved Rabbi Salzberger. But then, after the typical majority has enlarged on their initial indifference, they feel incited to confess to some strange discovery. Even if previously ignored, forgotten, repressed—the question with which they are suddenly confronted makes them remember. Whether there have been childhood memories, whether the ever-present spectre of antisemitism, whether the emergence of the State of Israel—they all without a single exception regain some kind of Jewish consciousness. At first dim, obscure, hardly noticeable, then clearer and more colourful—a great variety of Jewish emotions gets hold of them, demanding recognition.

This however, is only the start. The actual difficulty arising under the challenge of the awkward question is that more often than not the answer defies rational definition. "The secret without which my life would be poorer" is the description of Judaism by Jurek Becker, the author of the deeply moving novel "Jacob the Liar", set in an extermination camp which he himself survived. "To be a Jew means to-day to

share a struggle for survival, to belong to a Jewish destiny from which—with the help of God or without it—there is no escape" is the hardly more explicit statement of Samuel Bak, a painter. Alfons Rosenberg (Zurich), a writer who, while having found a new spiritual home in Christianity, continues to feel Judaism as the unalterable foundation of his existence which cannot be cast away. He calls it "an uncanny power with its root both in the spirit and in the blood". Even the recent recipient of the Buber-Rosenzweig-Medal, Manès Sperber, is unable to be more articulate. He speaks of the Jewish existence as a "problem equally inscrutable in its historical as in its philosophical aspect".

Elusive feelings

These are only a few examples for the strenuous efforts to find a suitable terminology for the elusive feeling of Jewish belonging, whether still alive and strong, or freshly unearthed under difficulties. And yet, from all the vagueness, the uncertainties and inconsistencies some analogies come to light. A remarkable number of the authors emphasize the fact that Jews are simply "different" from the Gentile mankind among which they live. "We Jews are different" summarises the author Wolfgang Hildesheimer in his ingenious deliberations. "We are more sensitive, in our self-examination, we react more impressibly to the sensations of our souls. We have to feel as outsiders". The same motif, Jews as the eternal "outsiders", recurs in the essay of Professor Hans Mayer who has enlarged on it in a separate book of his. His article is probably the most controversial. It shows distinct traces of self-hatred, e.g. when he distinguishes between those who "were allowed" (*sic*) to "espouse the cause of the Swastika" and those for whom it was "expressly forbidden for reasons of unclean origin". "Disturbed disturbers" Professor Robert Jungk calls the Jews. He attaches high value to the disturbance they are apt to create, to their vigilant non-conformism. In it he sees the fruit borne from their sufferings. Through their sufferings they have become more awake to the sufferings of others, for ever condemned to anticipate and to warn against impending dangers. One of those who had to depart from the farthest boundaries in order to find in herself any traces of Judaism is Lily Pincus, a social therapist. Eventually, she professes very pertinently: "Perhaps, to be a Jew means never to belong anywhere entirely", "except" she continues, "if one is able to be an Israeli".

"To be an Israeli"! For a great number of those questioned Israel emerges as the haven into which their doubts and reasonings finally converge. This needs no special emphasis where, as with Professor Ernst Simon and Schalom Ben-Chorin, their Zionist convictions led logically to their settlement in Palestine/Israel. In spite or rather because of

their foreseeable decisions their contributions make especially meaningful reading, giving experienced accounts of both the ways that led them to Zionism and to those further designs that resulted from it. It is probably no mere coincidence that they both see one of their most urgent tasks in working for reconciliation and a new dialogue with Germans and Christians. Their new-won Jewish security as Israeli citizens gave them the ability and also the desire to stretch out into spheres of former antagonism. Coincidences, by the way, are according to a saying of Franz Rosenzweig, quoted by Ernst Simon, what "the ancients called Angels".

Significance of Israel

Even more important than with actual Israeli residents is the significance of Israel in those cases where a personal settlement there is decidedly rejected, but Israel's existence is considered of paramount relevance. For Guenther Anders, e.g., a publicist more deeply rooted than most in Germany, her language, her literature, her music, everything representing the lost "Heimat", Israel is the great divide. He visited the country. He felt deeply affected. He felt happy that there was a spot in this world where the hunted could feel at home. "I say 'Yes' to Israel" is his reaction. But a second answer is to follow: "I could not live there". Among the reasons for his negative decision is one of crucial gravity. He senses the danger that those eternally suppressed might, within the whirlwind of political dilemmas, grow suppressors themselves. This, he feels, would indeed be more appalling than every pogrom they had to suffer. Even more moving is the avowal of the unfortunate Jean Améry who, from his physical and mental sufferings in concentration camps and their aftermath, has since drawn the dire consequence to take his own life. He denies that Judaism has ever become anything like an existential basis of his life. "The only matter which unites me with the majority of the Jews", he says, "is a solidarity, particularly a solidarity with the state of Israel". But he, too, continues: "Not that I would ever wish to live there. To feel solidarity with Israel means to me to remain loyal to my dead comrades."

Israel then—yes and no. Over and over again does it show up as the common denominator in the wild variety of confessions. And yet, not as a contradiction but as some kind of indispensable complement, there is just as much—if not even more—emphasis on the Diaspora as a Jewish way of life, precarious perhaps, but equally legitimate and rewarding. "It is the Diaspora to which Judaism owes its survival until today," suggests Professor Michael Landmann; "Greeks and Romans, the established settlers, they are extinct. The people of the Diaspora, the Jews, kept their identity." But "yes and no" also regarding the Diaspora. In spite of his praise of its historical role he considers its present function exhausted. Zionism, he feels, arrived at the crucial time: "There will be Israel or there will no longer be a Jewish people". Max Fuerst, a returnee from Israel

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The Sublime Mystery

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who died in Stuttgart some time ago, is equally sure that it was the Diaspora that saved the Jews from extinction. As early as during the period of the Temple in Jerusalem the Jewish settlements outside Palestine were the guarantors of Jewish survival. "Not the heroism of the defenders of Jerusalem and Massada delivered the Jews from annihilation; it was the colonies outside Palestine that did it." Manès Sperber, mentioned above, is even more expressive: "Judaism was saved because it was (after the destruction of the Temple) no longer bound to any space, to any institution, to anything liable to go astray. Only when God lost His Temple and became homeless like His people, He triumphed over the pagan gods, over the lure of idolatry to which Jacob's descendants had all too often succumbed in Canaan. Only in the Diaspora the temptation diminished and eventually totally disappeared."

Idolatry conquered, the Jewish state reborn, the Diaspora persistently creative, the never-ceasing and vitally needed Jewish non-conformism, this ominous benefaction born of centuries of persecution,—is then the message of the book one of confidence and hope? Hopeful may be the truth pervading all its parts that some Jewish remnant, however shadowy and overclouded, is still alive in everyone of its contributors. That it is still capable of being reawakened either by the threat of anti-Semitism, by a pertinent question of conscience or by the prodigious recreation of Israel. Hopeful and creditable is also the total absence of feelings of hatred and revenge. Very appropriately the poetess Hilde Domin, a re-emigrant to Germany, expected that this collection would consist of documents of "suffering and love for the fellow-humans", never of vengeance and retaliation.

Less hopeful is, on the other hand, the disclosure of the manifold and often perilously thick layers of indifference, ignorance, unwillingness and human failure which the challenge had to penetrate before a new Jewish self-understanding became articulate. "My Judaism is a loud cry for help, but also a call of hope" is the conclusion of the last chapter written by Robert Jungk. "But who will hear me?"

Nobody looking around in the contemporary Jewish world could have expected a valid elucidation of the sublime mystery of Judaism. Thanks be to the editor, Hans Juergen Schultz, that he has joined the patchy strokes and dots of the variegated answers to form at least an impressive composition, however ambiguous.

DIGGING INTO HITLER'S PAST

Minutiae of Adolf Hitler's life are of compulsive interest to a world which only knows him as a figure in history. James and Suzanne Pool have just published a book "Who financed Hitler?" from which it appears that in the early 'twenties, Hitler received financial support from various quarters, including Russian emigres and the Germany Army, Henry Ford, and the owner of the Bechstein piano factory. The authors do not overlook the contributions made by German industrialists, but they think, it was "the appeal his movement made to small shopkeepers and businessmen which mattered most."

Beryl Bainbridge has recently published a novel "Young Adolf", revealing that a half-brother of Adolf Hitler's, Alois, was a waiter at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, before the first world war, and that Hitler visited him and his Irish-born wife during 1912/13, the "lost year" of his life. The novel was partially based on a manuscript of memoirs supposed to have been written by that wife, Bridget, during her years in America. The memoirs have now also been published, introduced by the Liverpool journalist Michael Unger. Alois Hitler left his wife and young son William Patrick to go back and work in Germany before the First World War. They lived in London until 1939, when they emigrated to America. The son enrolled in the US Navy in 1944.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

NAZIS IN COURT

The Federal Ministry of Justice has published a survey of 20 sentences recently passed on neo-Nazis. They varied between small fines and two years' imprisonment for spreading Nazi propaganda, for incitement to violence and race hatred, for wearing swastika badges, selling SS daggers etc. The Public Prosecutor is at present investigating 215 cases. Twenty four out of 87 men and women accused of right-wing activities, are in prison, awaiting trial.

An important trial, expected to last well into 1980, has just opened at Bochum. Sixty-three-year-old Helmut Krizon is accused of having murdered 24 Jews and been an accessory to another 15,000 murders. He is said to have shot Jewish cripples and children during a so-called clearing-up operation in the Lodz Ghetto. Later on, he is alleged to have rounded up and gassed some 15,000 Jews in Kulmhof concentration camp. One hundred and twenty two witnesses, including 67 from abroad, will testify to these happenings, and the Court will probably fly to Israel and the US to meet those unable to travel. At the opening of the trial, Krizons, a chemistry technician, said that since he had been beaten up by Russians in Czechoslovakia at the end of the war, he had lost his memory.

In Düsseldorf, Erwin Schönborn, 64, faces trial for circulating leaflets saying that anyone who believed that Jews had been murdered in Nazi camps, was either a criminal or an idiot and for offering a reward of £2,500 to anyone able to prove that a single Jew had been gassed.

In Stuttgart, Richard Pal, a former SS man, was acquitted of murdering two Jews in Poland in 1943. In 1974, he had been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for the attempted murder of a Jewish boy and a Jewish woman, but the jury had said there was no proof that the two had died of their wounds. When Pal appealed against his conviction, the West German Supreme Court ordered a retrial in Stuttgart. The presiding judge said that since the Mannheim trial, important new material had come to light which diminished the credibility of the main witness for the prosecution who was no longer fit to testify.

The Federal Appeal Court in Karlsruhe has decided that it is illegal to sell toy models of Nazi war-planes with Nazi insignia, even if this is done for the sake of historic accuracy. In its judgment, the Court said that if toys of this kind were to be allowed to be sold, it would be impossible to draw a borderline beyond which such insignia would not be permissible. Children and youths who collected such models were in danger of growing up with an acceptance of the swastika which might make them vulnerable to later political propaganda using the swastika as a symbol.

PROTESTS AGAINST SS RALLIES

About 1,200 people participated in a silent march to protest against the rally of members of the former SS Division "Totenkopf" in Arolsen. At a subsequent protest meeting, Gerhard Schroeder, national chairman of the Young Socialists demanded the ban of all organisations of former SS men and stressed the historical share of its members, in the Nazi crimes. Four uniformed members of the Federal army participated in the protest. They declared that in spite of their criminal records some former SS men had been accepted in the Army and other public institutions.

DOCTOR'S WIDOW ACCUSES SS DOCTOR

The 85-year-old widow of Dr. Knipping from Morsbach, Westphalia, has started proceedings against Dutch Dr. Jan Koldijk, 56, who as a member of the SS is alleged to have forced her husband known to be anti-Nazi, to drink a bottle of Vodka in which 30 tablets of opium had been dissolved. Dr. Knipping died several hours later. Under the influence of the showing of the "Holocaust" film, a witness has come forward, saying he was ready to testify against Dr. Koldijk. Simon Wiesenthal has sent his files on the matter to the Dutch authorities.

GERMAN TV FILMS ON THE NAZI PAST

Two TV films, started before the impact of the American "Holocaust" transmission, by producers shocked at the ignorance of young German students, have recently been shown on German TV screens. "Lagerstrasse Auschwitz" culminated in interviews with three camp officials, who are serving long prison sentences for murder, and whose lack of emotion in recounting their deeds, "obeying orders", shocked many viewers. Two former inmates, both Poles, told their experiences: one had been a medical orderly and tried to save as many people as possible in the infirmary, the other had witnessed the selection of his own father for the gas chambers. The film also showed the 21 red brick buildings on both sides of the camp street, and the pitiful remnants of the victims' possessions: suitcases from Berlin, Paris, Breslau, pencil sketches, portraits of inmates by artists in the camp, and many others. A film in the educational programme of Berlin RIAS TV gave a detailed history of Buchenwald concentration camp. It showed the various categories of the camp's prisoners, their treatment, and the exploitation of forced labour by renowned firms like BMW, Siemens, Krupp, IG Farben in the various outstations, as well as the resistance and sabotage actions by groups of courageous men. It also mentions that the camp site was originally Goethe's Ettersberg with an oak dedicated to the poet, but Himmler had insisted on renaming it "Buchenwald."

DACHAU REMEMBERED

During the Dachau memorial meeting, annually held by the Association of former inmates and the International Dachau Committee, Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic services were held, and during a silent march-past at the crematorium posters protesting against neo-Nazism and the statute of limitation for Nazi crimes were carried. Outside the camp, unknown hooligans daubed the ground with white swastikas. The same happened at the Mauthausen camp, where the walls were also painted with inscriptions: "Juden raus".

SUSPECT QUALIFICATIONS

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Berlin Jewish community, said in a letter to the Standing Conference of the Ministries of Education of the various Laender, it was a disgrace that graduates of SS technical schools were entitled to call themselves "Ingenieur (grad)." It was impossible to understand why the SS schools were regarded as ordinary army schools. The Nazis themselves had never claimed that the SS was part of the German Armed Forces.

EAST GERMANY

Prosecution of War Criminals

The East Berlin Public Prosecutor announced that since the end of the war, 12,861 war criminals had been sentenced for crimes against humanity. The President of East German Lawyers, Heinrich Töplitz, said the German Democratic Republic had fulfilled its task to continue in the prosecution of crimes committed by the Nazis, until the last culprit had received his just reward.

Buchenwald Memorial

In Thuringia, near Gera, a memorial to the 1,000 victims of the "Laura" outstation of the Buchenwald concentration camp, was solemnly inaugurated. A special exhibition contains documents, photographs and a model of the camp, which was an underground armaments factory, manned by slave workers.

Zwickau Cemetery Renovated

During the last war, young Nazi boys were sent to the Zwickau cemetery to remove all brass and bronze parts of Jewish graves for the "Reichsmetallspende". At the initiative of the Leipzig community, all tombstones damaged at the time have now been replaced, and inscriptions were renewed in goldleaf. The city of Zwickau has paid for the renovation and for planting new trees and flowers.

HOME NEWS

SYNAGOGUE CENTENARY

The Duke of Gloucester, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Chief Rabbi, Lord and Lady Fisher, and Lord and Lady Janner attended the centenary service of the New West End Synagogue, and a commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Duke. As an architect and patron of the Victorian Society, the Duke was most impressed with the interior of the beautiful synagogue, described by the Chief Rabbi as a "truly precious jewel". Mr. Levin, president of the United Synagogue, referred to the links royalty had always had with Anglo-Jewry and mentioned that the first visit by royalty (the then Duke of Gloucester) to an Ashkenazi synagogue had been in 1801. In a telegram, the Queen expressed her good wishes to the community.

YOUTH ALIYAH'S 45th ANNIVERSARY

The 45th anniversary dinner of Children and Youth Aliyah was held at the Guildhall and attended by the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Kidron who had himself lived for two years at a Y.A. village. Others present were Mrs. Recha Freier, the founder of Youth Aliyah, now a nonagenarian, Dr. Rinott, leader of the first group of children from Germany in Palestine in 1934, Sir Robert Mayer, the founder of London children's concerts, and the president of the organisation, Dr. Israel Feldmann, another nonagenarian. Mrs. Freier who received a warm ovation, recalled how as a young German-Jewish girl she had conceived the idea of a movement of exodus from all countries where Jews were persecuted. Dr. Rinott said that one third of the first group he took from Berlin to Palestine were youngsters who had already been made homeless by the Nazis. Sir Marcus Sieff, chairman of Marks & Spencer, said that his mother, Mrs. Rebecca Sieff, had helped in forming a British committee to raise funds for victims of Nazi oppression which had later become the Children and Youth Aliyah Committee in Britain. Mr. Shapira, world head of the organisation, reported that there were at present some 18,000 children cared for, including a number of children rescued from Iran.

MEMORIAL TO MARTYRS

Dr. Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, consecrated a United Synagogue memorial for those who perished in the Holocaust, at Bushey Cemetery. It bears the inscription: "In everlasting memory of the martyrdom of the holy communities and of the six million Jews cruelly slaughtered for the sanctification of the Name during the Holocaust." Dr. Jakobovits said that no memorial could suitably commemorate the loss of six million lives, but the memorial would remind Anglo-Jewry of its responsibility for strengthening Jewish life in Europe.

Jewish ex-Servicemen and women from North West London gathered at the National Jewish War Memorial at the Willesden Jewish Cemetery to pay homage to those who died in two world wars and who have no known graves. The Mayor and Mayoress of Brent and the county president of the Royal British Legion attended the service conducted by Rabbi Hool, minister of the Kingsbury Synagogue.

CAMP SURVIVORS RAISE FUNDS

In 1945, a group of young Jewish boys and girls who had survived life in concentration camps, came to Britain to start new lives. In order to keep in touch with each other and to be able to help others, they founded the "Forty-Five Aid Society" whose chairman is Mr. Ben Helfgott. At a recent dinner at the Regent Centre Hotel, they celebrated the 34th anniversary of their liberation. Mr. Helfgott said that of the 3,000,000 Polish Jews killed by the Nazis, 1,200,000 had been between the ages of one and 16. Altogether, only 5,000 children survived.

The Society contributed £3,000 to the Central British Fund, £1,000 to the Micha School for Deaf Children in Israel, and another £1,000 to an orthopaedic hospital in Israel. Mr. Oscar Joseph paid tribute to the society and its chairman whom he presented with a JNF Golden Book Certificate.

TRADE WITH ISRAEL HEALTHY

At the annual general meeting of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Sumray, its newly elected chairman, said it was hoped to double the present Anglo-Israel trade to £2 billion within the next three years. Sir Marcus Sieff, managing director of Marks & Spencer, said that after the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, there was a prospect of increased trade for British exporters with both countries. During his recent visit to Israel, he had been impressed by the outstanding performances of factories in the north of Israel. Mr. Fred Worms, treasurer of the Chamber, said that its membership had risen to 497. The Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Kidron, presented to 29 representatives of British firms Israeli Government certificates for making a notable contribution to Anglo-Israel trade during the past year.

ANNE FRANK'S 50th BIRTHDAY REMEMBERED

To commemorate Anne Frank's 50th birthday, the British Anne Frank Foundation will hold a gala concert at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. The money will go towards combating racialism and discrimination, particularly among the young. The Foundation will also benefit by a contribution from the profits of "Canterbury Tales" at the London Shaftesbury Theatre whose star is Buddy Elias, a cousin of Anne Frank. He left Germany for Switzerland with his family in 1930. In 1939 Anne Frank and her family paid a visit to Switzerland, and that is when he last saw her. Anne's father, who lives in Basel and will be 90 this month, met him here at the launching of the anniversary tribute.

In Kensal Green, a dramatised version of Anne Frank's diaries was staged by the Moonshine Community Art Workshop. The play was followed by discussions between the cast and audiences which saw the play as confirmation of the need to meet today's "fascist" threat, the National Front.

NON-JEWISH CHILDREN AT NURSERY SCHOOL

Rabbi Cyril Harris has resigned as minister of the Edgware Synagogue, because some matters of principle had not been satisfactorily solved for "the well-being of the community". He mentioned the admission of non-Jewish children to the Rosh Pinah nursery school which holds its classes on the synagogue premises, the fact that some of the children admitted claimed to be Jewish, but were not, and that teachers brought over from Israel were non-observant. Some of them had been seen playing tennis on Rosh Hashana. Mr. Kramer, chairman of the Zionist Federation Educational Trust, which is responsible for the school, said: "If a non-Jewish child comes into the school, it does not contaminate the whole school". As for teachers, their orthodoxy would be investigated if they were to teach Jewish subjects.

BARNET'S TWIN TOWN

The new Jewish Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Mrs. Rita Levy, started her duties by attending the annual meeting of the Friends of Ramat Gan, Barnet's twin town in Israel. The chairman, Councillor Frank Gibson, announced that during an adult study tour of Israel in October an electrocardiograph heart machine, worth £1,500, would be presented to the Hashomer Hospital in Ramat Gan, but that £500 of that sum was still to come.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Memorial Prayer for Iranian Jew

At the London Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy recited a memorial prayer for Mr. Elghanian, the Iranian Jewish leader, killed recently. The prayer was the one which had been composed for the victims of the Spanish inquisition. Members of Mr. Elghanian's family attended the service.

Branksome Dene Sold to Freemasons

The Branksome Dene Convalescent Home in Bournemouth which has served the Jewish community for nearly 30 years, has been purchased by the Freemasons as a home for the elderly. Branksome Dene was once the stately home of Sir Ernest Cassel and of his grand-daughter Lady Edwina Mountbatten as well as the childhood home of Sir Winston Churchill. The Bournemouth authorities refused many applications to demolish the property, listed as of historic and architectural interest, and to build luxury flats on the site.

Non-Jew's Gift To Israel

Rabbi Dr. Cooper consecrated an ambulance for Israel, purchased with money raised by the Hull branch of Magen David Adom, in memory of Mr. John Barnby, a practising Christian and lecturer of economics at Hull University who had left £25,000 to Israel's medical service.

Sheffield Jewish Benefactors

Mrs. Marie Winstone of Sheffield donated £50,000 to the 1979 Joint Jewish Appeal in memory of her husband who died last February. They had both been generous contributors to Israel appeals and to other deserving causes. Recently, Mrs. Winstone provided a physiotherapy wing for St. Luke's nursing home at a cost of £100,000, and initiated a £300,000 project for a lifeboat at Holyhead.

Ilse Joseph in Islington

Mrs. Ilse Joseph, the violinist whose concerts in memory of her children killed by the Nazis have made her known all over the world, unveiled a plaque dedicated to them at a Save The Children Youth Club and Community Centre in Islington. After the ceremony she held a party to mark the birthday of her eldest daughter Marion, one of the four, and spoke to children of various nationalities on the need for reconciliation, understanding, and love.

Milk and Honey

In the first three weeks after the Eurovision song contest in Jerusalem, 250,000 copies of the winning song "Hallelujah" were sold in Britain. A silver disc was awarded to the singers, the Israeli "Milk and Honey" group who subsequently visited Britain to appear on the Val Doonican show. Unfortunately, there exists another "Milk and Honey" group in Britain, whose founder Mr. Frank Bayne, an Equity official and an orthodox Jew, is very upset about this coincidence. His own group was set up two years ago.

Former Berlin Barkochba Members to meet

In August, Mr. Fritz Lewinson (Israel) will pay a visit to England. On this occasion, Mr. James Walters (formerly Julius Warschauer) intends to arrange a reunion meeting. Any interested former Barkochba members should contact: Mr. James Walters, Collendean, Links Road, Bramley nr. Guildford, Surrey (Tel.: Guildford 892104 STD Code 0483).

Old-Age Homes only as Last Resort

Mr. Monty Dobkin, the retiring president of Heathlands, the Manchester Jewish Home for the Aged, said people should not send their aged parents into old age homes if they could help it. There should be "domiciliary assistance" for the old and frail still able to live at home. Mr. Dobkin had been president of Heathlands, where 20 residents are between 90 and 100 years of age, for 34 years. The treasurer reported a deficit of £24,000, as the running of the home now costs £2,000 per day, and no lowering of standards was tolerable.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

President's Dedication to Israel

In a newspaper interview, President Carter stated: "As long as I am President of the United States—and for the rest of my life after that—I will personally be dedicated to doing everything in my power so that Israel can celebrate her future anniversaries in peace, security, and friendship with all her neighbours . . . Israelis are a minority in the Middle East. They have a tiny piece of land in contrast to the nations around them. Their history, and the horrors that have befallen Jews throughout the world, the threats to their own nation, and the terrorism that has afflicted them over the past 31 years—all these make their need for caution and self-reliance understandable. I strongly honour their feelings."

The Search for Nazi Criminals

Fifty-year-old Washington lawyer Walter Rockler has been made head of a new department of the Department of Justice with an annual budget of about £1 million which was set up to trace former Nazi criminals in the United States and to deprive them of their citizenship. Some 175 Nazi criminals are thought to have immigrated to the States and acquired US citizenship. After the last war, Rockler first served as prosecuting counsel at the Nuremberg trials and visited many Nazi concentration and labour camps.

Senate demands End of Statute of Limitation

Both Houses of Parliament in America adopted resolutions to ask the Federal German Government to abolish the Statute of Limitation for Nazi murders. During the preceding debate, Senator Moynihan (Dem) said it should not be forgotten that the US belonged to the countries which had refused to admit Jewish refugees and had sent them back to certain death. Therefore, the resolution was based on a share of the moral responsibility for the Holocaust rather than on an assumed pose of moral superiority.

Jewish Woman Mayor of San Francisco

San Francisco Mayor Mrs. Dianne Feinstein, daughter of a Jewish physician and a Roman Catholic mother, was educated at a convent school, but decided to become Jewish by religion, because, as she said, she was aware of the prejudice that exists and of the distinct Jewish heritage. She is expected to run for the governorship of California after her term of office expires.

Rabbi's Libel Case Stopped

In a libel suit, started in 1973, Rabbi Albert Belton sought substantial damages from Professor Braham, chairman of the Political Science Department of New York's City College. Professor Braham quoted in his "Hungarian Jewish Studies" the recollections of Mr. Samuel Stern, chairman of the wartime Budapest Jewish Council who maintained that Rabbi Belton, then called Bela Berend, had maintained good relations with the Nazis in his home town and in Budapest where he closely collaborated with Eichmann's deputy Endre. After the war, the rabbi was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment by a Hungarian People's Court, but released after the intervention of influential Jews, because his trial stirred antisemitism. He was forced to emigrate to America where he changed his name. A Judge of the New York Supreme Court has now stopped the suit, saying that Professor Braham had not acted from malice when he analysed the behaviour of the entire Judenrat.

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CANADA

Amnesty Insult to Israel Stopped

After a complaint by the Canadian Jewish Congress, Amnesty International has stopped distribution of an educational manual which compared Israel's treatment of Arabs to the Nazi Holocaust. The manual "Human Rights Past and Present", was published for use by teachers and youth leaders in discussions on human rights.

Row over Mixed Marriages

Rabbi J. Kaufmann, president of the Quebec region of Canada's Rabbinical Council, protested against the announcement of a proposed mixed marriage at Temple Emanu-El in Montreal, the only reform synagogue in Canada, where couples of different faiths can be married without the non-Jewish partner having to convert to Judaism. In the United States, more than 450 Reform rabbis are said to perform such marriages.

ARSON AT TUNISIAN SYNAGOGUE

Fire has badly damaged the beautiful old El Ghriba Synagogue in the village of Hara Kebira on the island of Djerba, where 7,000 of Tunisia's 14,000 Jews live. Arson is suspected. The fire started before the annual pilgrimage to the synagogue in which thousands of Tunisian-born Jews from France, Canada, the United States, and other countries take part. Recently, the headquarters of the Arab League was transferred to Tunis from Cairo.

VATICAN TO RESTRAIN ANTI-ISRAEL ARCHBISHOP

Vatican officials have promised Mr. Allon, Israeli Ambassador to Italy, to restrain Archbishop Capucci from engaging in anti-Israel activities. He has recently been appointed "visitor" to the Greek Catholic communities of France, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg. Earlier this year, the archbishop made some fiercely anti-Israel speeches at meetings of the PLO's Palestinian National Council in Damascus and was elected a council member. The Pope has now requested him to send him a "letter of obedience", promising not to return to the Middle East without permission, and not to accept his election to the Council. Only after the archbishop had accepted these conditions, did the Pope grant him an audience and confirmed him as "visitor".

NORWAY

Norwegian Pupils for Kibbutzim

Twenty pupils of a boarding high school of the Norwegian Lutheran Mission will be the first to visit Israel and to spend six weeks working in Kibbutzim and studying Jewish religion and history. The headmaster has just signed contracts for the visit with Givat Brenner and another Kibbutz.

Neo-Nazis in Norway

Peter Kristian Kyvik, a prominent member of the Norsk Front, a Norwegian neo-Nazi group, has been arrested and charged with throwing two bombs in Oslo. The chairman of the organisation, Erik Bluecher, has links with the National Front in Britain. Kyrik is a sergeant in the Norwegian Army. The Defence Ministry is instituting an investigation into neo-Nazi activities in the Armed Forces.

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RESISTANCE MEMORIAL IN BELGIUM

A memorial to 242 Jews who died fighting with the Belgian Resistance in the last war, was unveiled in Brussels on the wall of the national monument to Belgian Jews killed in the Holocaust. The youngest of the Resistance fighters was only 14 years old, the oldest 65. About 2,000 Jews took an active part in the Resistance. Before the war, some 100,000 Jews lived in Belgium. About 35,000 escaped to Britain and other countries. 30,000 were deported, and to-day there are about 40,000 Jews left, many of whom survived the war in hiding.

DUTCH MEMORIAL DESECRATED

After the showing of the Holocaust film, The Hague's monument to Dutch Jewish victims was daubed with swastikas.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR HITLER IN SPAIN

Thousands of blue-shirted Spanish neo-Nazis attended the annual memorial mass for "the repose of the soul of Adolf Hitler" in a church in the centre of Madrid. Subsequently, they marched through the old quarters of the town and smashed the windows of several Jewish shops. Ten of the demonstrators were arrested and will face trial. More than 100,000 people attended a similar ceremony last November on the anniversary of Franco's death, waving swastika flags and giving the Nazi salute.

"HOLOCAUST" FILM IN SWITZERLAND

The showing of the Holocaust film in Switzerland has evoked numerous press comments on the Swiss immigration policy during the Nazi regime. In the Neue Zuercher Zeitung a young historian, George Kreis, recalled that Switzerland, after admitting thousands of exiles during the early years of the Nazi Reich, tightened its policies in 1938. The Swiss authorities, he wrote, then proposed that the Germans stamp passports of German "non-Aryans" with a "J" for Jew to facilitate Swiss border controls. According to researchers, the Government's police issued orders in August 1942 that refugees fleeing to Switzerland "only for racial reasons" were to be turned back.

J.T.A.

NEO-NAZIS' SWISS ACCOUNTS

The Swiss Government has decided that neo-Nazis may maintain numbered accounts in Swiss banks, unless it is shown that the origin and/or intended use of the deposits is illegal. The decision was published after an enquiry into the holdings of the German Neo-Nazi Manfred Roeder, who now sends out his propaganda material from South America.

YIDDISH DISC IN AUSTRIA

More than 3,000 copies of "Kum aher du filosof", the first original Yiddish long-play record to be produced in Austria, have so far been sold. Two Austrian pop singers, Eduard Bartz and Albert Misak, wrote the text and the music, after they had been invited to sing at a local Chasidic wedding.

KISCH HOUSE IN PRAGUE

According to a report of the "Prager Volkszeitung", the house in which Egon Erwin Kisch, "the roving reporter", was born has been renovated. Built in 1570 on the corner Melantrich and Ledergasse, it was, because of the monuments on its portals, once called "Haus zu den zwei Baeren". Yet for a long time the general population has already called it "the Kisch House". The new landlord is the Municipal Museum, which will use the building as its headquarters and place in it a library, photo archives and a collection of documents. The upper floor will be used as a permanent Kisch Exhibition to be organised jointly by the Museum for National Literature and the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists.

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Egon Larsen

ADVENTURES OF A BOOKMAN

In 1981, the international community of Stefan Zweig readers and devotees will commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth. In many countries, and especially in German-language Central Europe, there will be a great demand for new editions of his writings, from volumes of his collected works to paperbacks of his most popular books. All this requires a good deal of preparation and time, and one man is now busy with this huge and complicated job: the man who controls Stefan Zweig's world rights, an ex-Austrian Jew from Berlin by the name of Kurt Maschler, who lives in London. He himself was 80 last year; he has just spent several months in hospital after a car accident, but his efficiency and organisational talent seems to be hardly less than sixty years ago when he started his life-long career as a bookman, in every sense of the word. As soon as he gets rid of his crutches he will travel again, which is an essential part of his endeavours.

To the general public, literature is something made of paper which appears in the shops and on the shelves as a matter of course like milk bottles on the doorsteps. How it gets there, seems to be some uninteresting routine. But in our century with its political and economic upheavals, the book business has become a trade full of dramas and adventures, and Kurt Maschler's career had a good many of them.

He was born in Berlin and got his Austrian citizenship from his father, who had settled there. Young Kurt was fascinated by books and began to deal in them in the early years of the Weimar era when the demand for international literature grew by leaps and bounds. Soon he had made friends—often *Duzfreunde*—of the most important Berlin publishers and a number of authors. At one of the cocktail parties given by Edith Jacobsohn, the widow of the *Weltbühne* editor, he met Erich Kästner for the first time. Frau Jacobsohn, an enthusiastic Anglophile, had founded the Williams-Verlag, which specialized in German editions of

English children's books such as Lofting's *Dr. Doolittle* and Milne's *Pooh* series, and she asked Kästner, who had just achieved a phenomenal success with his poems, to write a children's book for Williams. The result was *Emil and the Detectives*, illustrated by Walter Trier, until today one of the most popular works for young readers all over the world.

Five years later, Hitler came to power. Edith Jacobsohn fled to Switzerland, and Maschler travelled to Zürich to meet her there and make her an offer which must have seemed rather bold, not to say mad, under the circumstances: he bought from her the whole Williams-Verlag, complete with debts and the copyrights of Kästner's children's books, by then already four, plus Trier's illustrations. Then he returned to Berlin; although a Jew, he felt still safe in Nazi Germany as an Austrian citizen. He spoke to Kästner, who refused to emigrate because he didn't want to leave his mother behind, though his books had been banned and confiscated. Maschler managed to get 5,000 Kästner volumes out of Germany; he founded his own publishing firm, Atrium-Verlag, mainly for looking after the Kästner books abroad. They were published in three dozen countries due to Maschler's unceasing efforts. Kästner and Trier, who emigrated to Canada, had entrusted him with disposing of their rights in the whole world. Somehow, Maschler also got the rights for Adrienne Thomas and Tucholsky's *Rheinsberg*. Publishers had to be found, negotiations had to be carried out personally, promotion had to be discussed, complicated deals arranged.

After a spell in Czechoslovakia, Maschler went to Vienna, where he produced art books for an Austrian publisher. He was still there when Hitler marched in, and Maschler got out—first, fearlessly, to Berlin, and then, with ten marks in his pocket, to Amsterdam. On a dry after "Crystal Night" he was told to leave the Netherlands. He got a visa for Britain and settled in London. When the police

got round to internment refugees in his boarding-house, he "happened" to be—like a good many others—in the Public Library.

Maschler tried his hand at all kinds of business. Once he represented a manufacturer of microfilm cameras and met Richard de la Mare, the chairman of Faber & Faber. He told him about his art books in Vienna; the outcome was an enormous venture to produce such a series with Maschler as the production manager. Under the imprint of "Fama"—Faber/Maschler—the series at last got going in 1945, and during the following two decades a hundred volumes, altogether 700,000 copies, of classical and modern art reproductions were printed and sold. The series still ranks as exemplary for its beautiful colour printing.

Thanks to Maschler, Erich Kästner, who could write only under cover names in Nazi Germany, was well off after the war with all the royalties from abroad, to say nothing of the world-wide popularity of his children's books. Maschler continued to promote them. His travels took him frequently to East Germany, where he managed to get on exceptionally well with the new people in charge of publishing, though they knew, of course, that he was anything but a Communist. Maschler's son Tom, too, was now rising in the world of publishing although he had, as a teenager, declared that he didn't want to continue with his father's book business. Today he is Chairman of the London publishing firm of Jonathan Cape.

Stefan Zweig had taken his own life in South America in 1942. His heirs were killed in a car crash in Germany. Maschler acquired the rights for Stefan Zweig's work, not just as a good business deal, but because he felt that this Jewish writer was "*einer der lebendigsten Toten*" in German-speaking Europe, and that it was up to him, the bookman, to exploit this interest by bringing his works before the eyes of as many readers as possible, especially on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Zweig's birth.

PRIZE FOR NEW BOOK ON LEO BAECK

After five years of research, Mr. Leonard Baker, a former newspaper man, published a book "*Days of Sorrow and Pain: Leo Baeck and the Berlin Jews*" which gained him the 1978 Pulitzer Prize in letters. The book will be reviewed in this paper in due course.

ASSOCIATION OF GIESSEN JEWS

In Netanya which has a partnership with the West German town of Giessen, an Association of Jews from Giessen was formed with an initial membership of 58. Eighty of the 1,200 Jews who lived in Giessen before 1933, are still alive in Israel, and Netanya's Mayor also hails from that town. The mayor of Giessen told him during a recent visit, that the town council was prepared to contribute substantially to the building of a new synagogue for the post-war Giessen Jewish community. Streets are named after the conductor Hermann Levi and the social politician Henriette Fuerth, who were both born in Giessen.

MARBURG INVITES HER FORMER CITIZENS

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THE POPE'S BANKERS

Rome is the only European city in which the Jewish community has enjoyed an unbroken existence since the beginning of the Christian era. It was also the last to abolish the ghetto and free the Jews from all mediaeval restrictions. This historical paradox is paralleled in the economic field: on the one hand, it was papal theological policy to keep the Jews in a state of subjection. On the other, papal financial policy helped to create a situation in which Jewish banking flourished in the most economically advanced country of Western Europe at a time when developments in much of the rest of the continent progressively reduced the Jews to economic insignificance. This apparent absurdity, with its strange interplay of economic and theological factors, is the subject of a book written in French over a decade ago which has now been translated into English*.

The Church's preoccupation with "usury" dates from the twelfth century, when it became clear that a theologically forbidden activity was also an economic necessity with which theology had to come to terms. The dilemma was resolved by allowing the Jews an economic function which corresponded to their theological one: since they were already condemned, they could not endanger their souls by sinning and could, in fact, contribute to the salvation of the Christian money-lenders they replaced. They could also be used to enrich the treasury, provided that the purpose of taxing them was not to enable the state to profit from sin but to limit their "natural" covetousness.

This rationalization legitimized a practice which was already well established north of the Alps and set the stage for an unusual development in Italy. Beginning in the second half of the thirteenth century, Jews (mainly from Rome) would conclude formal agreements with individual towns which granted them well-defined privileges, including exemption from the wearing of the Jewish badge and sometimes even the right to bear arms. In return, they would agree to settle and lend money at interest.

The remarkably favourable terms of these agreements clearly reflect the fact that these Jewish bankers fulfilled an important economic function, even a vital one. No doubt the theological and socio-psychological factors which the author discusses at some length played their part, but it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that the reasons for this development were primarily economic. After all, the Jews were preceded in this role by Christian money-lenders, whom they displaced only gradually. It is also worth remembering that this occurred at almost exactly the same time as "Lombards" and "Tuscans" (that is, Italian Christians) replaced the Jews as money-lenders in much of the rest of Western Europe, theology notwithstanding. It seems clear that, within the highly developed but extremely localized political and economic environment of late mediaeval Italy, the Jews, as "marginal men" of a rather special type, must have had real advantages, especially in the smaller communes which were short of ready cash, offered few attractions to the wealthy bankers of the country's main commercial centres and were anxious to retain their economic and political independence.

There is much about these Jewish loan bankers that is far from mediaeval. In particular, one

might mention the emergence of a small group of wealthy, influential families who in many respects foreshadow the court Jews and financiers of a later period. Indeed, they could be regarded as even more "modern" than their successors, since they enjoyed a degree of security, acculturation and social acceptance which the latter might well have envied.

The story which Poliakov has to tell is of considerable interest, but it would probably hold the reader's attention even more if his approach were less discursive. He has a tendency to leave the narrative hanging while he discusses what he sees as some of its more general implications. Nevertheless, even this apparent failing has its positive side, since it is through his digressions that he transmits his fascination with Jewish history and reminds us of the many facets of that history which remain to be explored.

*Leon Poliakov: *Jewish bankers and the Holy See*. London, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1977. (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization) £5.50.

STATISTICS ON WORLD JEWRY

According to the American Jewish Year Book for 1979 there are now 14,286,000 Jews throughout the world. The highest proportion (47 per cent) live in North, South and Central America, 29 per cent in Europe and 22 per cent in Asia.

The breakdown in detail is as follows: United States: 5,781,000; Israel: 3,706,000; USSR: 2,678,000; Great Britain: 410,000; France: 650,000; Canada: 305,000; Argentina: 300,000; Brazil: 150,000; South Africa: 118,000. The breakdown also includes a number of countries whose Jewish population is below 100,000.

AJR INFORMATION

In view of a reorganisation in the production of "AJR Information" and of postal delays, we must ask our readers to bear with us, if the next issues of our Monthly reach them a little later than usual.

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SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN 80

Our Board member Sir Ludwig Guttman will celebrate his 80th birthday on July 3. Below we publish two tributes to his life and work.

A BUSY RETIREMENT

When Sir Ludwig was asked by the British Government to set up a spinal injuries centre in 1944 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, he pioneered a completely new concept in the treatment and rehabilitation of spinal cord injured. He was Founder Director of the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital for 22 years, and one of his greatest achievements was the creation of the Stoke Mandeville Games, which are framed today as the "Olympics of the Paralysed".

On the 2 August, 1969, Her Majesty The Queen opened Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium for the Paralysed and Other Disabled. This was a personal triumph for Sir Ludwig, many times honoured in this country and abroad for his work. At the age of 70, one might have expected that he would have regarded this as the culmination of a life's work and would have settled down to a less strenuous life.

On the contrary, for the last ten years he has been more active than ever, as Director of Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium and Chairman of the British Paraplegic Sports Society which built and runs the Stadium, as Founder President of the British Sports Association for the Disabled and President of the International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation and the International Sports Organisation for the Disabled. He is Editor of PARAPLEGIA, the journal of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia of which he was Founder President for ten years, world expert in medical legal problems and a member of the Board of the Institute of Sport Medicine, as well as holding honorary office in many associations.

Sir Ludwig's work brings him daily to Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium, except when he is called all over the world to officiate at Congresses, Sports Meetings for the Disabled and to advise governments in the setting up of spinal injuries centres. During the last ten years, such duties have taken him many times to most countries of Europe as well as to Canada, U.S.A., Israel, Malaysia, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Brazil, Colombia, and U.S.S.R. He has opened

spinal injuries centres and rehabilitation units in Australia, Israel, South Africa, and Germany, and has three spinal injuries centres and two streets named after him in Spain, Germany, Israel, and The Netherlands. In the last ten years he has received many honours from universities and cities in many parts of the world, including the rare honour of being made a Fellow of the Royal Society in London. He has not neglected his writings and has published many papers and textbooks, including the second edition of his book on "Spinal Cord Injuries—Comprehensive Management and Research" and a Textbook on Sport for the Disabled, now published also in German, Dutch and Japanese.

Sir Ludwig's latest project, as Chairman of the British Paraplegic Sports Society, is to create at Stoke Mandeville the first Olympic Village for the Disabled in the world, by the building of permanent accommodation for disabled men, women and children, to replace the existing temporary and rather dilapidated wooden huts, at a cost of about £700,000. There is a sense of great urgency, as the building is wanted by early Summer 1981, and an Appeal has been launched.

During the 1960 Olympics for the Paralysed in Rome, all the teams had a private audience in the Vatican City with the late Pope John XXIII, and on surveying the paralysed athletes that great man was moved to say "You are the living marvels of the virtue of energy". When Sir Ludwig reaches his 80th birthday on the 3rd July this year, there could be no more fitting accolade for a great man who has devoted his life for the benefit of mankind and has not only saved but enriched the lives of thousands of men, women and children who hitherto were given up as hopeless.

JOAN SCRUTON, MBE.

Secretary General British Paraplegic Sports Society, Co-worker of Sir Ludwig Guttman for 35 years.

* * *

Prince Charles will attend a summer ball in honour of Sir Ludwig Guttman at which the Disabled Sports Foundation at Stoke Mandeville will be launched with the aim of raising funds for the Olympic Village.

LOYAL TO HIS ORIGIN

It is a great pleasure to join in the many tributes which will be paid to Sir Ludwig Guttman. That the occasion is his 80th birthday can hardly be believed. His young appearance and very active life belies his age.

It is not my intention to dwell on his outstanding achievements as an eminent surgeon but to honour him as a fellow-Jew and friend of many. As a young student in 1919 Ludwig Guttman joined the "Thuringia" in Breslau, one of the "Verbindungen" of the KC (Kartell Convent of German Students of Jewish faith). Ever since he has maintained the contact with those whom he met during his student days and has remained a loyal member and friend of the KC Fraternity in this country. Those who attended the London Anniversary Banquet in 1976 in celebration of the foundation of the KC will remember his inspiring address.

"Menorah" was the name of the house in which the Guttman family settled on moving from Oxford to High Wycombe where, having become members of the local synagogue, the late Lady Guttman took an active part in the affairs of the Jewish community. One cannot forget the Memorial Service for his late wife in 1974 in the Hall of the Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium with the address of the Rabbi of the Wembley Synagogue, attended by many dignitaries, staff of the Stoke Mandeville Hospital and paralysed patients. This also bears witness to Ludwig Guttman's positive Jewish attitude.

His services to Israel to help in the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of the wars and the building of a National Spinal Injuries Centre in the Military Hospital of Tel Hashomer, which bears his name, must be mentioned. In December last year the Sir Ludwig Guttman Institute, comprising a Neurological Rehabilitation Unit was opened and a new Physiotherapy Department at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa in January.

A man who has done so much for suffering mankind and for his Jewish brethren deserves of the highest esteem. May he be blessed with good health for many years to come!

LOTHAR NELKEN



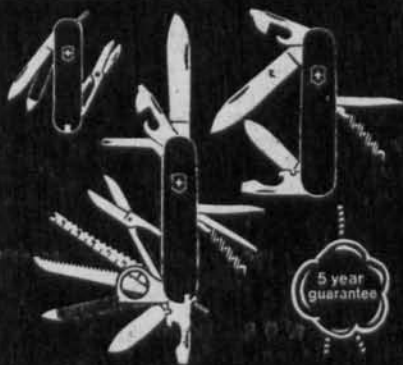
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- 2 Juli. Gerald Holm: "Ivar Kreuger. The Swedish Match King".
- 9 Juli. Hans Freyhan: "A recent Study Tour of Israel" (with colour slides).
- 16 Juli. Grete Sachs: "The Montefiores".
- 23 Juli. H. Morgan: "The Work of a Samaritan".
- 30 Juli. Egon Lehrburger-Larsen: "Der juedische Humor. Versuch einer Analyse".
- 6 August. Eduard Kaatz: "Die Heilige Johanna".
- 13 August. Dr. Gellert Tausz: "Pirat Lairs" (with colour slides).
- 20 August. Mitgliederversammlung.
- 27 August. Bank Holiday.
- 3 September. Leonard C. Goss (Council of Christians and Jews): "Friendship across Frontiers".

THE ISRAELI SCENE

FATAL MUDDLE IN ISRAELI ARMY

In his annual report, Dr. Nebenzahl, Israeli State Comptroller, said that faulty intelligence and indiscipline caused the death of Israeli soldiers during last year's attack on terrorists in Lebanon, which involved 25,000 men. Eighteen were killed, 60 wounded, and one man was captured and recently exchanged for 76 terrorists. Most of the casualties were caused by land mines which could not be neutralised, because the troops had the wrong equipment. All but six of 27 Israeli tanks were knocked out because troops did not obey orders. Coded maps were not always coordinated. Slovenly discipline led to 182 cases of looting and three instances when troops flouted orders and crossed into territory not under Israeli control. Mobilisation procedure was also wanting. One brigade was unable to find 150 soldiers, because their mobilisation papers had not reached them. The list of names was found to be completely out of date.

TOURIST BOOM

In the first quarter of 1979, a record number of 27,500 Britons visited Israel, the highest number from any European country. Only the United States send more tourists to Israel than Britain. The figure for March was up 22 per cent on last year, whereas the total of tourists to Israel from all countries dropped by six per cent. Last year, West Germany and France topped the list. Next winter, British Airways will again organise charters in a giant TriStar. There will be weekly departures from October 4 to March 27. The first holiday which combines a visit to Israel with one to Egypt, with direct travel between the two countries, will be provided by Cosmos, a major British tour operator, from next winter. The 15-day package will be from £337. Participants will spend five days in Israel, then cross Sinai to Egypt, spend six days in Egypt, and return to Israel for the flight home.

PROTEST AGAINST RELEASE OF TERRORISTS

There was a general expression of indignation at the news that among the 76 convicted terrorists recently exchanged by Israel for one Israeli reserve soldier who had fallen into terrorists' hands, there were 33 who had taken part in acts of terrorism in which Israelis were killed. In the Knesset, Mr. Yigal Allon, former Labour Foreign Minister, said, the releases were an invitation to more bloodshed, as the terrorists would now deem it worth trying to take more hostages.

JEWISH LECTURER'S LINK WITH THE PLO

On his arrival from London, Dr. Uri Davis, a university lecturer, was arrested at Ben-Gurion airport. The Israeli police suspect him of having been in touch with senior representatives of the PLO during his stay in London and of having planned to publish a newspaper with the PLO's financial support.

UN SOLDIER SENT TO PRISON

The Senegalese warrant officer with the UN Forces in Lebanon, Papa Koli Saar, 30, was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for smuggling explosives into Israel and handing them over to a PLO agent in Acre. He said in his defence, he had only done so, because he and his family had been threatened by the PLO in Beirut.

LEBANON GOVERNMENT TO STOP TERRORISTS

The Lebanese Government has contacted several Arab Governments requesting them to use their influence on the Palestinians to make them desist from terrorist attacks on Israel from Lebanon.

CIVIL SERVANTS STRIKE

Forty thousand Israeli Civil Servants staged a three-day strike for higher pay and faster promotion and threatened to strike again if their demands were not met. During the strike, there was no mail delivery or collection, no taxes were collected, and radio and TV only sent out news bulletins. Customs officers at the airports allowed all incoming passengers through without checking their luggage.

MOURNING FOR MURDERED IRANIAN

President Navon attended a memorial service for Mr. Habib Elghanian, the honorary head of the Iranian Jewish community who was the first Jew to be "executed" in Iran. The festive dedication of the new diamond exchange in Ramat Gan has been postponed because of his death, as his family played a major role in building the centre.

COAL DEAL WITH AUSTRALIA

Mr. Modai, Israel's Energy Minister, has completed a deal with Australia for the supply of 1½ million tonnes of coal over the next seven years at a cost of between £13.50 and £15 per tonne. Mr. Modai said this was not exactly a bargain, but after the recent nuclear breakdown in Pennsylvania, Israel was not overkeen to commit herself to nuclear power.

BEGIN'S WASHINGTON ADDRESS SOLD FOR CHARITY

The original copy of Mr. Begin's Washington address at the signing of the peace treaty, was auctioned off for nearly £30,000 at a charity evening in aid of the Soldiers' Welfare Association. The buyer was an American philanthropist, Mr. Selwyn Kent, who immediately gave his purchase back to the association to be auctioned again in the United States. The six-page speech in Mr. Begin's handwriting is written on Washington Hilton notepaper.

ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION IN ASIATIC GAMES

The Council of the World Athletics Association decided during its meeting at Dakar to postpone Israel's relegation to the European Branch, because the forthcoming title contests in Tokyo would not be internationally recognised if Israel were not to be included. Japan has declared that because of a high security risk it would not send invitations to Israeli competitors.

MEMORIAL FOR CHEMNITZ JEWS

In the hills of Jerusalem a tree plantation and a memorial stone were inaugurated to commemorate the former Jewish citizens from Chemnitz, killed by the Nazis. There is no memorial for them in Karl-Marx-Stadt, as it is now called, whereas the Jewish victims of Dresden and Leipzig are remembered there.

JEWISH BONES REBURIED

Thousands of Right-wing Orthodox Jews attended a funeral service and reburial ceremony of Jewish bones unearthed by archaeologists during recent excavations in Jerusalem. They were collected in a coffin and carried in procession through the narrow streets of the Mea Shearim Orthodox quarter to their final resting places.

ISRAEL FOOTBALLER FOR LIVERPOOL

After a crowd of 50,000 saw the Israeli national football team hold Liverpool to a surprising 3:3 draw, Liverpool completed the signing of Avi Cohen, Israel's 22-year old international centre-back, for £200,000. He played the second half of the game for his new club.

ISRAEL CRICKETERS IN BRITAIN

An Israeli cricket team came to Britain, but failed to qualify for the Prudential World Cup Finals, although they won four of the first seven matches. Their captain said they played differently in Israel: They played about once a fortnight "in a spirit of commitment they wouldn't know about in Yorkshire." Most players had to drive 100 kilometres to attend, and they therefore had 11 captains. The team were all born in cricketing countries: England, South Africa, Pakistan, India, and Australia. It includes three kibbutzniks, all cowhands, three workers from an electronic plant, some El Al clerks, and two journalists.

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Richard Grunberger

PROGENITOR OF LEFT-WING ANTISEMITISM

A New Work on Karl Marx

Post-Hitler antisemitism is a source of sadness and bafflement in equal degrees. It is sad because one expected the world to heed the lesson of Auschwitz—and baffling because its contemporary instigators stand at the opposite end of the political spectrum to the Nazis. The atavistic *Judenhass* which was assumed to have perished with its chief practitioner in the bunker at Berlin paradoxically still lingers in the minds of those who plucked the swastika flag from the Reich Chancellery. Since the death of Hitler—and its fitting sequel, the birth of the State of Israel—it has been the Left rather than the Right that has posed a threat to Jewish survival.

The Left-wing threat to Jewish survival is partly physical—revolutionary Arab régimes endeavouring, with Soviet arms and Third World backing, to destroy Israel—and partly cultural. The Kremlin intimidates and pillories the three million Jews behind the Curtain by labelling Judaism “reactionary” and Zionism “racist”; in the West the campus Left subjects rising student generations—many Jews among them—to equally pernicious mystifications.

This antisemitism of the Left stems from something deeper than power political considerations—for all that it gives the Soviets geopolitical leverage abroad and readymade scapegoats at home. Its antecedents are ideological and stretch back even beyond the anathemas Lenin pronounced on Zionists and Bundists around the turn of the century.

The *fons et origo* of Left antisemitism was, in fact, none other than Karl Marx himself. (Those other Jewbaiting Socialist pioneers, Proudhon and Fourier, can be left out of account because they dwindle into insignificance beside Marx.)

Marx's antisemitism confronts us with a twofold paradox. For one, Socialism spelt out a gospel of salvation for all the damned of this earth—a category to which the Jews pre-eminently belonged. For another, Marx was, of course, a Jew himself—if only by ancestry. Baptised as a child, he suppressed, or, at any rate, disavowed all awareness of himself as a Jew; his self-perception as an outsider owed everything to his radicalism and nothing to his race.

It was as a rising luminary of the German radical movement of the 1840s that Marx penned the observations on the Jewish Question which earned him the unflattering epithet of a Jewish antisemite. Marx's essay on the *Judenfrage*, according to Dr. Julius Carlebach's recently published painstakingly researched study*, was his response to an article on Jewish Emancipation from the pen of the maverick Christian theologian Bruno Bauer.

At the time, the question of whether Jews should be granted equal rights with Christians occasioned much debate throughout Germany. The topic exercised not only the *Landtage* and the press; members of the academic fraternity, too, joined in and delivered themselves of philosophical reflections on the Jews, their religion, history, and destiny in the world. This intellectual debate had been initiated by the Neo-Hegelians who—like some of the French encyclopaedists before them—considered Jewry a superannuated fossil devoid of any function in the modern world.

* Julius Carlebach: *Karl Marx and the Radical Critique of Judaism*.
The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization.
Routledge & Kegan Paul 1978. £8.

Hegel held that the Jews' historic mission had ceased with the advent of Christianity, that Judaism was “unachieved Christianity” and Christianity completed Judaism. The Neo-Hegelian Feuerbach, a corrosive critic of religion, took a drastically different view. According to him the heathens had accepted nature and identified it with God, the Jews had subjected nature to their will and alienated man from the world, and the Christians, attempting to redress the balance, had projected man's true essence on to a divine figure in the heavens. Man, said Feuerbach, knows his true essence, but thanks to religion is unable to live it.

Bruno Bauer's thoughts on Judaism owed more to Hegel. He argued that Jewish history had ended with the completion of the Talmud around 500 C.E.; since then the Jews had been a collection of atoms without national consciousness or historical function awaiting absorption by world historic peoples.

When Marx took up his pen to review Bauer he refuted him and his predecessors with a fine display of dialectics “Let us not seek the secret of the Jew in his religion—let us seek the secret of his religion in the real Jew!” (This sort of inverted locution was typical of its author; if for Kant, remarks Dr. Carlebach, the Jew is a trader, then for Marx the trader is a Jew.)

Marx continued: “What is the secular basis of Judaism? Practical need, self-interest. What is the worldly cult of the Jew? Bargaining. What is his worldly god? Money. Very well! Emancipation from bargaining and money, and thus from practical, real Judaism would be the self-emancipation of our era. As soon as the basis of bargaining is abolished the Jew would cease to exist; his religious consciousness would dissolve like a dull mist.”

Little of this would have been out of place in the columns of *Der Stürmer* and in fact extracts from the above appeared on Nazi posters, complete with signature “Mordechai Karl Marx”. No less important is the fact that in his essay on the *Judenfrage* Marx had been guilty of the very offence he had charged Hegel with—that of deducing real life from abstract ideas.

The vast majority of Marx's Jewish contemporaries did not have the remotest involvement with bills of exchange, share flotation and the like. For every Rothschild or Bleichröder mid-19th century Jewry comprised—particularly in Russia, where most Jews lived—literally thousands of artisans, pedlars, farmers, talmudic scholars and *Luftmenschen*. But then Marx indulged in wilful ignorance of Jewish life in Eastern Europe right up to his death; one scours his later writings in vain for any mention of the struggle of the emergent Jewish proletariat in the Pale of Settlement.

How is one to explain Marx's antisemitism, or as Dr. Carlebach puts it more circumspectly, his radical critique of Judaism? The great Jewish historian Dubnow returned a refresh-

ingly straightforward answer to the question. Marx, he said, exhibited the renegade's characteristic dislike of the camp he has abandoned.

While there is some truth in Dubnow's contention it may be a shade too straightforward. A critical attitude to most things Jewish was after all common to Marx's Jewish-descended radical confrères like Börne and Heine (*pace* the latter's *Mir will schier bedünken dass der Rabbi und der Mönch, dass sie alle beide stinken.*) But Heine and Börne had, in Dr. Carlebach's phrase, a love-hate relationship with Jewry, whereas Marx's relationship was merely one of hate.

Did his feeling arise from what Theodor Lessing has termed Jewish self-hate? The question is wellnigh impossible to answer. Although Dr. Carlebach lists some possible components of a “psychogram” of Karl Marx—a father disliked for weakness (instanced, paradoxically, by his apostasy from Judaism), a mother accused of swindling him out of his inheritance—he disdains to pursue the matter.

The psychological quirks behind Marx's antisemitism probably defy analysis, or even investigation. It is a sobering thought that most Jewish leaders of the European Left, such as Rosa Luxemburg, Viktor Adler and Otto Bauer likewise viewed their own people and its culture as archaic relics destined for the scrapheap of history. In other words, some of the greatest humanitarian fighters Jewry has given the world have balked at extending their humanitarian principles—for instance the right to national selfhood—to the Jews themselves.

But that may in itself be a very Jewish thing. As Gustav Mayer said of Marx “No Gentile has ever condemned Judaism in a more unjust and one-sided manner. Nevertheless, it was the very *Urkraft* of Judaism in Marx which assured him his place in history. Where else but in the prophets of Judah and Israel would one find such rigid conviction? Marx was first and foremost a believer, a believer in the immanent strength of a corrupt society to produce a better one.”

“I DID SURVIVE”

Short Stories by a Concentration Camp Survivor

The authoress of this small but deeply moving volume has published her stories of a concentration camp survivor under the pseudonym of Elro.* The reasons for this are highly personal and very understandable. For many years after her survival and arrival in this country in 1945 she could not overcome the haunting thoughts of what she and her co-sufferers had endured. She had several nervous breakdowns and had to undergo psychiatric treatment—until “she got the camp out of her system” by writing down some of her dreadful experiences. She was still a young and frail girl, the daughter of a highly refined Czech upper-class Jewish family, when she was dragged through the inhuman misery and cruelty of many concentration camps. The writing of her stories, all based on truth and imaginatively evoked, was an act of “catharsis” for her—a catharsis which the reader shares with her.

How did she survive? I could find only one answer to this unanswerable question: she never ceased, even in the moments of her greatest despair, her mental and physical suffering, to care for her fellow-sufferers, to try to help and uphold them—even when it was in vain as, alas, it most often was. Her stories form one single story of human fortitude and strength through tenderness. It is this very individual experience of hers which gives her short stories of a concentration camp survivor their universal and documentary significance.

F. WALTER

*Regency Press, London and New York £2.50.

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IN MEMORIAM

DR. EDUARD ROSENBAUM

Dr. Eduard Rosenbaum, who died in London on May 22 in his 92nd year, was one of the outstanding representatives of his generation of German Jews. His personality was shaped by a widespread theoretical knowledge blended with proficiency in the field of practical activities.

Eduard Rosenbaum was born in Hamburg, and this meant more than a geographical accident. The spirit of the Hansestadt was of particular influence on his approach to life; last, but not least, his origin also made itself noticeable in the intonation of his language. He held leading positions in Hamburg as Syndikus of the Chamber of Commerce and director of its library. In connection with his work he established strong personal bonds with many leading personalities of Hamburg's commercial and industrial life. Several essays of his about Albert Ballin and Max Warburg, published in the Year Books of the Leo Baeck Institute, testify to his loyalty and his soundness of judgement. His personal reminiscences came to life even more when, in his inimitable way, he would tell his anecdotes in the circle of his friends.

Dr. Rosenbaum had many sociological essays to his credit. He also repeatedly contributed articles to AJR Information whose particular value always arose from the fact that he could speak from first-hand knowledge. Only a few years before his death, he published, jointly with A. J. Sherman, a history of the M. M. Warburg Banking House. His expertise in the field of economics was linked with a deep understanding of art and literature. His friends among writers and poets included some who were near to the Stefan-George-Kreis.

When by the events of 1933, the Hamburg period was ended, Dr. Rosenbaum came to London in September 1934 on a Cambridge grant. Soon afterwards he was appointed Head of the Acquisition Department of the London School of Economics Library. He held this post until he reached retirement age in 1952.

One of the main beneficiaries of his newly gained leisure was the Leo Baeck Institute, to whose London Board he belonged from its inception in 1955. His co-operation was not restricted to the participation in the "official" meetings but also included continuous voluntary assistance in the day to day work.

By those who had the great privilege of knowing Eduard Rosenbaum personally he will be remembered best by his unique sense of humour. His serious contributions to important debates were always spiced with witty aperçus. A full and rich life has come to an end, and we feel comforted in our sense of loss by the thought that he was permitted to attain a great ripe age. W. R. and was spared any undue suffering.

W. R.

PROFESSOR ALFRED BLOCH

Professor Alfred Bloch, a distinguished engineer and inventor, has died, aged 74. He was born in Weiden, Franconia, into an orthodox family and gained a doctorate of engineering at the Munich Technical University in 1932. Before the Nazis came to power, he held an appointment as research engineer for the German State Railways and invented an advanced system of railway signalling. He came to Britain with his parents and sister in 1934, and first stayed as a guest with Professor Ditchburn of Trinity College, Dublin. He subsequently invented a surface strain gauge for measuring mechanical force. Between 1936 and 1969, he worked as a senior physicist with the General Electric Company in Wembley. In 1969, the Bavarian Government made him a Professor Emeritus at Munich University. After his retirement, Professor Bloch worked with advanced researchers and post-graduates at Brunel University, where he was given an honorary doctorate of technology. He was for many years a member of the Leo Baeck Lodge and of the AJR and a generous supporter of academic charities.

LEONARD KOETZER

One of the leading art dealers in London, Mr. Leonard Koetzer, has died, aged 73. He was the great-grandson of an Amsterdam rabbi and the son of two gifted Dutch artists. He came to Britain from Holland in 1923. At the age of 16, he and his brother David borrowed a couple of china plates from their mother and pawned them for £25, the capital with which they started in business. Leonard Koetzer was in touch with and gave a helping hand to a number of well-known London Jewish refugee art dealers.

DR. EGON SCHWELB

The lawyer, Dr. Egon Schelb, died in New York at the age of 80. Before the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia, he practised in Prague, where his clientele included many refugees who had fled from Germany. He was a member of the Prague City Council and a leading Social Democrat. After having been imprisoned by the Nazis, he arrived in this country shortly before the outbreak of war and, in 1942, was appointed a member of the Legal Council of the Czechoslovak Government in Exile. He later re-emigrated to the United States where, from 1947 to 1962, he served as Deputy Director of the Division of Human Rights in the United Nations in New York. From 1962 to 1968, he was a Senior Fellow and Lecturer at Yale University. Dr. Schwelb wrote several books on questions of human rights and related subjects and was also a regular contributor to leading international law journals all over the world. Until his illness set in a few months before his death, he continued to carry out special assignments of the Legal and Human Rights Division of the United Nations.

REV. E. FELDINGER

Czech-born Rev. Emmanuel Feldinger who has died in Bnei Brak, Israel, came to London as a refugee in 1939 and was a chazan to the Notting Hill Synagogue for seven years, before being appointed reader of the St. Annes-on-Sea Hebrew Congregation, a post he held for over 30 years. To perpetuate his memory, the St. Annes community is to consecrate a room at a religious institution in Bnei Brak, where he lived in retirement.

NO MORE JEWISH PATRONAGE

The "Friends of the Berlin National Gallery" was founded in 1929. After having been more or less dormant from the late thirties onwards, it was re-established in 1977. Its object is the acquisition of outstanding works of art.

A comparison between the membership lists of the "old" and "new" "Friends" reflects the loss of one important group of supporters after 1933. The old list includes names like Arnhold, Deutsch, Dreyfus, Fuerstenberg, Goldschmidt, Gutmann, Kaufmann, Loeb, von Mendelssohn, Simon, Strauss, and many others, no longer alive, expelled and perished. The same change becomes evident on the tablet of the sponsors of the "Neue Nationalgalerie" (Preussischer Kulturbesitz). Here, too, the gap resulting from the disappearance of the public-spirited Jewish citizens is remarkable. E.G.L.

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.

Birthdays

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS and good wishes to Mrs. Laszlo on her 80th birthday from the AJR Club.

Thanks for Congratulations

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, my dear friends and dear members of the AJR Club for your hundreds of birthday greetings, and a special Thank-you to Dr. Rosenstock for his touching tribute to the 97 year-old "Tante Gretchen".—Margaret Jacoby.

WHAT CAN ONE SAY if "Don't take any notice of my birthday" (a wish respected for so many years) is on the seventy-fifth interpreted by Margaret Jacoby as giving a surprise party attended by 170 guests! I am deeply grateful for the love that prompted it and for the warmth and friendship that surrounded me on that day.—Dora Segall.

Ruby Wedding

Roberts (formerly Heymann-Rosenstern).—Mr. and Mrs. Roberts (formerly Hamburg) will celebrate their Ruby Wedding on July 11 at 10 Western Road, Sutton, Surrey.

Deaths

Ackermann.—Mrs. Rosa Ackermann of 35 Alexandra Court, Wembley Park, passed away peacefully on May 18, deeply mourned by her family and many friends.

Adler.—Dr. Erwin L. Adler, late of 807 Finchley Road, London, N.W.11, died peacefully on May 23 after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his family.

Gans.—Frederick Ruben Gans, formerly Hanover, passed away on June 4, aged 90. Deeply mourned by his wife Chane and family, his sister-in-law Gina Grinberg (Paris), his brother-in-law Shlomo Neumann and family (Kibbutz Lavi, Israel), family Kirschner (Israel), nieces, nephews and friends.

Wulf.—Miss Gertrud Wulf of 22a Bardwell Road, Oxford (formerly Berlin) died recently in her 91st year. An outstanding personality and an inspiration to us all. Mourned by her relatives and numerous friends.

CLASSIFIED

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PROFESSIONAL MAN (Economist) late 30s, many cultural interests, would like to meet attractive young lady with same interests. Please reply preferably with photograph. Box 778.

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Personal Enquiries

Israel.—Bernd Israel (formerly Elberfeld), born 1931 or 1932, son of lawyer Hugo Israel and Hedwig, née Baruch, both deported. Immigrated to England. Replies to Frau Magdalene Kastenbein (formerly Noeckel of Langenburg), Rheinstr. 61, BRD 4.300 Essen 18 (Kettwig), who holds small family souvenirs.

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AN OLD AGE HOME COMES OF AGE

21st Birthday Party of Leo Baeck House

As readers will see from the announcement published in this issue, there will be a 21st birthday party at Leo Baeck House, The Bishop's Avenue, on Sunday, August 5, at 3 p.m. Leo Baeck House is the second oldest home, founded four years after Otto Schiff House, and the first of the three Homes in The Bishop's Avenue. When the property was acquired, it consisted of a private villa (now the older part of the Home) surrounded by a huge garden and open space. Part of the vacant site was used for the erection of an annexe, and later a further part for Osmond House. Yet, the atmosphere of a country house has remained unimpaired.

The outstanding feature in the history of Leo Baeck House is its continuity. The first chairman of its House Committee, our unforgettable friend, Mr. F. W. Ury, held office for many years and laid the solid foundations for the human approach and administrative strength of the Home. His work was continued by Mr. E. K. Heyman, who was recently succeeded as chairman by Mr. F. Durst but remained a member of the Committee. The continuity of the honorary office is complemented by the continuity of the senior staff. After the first Matron, Mrs. E. Merlander, had retired in 1965, she was succeeded by Mrs. G. Dick, who, to the good fortune of the Home, is still in charge and who, with her devotion, experience and sense of duty carries out the difficult work, loved by her residents and serving as an example to those who work under her.

The 21st birthday of the Home also provides us with a welcome opportunity of paying tribute to Dr. F. L. Newman, who has been Medical Officer of the Home since its inception. Having the wellbeing of the residents at his heart, he is at their disposal not only on the occasion of his regular visits but also at weekends and night time, whenever an emergency arises. The

fact that he also renders his services to Heinrich Stahl House adds to his burden. Deeply rooted in the traditions of German Jewry, his work is prompted by a strong sense of solidarity with our community of origin, and in addition to his care for the individual residents he has often made constructive suggestions which concern the general policy of running the Homes.

Thus, there is much reason to celebrate a birthday and to express our sincerest wishes for many happy returns of the day. All members and their friends are cordially invited to the party.

SECRET OF VANISHED DIPLOMAT

After more than 30 years, Sweden has urged the Soviet Government to make new enquiries into the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat, captured and imprisoned by the Russians at the end of the last war. At the time, Wallenberg was a secretary of the Swedish Legation in Budapest and gave diplomatic protection to thousands of Jews who would otherwise have been sent to extermination camps. In 1957, Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said that Wallenberg had died of a heart attack in the Lubyanka prison in 1947, but Sweden never believed that. In the meantime, the Swedish government have heard from several Soviet prisoners who said they had met Mr. Wallenberg at a much later date, and Sweden has now sent to the Soviet authorities a memorandum, claiming to trace his movements through the Soviet prison system until 1975 when he was believed to have been seen in a prison hospital near Moscow. Mr. Wallenberg's mother, 88, and his stepfather von Dardel, 94, who died recently, were always convinced that the Soviets were withholding the truth.

HISTORY OF JEWS FROM UPPER SILESIA

The "Verein zur Erforschung der Geschichte der Juden Oberschlesiens e.V.", about whose foundation we reported in our May issue, recently held its first research meeting in Marburg. Papers pertinent to the history of the Jews in Upper Silesia were read by a number of scholars, among them Prof. Werner Mosse (University of East Anglia), Dr. Peter Pulzer (Oxford), and Dr. Steffi Jersch-Wenzel (Historische Kommission Berlin).

The level of the lectures and the standing of the speakers indicate that the Society did not lose any time to get down to practical work. The new venture deserves the widest co-operation, and any readers who can supply personal reminiscences or material such as documents, memoirs, letters and pictures should kindly get in touch with the chairman of the Society: Dr. Ernst Lustig, Rossittenweg 10, D-3340 Wolfenbuettel.

AWARD FOR JEWISH HISTORIAN

In recognition of his scholarly achievements, Akademischer Oberrat i.R. Dr. Bernhard Brillung, Muenster/W, was awarded the title of Professor. Born 72 years ago in Tremessen (Poznan), Brillung was trained as rabbi and archivist in Breslau. He later emigrated to Palestine. After the war, he settled in Munster, where he obtained his doctoral degree in 1958 on a thesis about the history of the Jews in Breslau from 1454 to 1702. Dr. Brillung has many works on the history and genealogy of the Jews in Silesia, and also in Westphalia to his credit. He was appointed "Kustos" and later "Oberkustos" (with the tenure of a lectureship) at the Institutum Judaicum Delitzschianum of the University of Munster. In 1970, he became "Akademischer Oberrat". The award of the honorary professorship is the well deserved final recognition of a laborious and successful career.

E.G.L.

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Letters to the Editor

"NAZI BOOKS ON US MARKET"

Sir,—I have just seen in your May issue a note headed "Nazi books on the US market" implying that a book company owned by the Axis powers is publishing pro-Nazi books.

I have not looked at the Bantam catalogue, but I take your word for it that the facts are accurate. It is the innuendo and the implications of your report which I find unpalatable.

I will not bore you and your readers with the whys and wherefores of whether or not one should publish books about the Second World War and inevitably those which therefore deal with the Nazi era. Suffice it to say that the President and Chief Executive Officer of Bantam Books, one Marc Jaffé, is (a) American (b) Jewish (c) an impassioned Zionist.

The list of Jewish writers he publishes is vastly longer than the list of books dealing with Second World War and/or Nazi topics. Moreover he was recently awarded a scroll at the Jerusalem Book Fair, of which he has been a leading proponent since its inception, as being a "friend of Jerusalem".

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DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP

Philatelic Research

Sir,—During the years 1945-1948 eight million people of many nationalities passed through DP camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. No proper check lists exist and my approaches to various authorities have been of very limited success, though a few camps which issued adhesive stamps have been researched. May I appeal to any reader who could help in compiling lists of camp names, locality, dates etc. to write to me.

14 Rosslyn Hill,

London NW3 1PF. PETER C. RICKENBACK

HEINRICH GEORGE

Sir,—I feel an explanation is due to Mr. Albert Adler's comment concerning the reference to the young German actor Götz George in your June issue. Far from forgetting the "Reichs" period when his father—prominent and therefore celebrated by the regime—may have deserved the adjective "rabid", his son, Götz George is in the limelight of the German stage of today, and that is why he was mentioned in the April column "Theatre and Culture". It may be added in all fairness that this actor told reporters that playing the part of the concentration camp commandant was his most traumatic experience. I have no further knowledge about this young actor who, in any case, was either a small child or not yet born during the Nazi regime.

30 Cotswold Gardens
London, N.W.2.

STEFAN BUKOWITZ

THEATRE AND CULTURE

Rumania. The Jewish State Theatre in Bucarest is the oldest theatre in the world which performs in Yiddish. Founded in 1876 by the author and journalist Abraham Godfaden, it not only plays at home but also has had a wide following when touring Europe. On such a recent tour, Anski's "Dybuk" as well as a work by Sholem Aleichem were presented in Vienna.—Zuckmayer's "Hauptmann von Köpenick" had its first performance in the Rumanian language this May.

New York. In an attempt to acquaint its audiences with modern operatic works, the Metropolitan Opera house announces far-ranging plans for the coming season, with productions of "The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny" by Kurt Weill, and "Moses and Aron" by Arnold Schönberg.

Schnitzler in London. The author Tom Stoppard has translated one of Arthur Schnitzler's most popular plays "Das weite Land" which, under the title "Undiscovered country" is now in the repertory of the Olivier Theatre, with further performances in July. The author's son, Heinrich Schnitzler, gave a reading of some of his father's work over Bavarian Radio last month.

Fifty years ago Austria mourned the untimely death of Hugo von Hofmannsthal, poet, author of plays, and libretto writer of many operas by Richard Strauss. His "Legend of the Dying of a Rich Man" ("Jedermann") became the traditional annual Salzburg Festival production. "Jedermann" was a much-coveted role, successively played by Moissi, Paul Hartmann, Attila Hörbiger, Will Quadflieg, Walter Reyer, urd Jürgens and, this year, by Maximilian Schell.

Birthdays. There was a special "Don Giovanni" Gala at the Vienna State Opera last month when Kammersänger Erich Kunz once more sang the part of Leporello on the occasion of his 70th birthday.—Also 70 years old is Magda Schneider, mother of Romy Schneider, widow of actor Wolf Albach-Retty with whom she starred in many films during the Thirties. S.B.

Jewish Art Treasures in Cluny

In the nineteenth century, a Jewish musician Isaac Strauss assembled a valuable collection of Jewish cultural and ritual objects during his travels across Europe. After his death, the collection was bought for 30,000 francs by Baroness Nathaniel de Rothschild who presented it to the Musée de Cluny. It was displayed there until the outbreak of the last war, when it was put in the museum cellars. After the war, the Museum was changed into a museum of medieval art and was no longer interested in the collection whose objects date from between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, no Jewish organisations have so far offered to acquire and display it.

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