

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

C. C. Aronsfeld

PRELUDE TO 1980

The Oberammergau Passion Play

The Oberammergau Passion Play due in 1980 has already begun to arouse the usual controversy preceding its performance. The question whether the 120-year-old script, now regarded as traditional, should be replaced by the strangely more enlightened version of 1750, was an issue of a heated local election campaign in which it easily eclipsed such matters as proposals for a new ring road and tourist facilities. The population of 4,700 on March 9, 1978 returned a town council with twelve members to five in favour of the traditional text, and since rehearsals normally take two years, this decision will stand.

The chosen text by a parish priest, Fr Joseph Alois Daisenberger, was repeatedly found objectionable on account of certain passages that are liable to antisemitic interpretation: Jesus driving the money-changers out of the Temple, and "the Jews" taking revenge by betraying him and so causing his death. By contrast, the older text, written by a Benedictine monk, Fr. Ferdinand Rosner, sees the issue in terms not of personalities but of the struggle between good and evil. The story of Christ's persecution and death becomes an allegory transferring guilt from the Jews to a personification of the devil.

The crucial implications of the difference have been pointed out by both Christian and Jewish authorities, but the head of the traditionalists, Mayor Ernst Zwink, is adamant: "We are not going to be dictated to by outsiders as to what we shall play". His deputy, Helmut Fischer, who played Christ in 1970, leads the reformers, consisting for the most part of younger people, who are in favour of the Rosner version. There are also traditionalists prepared to admit that changes in the Daisenberger text will not be avoidable.

The Archbishop of Munich, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, adopted a diplomatic line. He felt this was not a matter in which the Church could intervene; it was for the parish to settle its own affairs. On the other hand, he also thought that what could be expected—a minimum—was that the Daisenberger text should be revised in accordance with the declarations of the second Vatican Council. "Beyond this we can hardly go", said his Auxiliary Bishop Franz Schwarzenböck, while suggesting that there could be "no road back to Daisenberger", though the Cardinal subsequently did move in that direction by volunteering the concession that Daisenberger's script was "theologically unexceptionable".

One of the leaders of the opposition, Hans Schwaighofer, a former producer of the play, who is supported by a group of 400 including many members of the cast, drew the obvious conclusion that the Daisenberger text "would have to be completely re-written". But Zwink is not impressed: "In that case (he said) they

should ban the Bible altogether; you cannot blame us for what is said there". Nor is he worried about possible effects on the economy of the village. Schwaighofer recalled that at the last performance in 1970, as a result of a boycott in the U.S.A., nearly 50,000 bookings—about ten per cent—were lost and he foresees disaster in 1980. Zwink likewise foresees disaster if the Rosner version is performed.

The local Bavarian press, on the whole, has sided with the progressives. The foremost of them, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, explained that the evangelists who were concerned with "salvation news", not with "court stenography or definitive historiography", "took the perfectly legitimate liberty, for the sake of religious truth, to neglect historical truth—for the purpose not of distorting history but of putting a differential emphasis". In terms of theatre production, it was pointed out, Daisenberger has the advantage over Rosner in that he made it easier for the audience to identify the forces of good and evil "when it is a matter only of weeping over the wrongdoings of other people", and "everything would be perfectly in order if only the Jews did not have well warranted historical objection to being cast as collective deicides and as the wicked doomed to hell".

A Special Correspondent of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* reported the "atmosphere of something like civil war" prevailing in Oberammergau. The opposing parties were said to

be so "locked in mutual hostility" that they seemed "unlikely to join hands in a common performance", and "the Daisenberger supporters, by playing up purely economic arguments and tolerating open antisemitism, have so discredited themselves that their talk of 'more devotion and piety' will hardly find much credence". Fischer had complained of "nothing but falsifications, distortions and personal abuse". Other Rosner supporters were stated to be sceptical of any effective influence by the Church; Cardinal Ratzinger would as surely be fooled now as his predecessor, Cardinal Doepfner, had been in 1970: "First they promise a revision, then, on the quiet, they touch it up a bit, and when the curtain rises it is the old story all over again".

The local election result in March reversed an earlier vote by the town council which, only a few weeks earlier, had decided, by nine to six, in favour of a variation of the Rosner text prepared (in August, 1977) by a director of the Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation, Dr. Alois Fink. Here the narrator warns the audience against blaming the Jews for the Crucifixion because they were representing "all mankind for whom heaven and hell are struggling". This alteration found no favour in the eyes of the traditionalists who dubbed it "stilted" and indeed "consummate antisemitism", removing all piety from Daisenberger's "folk-play".

The Rosner-Fink version won the approval of Jewish critics both at home and abroad. The American Jewish Committee as well as the US National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Churches of Christ welcomed this "major step in consolidating the improved relationships between Christians and Jews that evolved from the Vatican Council II declaration repudiating the charge against the Jewish people for collective guilt in the death of Jesus".

When representatives of the American Jewish Committee saw a rehearsal of the Rosner-Fink version in August 1977, they felt "the Jewish interest would be served by encouraging the use of it"; they declared themselves convinced that there was a desire to contribute towards the improvement of Christian-Jewish relations and that there was no further cause for a charge of antisemitism.

Disquiet among American Jews

A few months later, however, a change occurred as a result of a village poll, on December 18, 1977, when about 60 per cent of the people opted for Daisenberger. Now some disquiet was aroused among American Jews and in February a three-men delegation of the American Jewish Committee came to interview especially protagonists of the Daisenberger text. After this interview, the three men addressed a letter to Zwink which was described by the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* as "very friendly in spirit but an unmistakable warning".

continued on page 2

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

invites members and friends to the

GENERAL MEETING

on Thursday, June 28, at 7.45 p.m.

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

I

Report on AJR Activities
Treasurer's Report
Discussion
Election of Executive and BoardThe list of candidates submitted by the Executive
is published on page 6.

II

Rev. Dr. ISAAC LEVY, O.B.E.

will speak on

MY FRIENDS FROM THE CONTINENT

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

Prelude to 1980

continued from page 1

The American Jews referred to the progress made since Vatican II—"from toleration through understanding to mutual recognition". They declared that public opinion would no longer tolerate a religious statement burdening the Jewish people with a collective guilt and a historical responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus. They stressed that a performance of the Passion Play in the traditional spirit would not be allowed to pass in silence but provoke active resistance. Such strong disagreement in turn could not but affect the desire of people both in America and elsewhere to come and see the play, much though they would like to. The Oberammergauers were urged carefully to consider these possible consequences though of course their right to make their own decision was not in dispute.

The American Jews went further. They suggested that failure to introduce the necessary changes was liable to cast a shadow on the image of the new Germany and reinforce the suspicions still felt about the depth and permanence of Germany's democratic values.

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* advised the town council to take note of the warning. While foreseeing a reversal of the "provisional" decision in view of the popular feeling, it complimented the councillors on their "important and logical" action which bore proof that the majority "consistently pursued its policy of an artistic and religious renewal of the Passion Play"; they had "demonstrated that long term responsibility for Oberammergau's good name and the economic basis of the community mean more than any consideration of momentary feelings among the people".

The December poll had shown (the paper went on) that most of those Oberammergauers whose economic existence was tied up with the Play were in favour of a reform. Already in 1970 the losses had been appreciable as a result of the boycott organised by the US Jews, and though in Oberammergau the reduced revenue had been disguised, *Lufthansa* and many travel agencies had made no bones about their losses and their annoyance. Next time the damage would be incomparably greater. Also, after the successful rehearsals of the Rosner-Fink text, the excuse of no alternative to Daisenberger was no longer valid.

"DEICIDE" ACCUSATION

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* continued: "For the Jews all Christian passion plays constitute a problem because presentations of the Passion which are historically incorrect, distort the role of the Jewish people and accuse them of a collective responsibility for 'deicide', are in their eyes part of their own history of suffering. Many anti-Jewish outrages were justified, in the course of the centuries, with this seemingly religious alibi. The Oberammergau Passion Play, being the best known of all, is obviously regarded by the Jews as an opportunity of making an example of all passion plays. This is the reason why they are profoundly in earnest when they make their offer of an understanding and when they threaten worldwide consequences".

Nor of course is it only Jews who feel concerned. A significant effort to discourage American Christians from attending the play was forecast by the Roman Catholic President of the US National Conference of Christians and Jews. Dr. David Hyatt who is also at the head of the International Council of Christians and Jews, promised that his organisation would mobilise a campaign in Europe to conduct protest demonstrations—in Oberammergau too.

The local Jews expressed "profound alarm" at the "arrant obstinacy of those responsible who either are unable or unwilling to recognise the largely antisemitic tenor of the version they prefer". Despite the "unforeseeable consequences", the Rabbi of the Munich community, H. I. Grünwald, said the Jews would "not be deterred in our effort to engage in dialogue with our Christian brethren", they certainly would not be in favour of anything like an international boycott.

In this they were supported by the *London Times* which thought that "public calls for a boycott won't improve matters" as there was "a danger that the campaign will backfire and end by causing resentment rather than reconciliation". The *Times* did however remind the Oberammergauers of "the obligation which the events of 1933-45 place on all Germans to re-examine their traditional attitudes to the Jews, however harmless these may have seemed in the past. The argument that they are only doing their own thing in their own way and that anyone who does not like it can stay away, is in the circumstances no longer good enough".

On the other hand, ready support for the town council came from German neo-Nazis. The *Deutsche Wochen-Zeitung* congratulated them on "refusing to be manipulated", on "resisting blackmail" and "standing up to terror", and the *Stürmer*-like *Deutsche National-Zeitung* published a long article by a "confirmed Roman Catholic author" defending the traditionalists against "Zionists and atheists" who were said to be brandishing a "character assassination bludgeon called antisemitism"; if German bishops and cardinals lacked the will to ward off Jewish "interference", Oberammergau and its friends all over the world "ought to bring this violation of human rights to freedom of religion and conscience before the United Nations!".

The traditional Oberammergau play will now be matched by the more modern spectacle that it will simultaneously provide of the progressive and enlightened spirit coming to grips with the forces that still raise the cry, from conviction or, more often, from calculation, "The Jews killed Christ".

W. GERMANY FEARS PALESTINIAN TERROR ACTS

Two Arab citizens, arrested on the German/Dutch border, are believed to have made plans for terrorist attacks in W. Germany. Six Lebanese citizens and two Germans, arrested in W. Berlin, are suspected of having planned attacks on fuel depots and a number of institutions and individuals, including Mr. Heinz Galinski, head of the Berlin Jewish community. In Bavaria, two Arabs, probably members of the PLO, were arrested when they tried to enter the country from Austria in a private car, containing 110 lbs. of explosives. They are said to have intended to bomb a ship in a German port.

"AN ATTACK OF ANTI-SEMITISM"

The chairman of the extreme Right-wing NPD party for Land Baden-Württemberg is a police officer Schützinger who was dismissed the service last year, because in a speech he referred to the "arrogance of the Jewish people" and said members of the Federal Government were cowardly philistines who fell over themselves giving money to Jews. He has appealed against his dismissal, and the case is still pending. However, the public prosecutor of the Land has just stopped an investigation against Schützinger who was accused of incitement to race hatred, on the grounds that he had said these things in a sudden attack of anti-semitism.

MARTIN-BUBER-HOUSE INAUGURATED

The house in Heppenheim/Bergstrasse, where Martin Buber lived between 1916 and 1938, has become the head office of the International Council of Christians and Jews. It bears a plaque which reads: "Between 1916 and 1938 the great Jewish philosopher of religion Martin Buber lived in this house. Born Vienna 8.2.1878, died Jerusalem 13.6.1965. Persecuted by the daemonic spirit of the times, he left Germany in 1938." After the war, the house had come back to Buber by way of restitution, and he had subsequently sold it to the district council. Several years ago, the authorities decided to demolish it and to use the grounds for a new administrative building, but strong protests from the population and the universities led to it being declared a national monument. The Jewish population did not take part in the argument, because they said they recognised the legality of the change of ownership. The opening ceremony was attended by representatives of the Federal and the Hesse Government, of the 14 member organisations of the Council of Christians and Jews all over the world, and of a number of Jewish organisations. Guest of honour was Buber's son Rafael who had come from Israel. In his address, the chief rabbi of Badenia, Dr. Levinson, said Buber had been one of the first people to open the Christian-Jewish dialogue, and it therefore made sense that his former house should be a centre for such a dialogue. At a time, when old wounds had not completely healed and there were still traces of the National Socialist daemon abroad, it was a gesture of confidence in the Federal Republic to transfer an international organisation of such standing to Germany. Mr. Hartnagel, chairman of the district council, said that it had always been planned to perpetuate Buber's memory in Heppenheim, and that the school adjoining the house, would soon be renamed "Martin-Buber-Schule". A sculpture named "Dialogue" was unveiled outside the building, and a special room in the building was set aside to house special objects connected with Buber.

The new general secretary of the International Council of Christians and Jews is Dr. Franz von Hammerstein, a Lutheran pastor whose father was executed as one of the generals involved in the 1944 plot against Hitler.

LICHTIGFELD MUSEUM IN ODENWALD

In Michelstadt in the Odenwald Hills, an ancient centre of Jewish life and learning, the former synagogue was rebuilt by the Government of Hesse and inaugurated as a Jewish museum in memory of the late Rabbi Dr. I. E. Lichtigfeld who after living in Britain as a refugee, returned to Germany after the war as one of the first rabbis for the newly formed communities. Prime Minister Börner said in his address that Dr. Lichtigfeld had won the esteem and veneration of the non-Jewish population and had rendered great services to the Land Hesse.

EINSTEIN CHAIR IN PRINCETON A Federal German Endowment

The German Federal Government made an endowment to Princeton University to honour the memory of Albert Einstein. It carries a monetary donation of DM 250,000 as well as the tenure of a professorship and the appointment of two assistants. At the dedication ceremony in Princeton, the Federal Minister of Education, Schmude, described the endowment as the expression of respect to Einstein's unique scientific achievements. Whilst the Minister realised Einstein's negative attitude to Germany and his refusal to return to his country of birth after the war, he expressed the view that Einstein might have changed his attitude if he had lived to see the political stabilisation of post-war Germany. Nevertheless, the endowment was not meant as an attempt to claim Einstein for Germany, but as an expression of the esteem he is held in not only in Germany but all over the world as a great scientist and a great humanist.

AJR INFORMATION

Due to industrial action in the postal services, there has been a considerable delay in the delivery of the previous issues. We express our sincerest regret at the inconvenience which is entirely due to reasons beyond our control.

HOME NEWS ANGLO-JUDAICA

ELECTION STATISTICS

The number of Jewish contestants in the recent General Election was the lowest in the past two decades: 73. There are two new Jewish MPs in the new Parliament, Mrs. Sheila Faith (Cons.), and Mr. D. Winnick (Lab.). Of the seven Jewish women candidates, Mrs. Renee Short (Lab.) and Mrs. Sally Oppenheim (Cons.) retained their seats, whilst Mrs. Faith is a newcomer. The number of Jewish Members in the new House of Commons is lower than in any of the past five Parliaments.

The National Front which for the first time fielded 301 candidates, all of whom lost their deposits, raised the number of votes cast for them from 114,415 to 191,267, a total of 0.6 per cent of the total vote. In most constituencies their percentage was even lower. Mr. Elder, the Jewish Front Candidate in Hendon South, managed 290 votes out of a total of 53,954. In 1970, when the Front fielded only 10 candidates, it obtained 3.6 per cent of all votes cast, its highest percentage yet.

FRONT OFFICIAL JAILED

Mr. Ian Hastie, Loughton, Essex, chairman of the local branch of the National Front, was sent to prison for nine months for shoplifting and a further three months for a breach of a suspended shoplifting sentence, by Judge Cyril Salmon whom his counsel had unsuccessfully tried to remove from the proceedings because he was Jewish, as reported in last month's AJR Information. The court was told that Hastie waged a personal vendetta against black and Jewish-owned shops and went on a five weeks' shoplifting spree at stores including Tesco's and Sainsbury's. He had told police that it was obvious that he stole for his Party and that he was proud of it. He added: "Why don't you consider the English shopkeeper instead of protecting these Jewish bastards."

A JEW IN THE NATIONAL FRONT

Mr. Albert Elder, a Jewish antiquarian bookseller from Bournemouth, was the National Front's Parliamentary candidate for Hendon South. He explained that he had joined the party, because he was "a 100 per cent Powellite" who had joined the Front four years ago as it was the only Party which promoted Enoch Powell's views on the EEC and on immigration. He added: "Martin Webster and John Tyndall seem to be anti-semitic, but I try to explain to them that they are not well-informed."

DORA BLOCH INQUIRY SOUGHT

Mr. Eric Moonman, the former MP, has asked the Government to request the new Ugandan Government to re-open the inquiry into the death of Mrs. Dora Bloch after the Entebbe rescue of her fellow hostages. Mr. Moonman, chairman of the Zionist Federation, together with Lord Janner, ZF President, has made the same request directly to Uganda. When he visited Uganda in 1972, he met Professor Lule, the present head of government.

FREDDY LAKER CHARTERS TO ISRAEL

Sir Freddy Laker has signed a contract, worth nearly £1½ million for charter flights from London to Israel. They will start on November 6 with prices ranging from £95. The four companies, signing the contract for the sale of 18,000 seats, presented Sir Freddy with a menorah.

RISING AIR FARES

Fares for scheduled flights from London to Tel Aviv have been increased by 7 per cent. Part-charter flights have been subject to a £10 surcharge.

THANK YOU, BRITAIN

A six-foot high abstract sculpture "Image" was donated by the sculptress Naomi Blake to Camden Council in gratitude for her having been accepted in Britain as a refugee from Czechoslovakia. Miss Blake has had many exhibitions of her work in Britain, France, and Israel. The work will be placed in Waterloo Place, Highgate. Another of her sculptures is outside the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue in Norrice Lea.

ISRAELI COMMERCIAL SUCCESSES

When the award-winning Israeli Security lock was displayed at the International Fire, Security, and Safety Exhibition and Conference in London's Olympia, it attracted orders worth about £100,000. They included a large number for an Israeli-made security door. A very advanced type of computerised numerical control which can be programmed by the man on the shop floor, is now available in this country. It is manufactured by Yizreel Electronics of Kibbutz Yizreel and saves the expense of employing a high-cost specialist to adjust the control unit.

A MILESTONE OF HISTORY

The Board of Deputies recently gave a historic lunch, when for the first time they entertained Mr. Anwar, the Egyptian Ambassador to Britain. Lord Fisher of Camden, chairman of the Board, presented him with an old print of the entrance to the House of Lords. Mr. Anwar said in his vote of thanks it was his sincere hope that his presence would mark the start of a new era of friendship. Among the other guests were Lord Shinwell, Lord Segal, Lady Gaitskell and Mr. Harold Lever. They toasted the Ambassador and peace in Israeli wine.

DICTIONARY VICTORY

Mr. Mascott, the managing director of Cassells, the publishers of works of reference, assured Mr. Marcus Shloimovitz of Salford that there will be no more derogatory definition of the word "Jew" in the next edition of the Cassell English dictionary. Mr. Shloimovitz, who has tirelessly fought for the erasure of such definitions, thanked Mr. Mascott for the fairmindedness and courtesy he showed in a long correspondence.

PLAY ABOUT DACHAU

The Royal Court Theatre in London is at present showing a play "Bent" by American author Martin Sherman, showing the persecution of homosexuals by the Nazis, and their treatment in Dachau. Visitors to the theatre are handed a pamphlet which supplies facts about the Nazi persecution of homosexuals and claims that half a million of them died in concentration camps. The play shows Gestapo brutality and studies a friendship in Dachau between two inmates, condemned to carry stones back and forth. The lead is played by Ian McKellen.

IN MEMORY OF ANNE FRANK

On June 10, a gala concert will be held at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, in aid of the Anne Frank Foundation. Had she survived, Anne Frank would have been 50 this year.

INTER-FAITH WORSHIP

Jews and Moslems participated in a service of universal worship during the World Symposium of Humanity, held at the Wembley Conference Centre. The Star of David and the Red Crescent were displayed during the service. A computer centre in the foyer distributed thousands of copies of a prayer for peace in the Middle East, recited in Toronto, Canada, by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach of the United States.

DEGREE FOR SIR MONTY FINNISTON

Sir Monty Finniston, former chairman of the British Steel Corporation, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Metallurgy from Sheffield University. He has a long and close association with the city of Sheffield and the steel industry.

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Jewish Welfare Board Celebration

The Lord Mayor locum tenens Sir Edward Howard, his wife, and Sheriff Ronald Gardner-Thorpe attended a dinner given at the Mansion House to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Jewish Welfare Board, and presided over by Sir Leonard Wolfson, its president. The then Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn-Jones, proposed the toast to the Board and said it was "one of our finest charities". Mr. Lionel Leighton, chairman of the Board, said, 1979 was a time to prepare for great challenges rather than to celebrate past achievements. Between 1976 and 1996, there would be an increase of 42 per cent in the number of people in the UK reaching the age of 85. The community must think in terms of several additional residential homes and day centres for an ageing population. The function, the first supervised kosher meal at the Mansion House, is expected to raise in excess of £350,000.

At a meeting of the Board at its Finchley headquarters, the accounts showed that expenditure of the Board topped £2 million last year for the first time. The Board plans to devote increasing resources to casework, counselling, and family support. An advice bureau will be opened in the new Michael Sobell Centre, Golders Green.

Leo Baeck Scholarships

The Leo Baeck B'nai B'rith Scholarship Fund has made awards for the current academic year amounting to nearly £20,000 for 37 scholars from all over the world. They are given to students of all nationalities who pursue research in this country.

Praise of Youth Aliyah

Mrs. Annette Street, the non-Jewish chairman of the overseas committee of the Save the Children Fund, went to Israel on the 45th Youth Aliyah anniversary tour and was received by President Navon. On her return, she stressed the cordial relationship between her organisation and Youth Aliyah and said she was deeply impressed by all the Israeli projects she had visited.

Tribute to Dr. Lina Halper

Friends of the Hebrew University gave a dinner in honour of Dr. Lina Halper who has devotedly worked for it for over 40 years. Mr. Goldberg, former US representative to the UN and chairman of the American Friends of the University, said he was disturbed at the failure of Western democracies, including Britain, to give more enthusiastic support to the efforts for peace in the Middle East. Treasurer Dr. Slotover presented Dr. Halper with a testimonial book which, he said, contained magnificent donations for scholarships at the university in her name.

Debate on the Rabbi's Salary

At the meeting of the Manchester Shehita Board, Mr. E. C. Levy, the delegate of the Withington Congregation, asked if the newly-appointed Av Beth Din, Rabbi Ehrentreu, would have to live "like a shnorrrer". He hoped the rabbi would not be seen standing in the rain, waiting for a bus, as was Dr. Altmann, when he was Communal Rabbi of Manchester. Mr. Ehrentreu is at present studying in Israel and will take up his duties in September. Mr. Rufus Heron, chairman of the Synagogues Council which will contribute £4,000 to the Rabbi's Salary, said Rabbi Ehrentreu would provide his own car and buy his own house.

New Post for Israeli Ambassador

Mr. Abraham Kidron, the Israeli Ambassador to Britain, is to become Ambassador to Australia. His successor in London is expected to be Mr. Shlomo Argov, at present Israel's Ambassador to the Netherlands.

Teacher Course in Israel

During the month of August, a 3½-week teacher course will be held in Israel. The number of students is limited, but Jewish teachers in non-Jewish schools are also eligible. Particulars may be obtained from: Friends of the Hebrew University, 3 St. John's Wood Road, London, N.W.8. Tel: 01-286 1176.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

No Atom Bombs for Arabs

Pakistan has accused the United States of cutting off some £20 million worth of development aid because of "Zionist obsessions". In fact, America suspected that Pakistan was developing its own nuclear device in co-operation with Libya, in order to have an "Islamic atomic bomb", which would be handed over to other Islamic countries. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry has issued a statement according to which Pakistan wants its own programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

PLO to be kept out

An amendment to the Foreign Aid Bill, stating that freedom of movement and ideas no longer applies to any alien "who is a member, officer, official, representative, or spokesman of the PLO", was approved by the House of Representatives. It had been introduced by Representatives Stephen Solarz (Democrat) and Edward Derwinski (Republican) who had been angered by the granting of a three-week entry visa to Shafik el-Hout, head of the Beirut PLO, for a lecture tour of several universities. Mr. Cyrus Vance, the US Secretary of State, had said this was justified because el-Hout had personally renounced the use of terrorism.

Jewish Mayor for Los Angeles?

Five candidates, all of them Jewish, are competing for the post of mayor of Los Angeles. Whoever wins the 1981 elections, will be chief host at the Olympic Games in 1984. Many Jews are among the highest office-holders in the City. A run for the mayoralty will cost about £1 million in campaign expenses.

Measures against Cemetery Desecrations

After the recent desecrations of Jewish cemeteries, when some 1,500 tombstones were damaged and overturned, the New York Police has been using helicopters with floodlights to patrol endangered areas. A new law under discussion in the State of New York foresees prison sentences for desecrators of cemeteries.

Jews accused of Discrimination

A Jewish Old Age Home in the Los Angeles suburb of Reseda, the only one in Los Angeles with a kosher kitchen, has been accused of discriminating against non-Jews. In 1964, the non-profit making nursing home for 450 inmates received \$320,000 (now about £160,000) from the Federal Government for its reconstruction fund. At the time, the home had to undertake to provide free care for needy patients without discrimination as to race or religion. Most of the inmates converse with each other in Yiddish.

ARABS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Branches of a number of Arab banks have lately been opened in many Latin American countries. In Bolivia, a consortium of Arab Banks provided a £33½ million loan for a government-owned oil company. An Argentinian economic delegation secured about £175 million worth of contracts for the building of military hospitals and hotels in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Sudan.

EINSTEIN STAMP IN INDIA

India's Post Department has issued a postage stamp to commemorate Albert Einstein's 100th birthday, and another in memory of the Jewish bacteriologist Dr. Waldemar Mordecai Haffkine who died in 1930. A third stamp marks the four-hundredth anniversary of the Cochin Pardeshi Synagogue.

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ANTISEMITIC BROADCASTS IN AUSTRALIA

The Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies complained to the Australian broadcasting tribunal against attacks on Zionists and Jews on the "Palestine Speaks" programme of Melbourne radio. The station has admitted bias against "the Zionist and racist State of Israel", but denied that it is antisemitic. Some of its broadcasters had boasted that the Jewish community was "driven into a frenzy" by accusations that the Zionists collaborated with the Nazis. Amongst its supporters, there is Mr. Albert Langer, a radical student leader in the early 1970s, who has formed a "Jews against Zionism and Antisemitism" organisation.

NAZI SYMPATHISERS IN SCANDINAVIA

A new organisation in Stockholm which calls itself "Jewish Information", has published the names, addresses and telephone numbers of members of Jewish organisations and of the Swedish-Israel Friendship group, which led to a number of telephoned and mailed threats from neo-Nazis to people named in the lists. It is suspected that the group behind the organisation is in some way linked to the PLO.

In Aarhus, Denmark, young German Nazis will be trained as the nucleus of an anti-Jewish propaganda drive in Northern Europe in a centre recently opened by followers of Thiess Christopherson, leader of an association of Nazis with members in Scandinavia and W. Germany. In 1977, he was elected "Fuehrer" of the association's "North European Region". They print a monthly magazine "The National Socialist". After an appeal in the US Nazi magazine "White Power", contributions from all over the world have been received for the new headquarters. The Danish Nazi leader Riis-Knudsen wrote in the "National Socialist" recently: "We are persecuted as the first Christians were persecuted, and we must react in the same way as they did."

AUSTRIA

Austria's Chancellor in New Row

Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Vienna Jewish Documentation Centre, has been appointed a Commander of the Order of Orange-Nassau by Queen Juliana of Holland. Nevertheless, he was attacked by Dr. Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, as a man "using Nazi methods in reverse". Dr. Kreisky has brought a libel action against an Austrian weekly which accused him of lack of dignity and immorality in attacking Mr. Wiesenthal, after having promised the president of B'nai B'rith in Austria that he would stop his attacks on him.

Bomb attack on Vienna Prayer House

A Jewish Prayer House in the centre of Vienna was attacked by hooligans at night. A bomb exploded in the courtyard and damaged doors and windows. An organisation "Eagles of the Revolution" claimed responsibility.

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FRANCE

Paris Surgeon declares himself Fascist

The eminent orthopaedic surgeon, and head of the Paris University clinic "Cochin", Mr. Pierre Maurer, addressed a meeting of 500 students and said: "I was a Fascist, and I remain a Fascist. I am for the elite—nothing else interests me. What is wrong with being a Nazi?" During the ensuing discussion, Maurer said, he had joined the Waffen-SS in 1944. He was neither proud nor ashamed of it, as he had been a soldier, and not a murderer. The men of the Left had as much blood on their hands as those of the Right, but neither Fascists nor National Socialists were right-wing. Dr. Maurer, 55, was forced to resign from office, after "Le Matin" had published a report on the meeting.

Former Minister's Jewish Origins

Mr. Michel Debré, De Gaulle's Prime Minister between 1959 and 1962 and later French Foreign and Defence Minister, accompanied by his sons, attended the ceremonies to mark the centenary of the Neuilly synagogue, where his grandfather, Rabbi Simon Debré, was rabbi for 40 years until 1928. Mr. Debré's father, Professor Robert Debré, who died in 1978, aged 96, recalled in his memoirs his Jewish upbringing and later conversion to Christianity.

Synagogues Vandalised

The Antibes Synagogue on the Cote d'Azur was covered with swastikas and had its windows smashed by hooligans. In a Strasbourg suburb, unknown vandals broke open a synagogue door and threw several Torah scrolls to the floor. In Selestat, the synagogue was also broken into, and many ritual objects were smashed.

Bomb Blasts in Paris

In a call to the French official news agency, a man said he was a member of the "French League of Combatants against the Jewish Occupation of France", which claimed responsibility for bomb attacks on a Paris home for elderly Jews and Jewish refugees and on the offices of the "Le Monde" newspaper. In Fontainebleau, the monument to Georges Mandel, a former Jewish Minister of the Interior, who was killed by the Vichy militia in 1944, was damaged. The monument was built by General de Gaulle's Government in 1946. In a letter to "Le Monde", the League said, Mr. Mandel had ordered the arrest and summary execution of a French journalist called Thierry, in 1940. If the Government attempted to repair the monument, there would be reprisals against Jewish personalities in France.

ITALY

Israelis at Italian Communist Congress

Mr. Arye Shapir of the Mapam (Israel Left-wing Socialist Party) World Union was the first Zionist to be invited to attend the national congress of the Italian Communist Party as an observer. Eighteen Arab delegations, including one from the PLO, walked out in protest against the presence of a delegation from President Sadat's National Democratic Party. Mr. Berlinguer, secretary of the Italian Communist Party, said there was a need for a peaceful and lasting settlement "with the integrity and security of all Arab States and of Israel guaranteed and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to a State of their own".

SWITZERLAND

ORT Staff on Strike

At the Geneva headquarters of the World Ort Union, some 50 staff members staged a 48-hour strike, the first in ORT history, in protest against the management's refusal to negotiate about the transfer of some of the staff to London, and the redundancy terms for others. Mr. David Young, chairman of British ORT, said after a visit to Geneva, the central administrative offices of the organisation would be moved to London in the autumn.

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F. Hellendall

VULNERABLE YOUTH

Under the headline "Anfällige Jugend" (Vulnerable Youth) the Hamburg liberal weekly "Die Zeit" recently published a report on a revival of Nazism in Bavaria where neo-Nazism and anti-semitism are said to be growing again amongst young people. According to Mr. Seidl, Bavaria's Minister of the Interior, there were more neo-Nazi and anti-Jewish incidents in the first six months of 1977 in that birthland of Nazism than in the whole of 1976, and "Die Zeit" reports that adolescents in Munich, the erstwhile "capital of the Movement", regard it as "chic" to wear swastikas, tell anti-Jewish jokes and boast about gramophone records of Hitler's speeches.

Educationists and "Die Zeit" appear to have no idea of where this new wave of neo-Nazism amongst young people originates and some of them still hope that the youngsters merely want to annoy and provoke the grown-ups.

A young West German educationist, Dieter Bossmann, thought it necessary to make a thorough investigation of the roots of this problem. He approached teachers and pupils all over the Federal Republic to obtain essays by young people on the subject "What I have heard about Adolf Hitler". 121 forms and 3,042 pupils of the ages of between ten and 23 took part, and the result, a paperback, gives a remarkable insight into the lack of knowledge amongst young West Germans about the Nazi period which ended many years before these youngsters were born.

The majority of pupils asked had some idea of what happened in Germany between 1933 and 1945, and particularly of the persecution of the Jews; some of them are even aware of the enormity of the holocaust. Thus "Knut", an 18-year-old student at a Technical School states: "Was responsible for the murder of six million Jews and other political opponents", and "Jörg", a 14-year-old secondary school pupil states equally clearly: "He gassed millions of Jews only because they were Jews". It is widely recognised that Jews were murdered

and gassed but the number varies from "many hundreds" to two to three million; however, more remarkable than this is, firstly, that many of these young people are totally ignorant of these events and, secondly, the relics of Nazi ideology which survive in quite a number of them. Quite a few think that Hitler was himself a Jew, quite a few others think he was a Socialist or Communist and a not inconsiderable minority thinks that he was right in his action against the Jews; thus Sabine, a 14-year-old pupil, and 13-year-old Ulrike think that by killing the Jews Hitler had only done his duty whereas Ina, a girl of 13, asks "Many people allege that he (Hitler) had murdered millions of Jews, but if so incredibly many Jews were killed why do so many Jews to-day still ask for support from the Government?" and concludes that Hitler had done a lot of good for Germany. Karsten, a pupil of 13, thinks that by and large Hitler "went a bit too far" and Sonja and Ulrike, girls of 13, think that the persecution of the Jews was rather silly! Heike, an elementary school pupil of 14, simply states: "The world had to be purified from the Jews" and elementary school pupil Swen states: "We are told that Hitler had gassed millions of Jews. That is shit and not correct, but if we look at America we note that the Americans have killed 30 million Red Indians".

There is more ignorance amongst these young people about the Second World War itself: thus Andreas, a 16-year-old pupil at a Technical School, thinks that the war was well planned and carried out whilst according to Regina, an elementary school pupil aged 15, "Hitler was also great in war; his soldiers were courageous and even laughed when they went to war". Similarly 15-year-old grammar school pupil Ernst Dieter: "The German Army which he commanded was very strong and man for man was nearly always superior to the enemy"; to elementary school pupil Kerstin, aged 15, "he was a hero for Ger-

many", and to grammar school pupil Andrea he is "destined to be the scapegoat for all the misery which has happened in the Federal Republic and in the German Reich". 11-year-old Conny does "not know exactly whether he won the Second World War, as I was not there"!

What did they hear from parents and grandparents? Technical School student Birgit, aged 20: "Amongst the older people one hears occasionally: under Hitler one would have felt more safe". "Our history teacher was and is a Hitler fan. He would vote for Hitler immediately" (17-year-old Technical School student Beate). "My Opa liked him very much". "Neighbours wished from time to time that he were here again", "I can say nothing about the Hitler period. I am sorry my parents never speak about that time. They are glad it is all over". "People who lived in that period often say to-day that they were and still are on Hitler's side and he did the right thing". "If one hears some grandparents they like him". "My Opa sometimes speaks about Hitler. He says there was no long hair and there were no hippies, and one could walk in the streets at night without fear". Remarks of this and similar kind are reported by numerous pupils in one way and the other.

True, there are also parents and grandparents who say that it was terrible to have lived in that period, but the majority of the older generation as far as quoted in this fascinating paperback is nostalgic for Hitler who "would not make much fuss with terrorists and murderers, but would deal with them right away".

It would have been a miracle if twelve years of Nazi propaganda and brainwashing preceded by more than a century of chauvinist, nationalist and racist indoctrination had disappeared in Germany overnight without trace. But when Hitler fans are allowed to operate as history teachers to-day, more than 30 years after the victory over Nazism, when rallies of old war criminals are allowed to take place all over the country, when Nazi emblems and Nazi records are freely available in the shops of the Federal Republic, perhaps one should not be so surprised about the results of Herr Bossmann's painstaking research as some well-meaning educationists in West Germany appear to be. However, Bossmann has fulfilled the hope expressed by him in the introduction to his book that he has made "a contribution to the exploration of this highly explosive set of circumstances" of which we could only give some scanty extracts in this review. We are looking forward to the future appraisal of these school essays "by scientific criteria" which Bossmann promises to his readers.

* "Was ich ueber Hitler gehoert habe . . ."—Folgen eines Tabus: Auszuege aus Schueler-Aufsätzen von heute. Herausgegeben von Dieter Bossmann. Fischer Taschenbuch-Verlag, 1977.

FOUR YEARS FOR 7,000 MURDERS

Seventy-year-old former electrician Hasenkamp received a four-year prison sentence for having been involved in the killing of 7,000 Jews in the Soviet Union in 1942 and 1943. He admitted having shot an unknown number of people with his pistol. His two co-defendants, 71-year-old farmer Josef Lenge and commercial traveller Johann Forster, 69, were acquitted as the court refused to accept evidence given by survivors in Israel, the United States, and the Federal Republic because of the lapse of time. In the case of Lenger, who had been a concentration camp guard for some time, they also accepted a plea of superior orders in accordance with the former military code. The public prosecutor who had asked for prison sentences of six and eight years respectively, is to appeal against the court's findings.



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AJR GENERAL MEETING

As readers will have seen from the announcement published in this issue, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 28, at 7.45 p.m., in the Hall of Hannah Karminski House (side entrance), 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

As in previous years, the business of the AGM will be followed by a talk on a general subject of topical interest. We are particularly pleased that this time we may welcome the Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy, OBE, as our guest speaker. Dr. Levy is well known to many in our midst whom he met in the course of his distinguished career. At the beginning of the war, he was Jewish Chaplain to the alien companies of the Pioneer Corps at Richborough Camp. As Senior Jewish Chaplain to HM Forces, he was one of the first who entered the Belsen Concentration Camp, thus witnessing the horrors of the Holocaust; his relief work for the survivors resulted in personal contacts with British soldiers of German or Austrian origin. He is also known to many of us as former Minister of Hampstead Synagogue, as speaker at functions of the Council of Christians and Jews and as former Director of the Jewish National Fund. Dr. Levy considers the former refugees as an integral part of Anglo Jewry, and we are very much looking forward to the account of his relationship with "his friends from the Continent".

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

Committee of Management (Executive): The following members of the present Executive stand for re-election. They are: Mr. A. S. Dresel (Life President), Mr. C. T. Marx (Chairman), Dr. F. E. Falk (Vice-Chairman), Mr. L. Spiro (Treasurer),

Mrs. S. Taussig (General Secretary), Dr. W. Rosenstock (Director), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. C. F. Flesch, Mr. O. E. Franklyn (Trustee), Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Mrs. B. Kanter, Mr. M. Kochmann, J.P. (Trustee), Dr. E. A. Lomnitz, Mr. E. A. Sonnenberg, Dr. Laura Stein.

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

It is proposed to elect as new Board members Rabbi Dr. C. Cassell, Mr. F. Durst, and Mrs. H. Ury.

The Board also includes representatives of the Provincial groups.

Mr. Michael Fidler, JP, who spoke on behalf of the sponsoring organisations, also referred to the political threats to democracy in this country. As a recent example of terrorism he mentioned the murder of Airey Neave, a brave fighter for freedom and justice. Turning to the German scene, he expressed his dismay at the recent acquittal of several defendants in the Maidanek trial. Notwithstanding the difficulties of war crimes proceedings due to the lapse of time, he strongly demanded the abolition of the Statute of Limitations, because otherwise criminals against whom legal steps could not yet be taken, might easily come into the open after the end of the year without risking any prosecution.

Dr. F. Summers, Chairman of the Polish Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association, who presided, said that in the "Year of the Child" we had special reason to remember that the six million martyrs included 1½ million children. He also complained that, whilst all other national pavilions on the site of the Auschwitz Camp were on view, the Jewish pavilion was usually closed.

After the addresses, Ajex standards were dipped in salute to the martyrs, candles in their memory were lit and prayers were recited by the Rev. S. Hass.

It was a most fitting innovation that the function was opened by recitals of the accomplished Youth Choir of the Belsize Square Synagogue, thus associating the younger generation actively with the memorial function.

As readers know, the AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations of the annual commemoration meetings. Most in our midst mourn the death of perished members of their families. They should therefore consider it their special duty to pay tribute to their memory, especially as the meetings are not only confined to the remembrance of the happenings of the past but also always convey a message connected with the problems we are facing in our days.

MARTYRS REMEMBERED

At this year's meeting in commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Jewish Martyrs of Nazism, held on April 29 at the Adelphi Theatre, the main address was delivered by Baroness Hornsby-Smith, DBE. Starting with a reference to the release of the two Jewish Russian prisoners, Kuznetsov and Dymshitz, she stated that our joy was to some extent marred by the thought that it was made possible by an exchange of two Russian spies imprisoned in the US—a kind of "horse-trading", as she called it. She recalled her work with the Ministry of Economic Warfare, when rumours of the heinous actions against the Jews reached the Allied authorities. In our days, in defiance of the Helsinki Agreement, the USSR still denied free speech to its citizens and pursued a "particularly racist vendetta against its Jewish minority. We owe it to the brave and gallant victims of the Warsaw ghetto (she said) to continue our fight for the freedom and dignity of man." Dealing with the present situation in this country, she warned of the danger from both the National Front and the Left-wing extremists.

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Julius Carlebach

THE ENIGMATIC JOHANN JACOBY

Fanny Lewald recounted in her Memoirs of 1848 how, in the course of a friendly chat with Johann Jacoby (1805-1877), she made fun of various people, some of whom had described Jacoby as a cold rationalist (*Kalter Verstandesmenschen*) while others saw him as a fanatic and a romantic. Jacoby disagreed. He thought that "these people could all be right", a comment typical of the elusive complexity of the man whose life and work are the subject of Edmund Silberner's impressive and definitive biography.* Surprisingly yet again characteristically it is also the first major biography of a man who was a central figure on the German, and more particularly Prussian political scene for more than 30 years. Jacoby was born and spent most of his life in Königsberg, that curious, dynamic outpost of German culture in the north-east of Prussia and bordering on Poland and Russia. Though small in size by current standards, Königsberg contributed a disproportionate number of important and radical figures. By 1817 the Jewish population only just exceeded 1,000 souls, but included among them were famous names like David Friedländer, Marcus Herz, Fanny Lewald and, of course, Johann Jacoby. Jacoby studied medicine in his home town and began to practise there in 1830. An epidemic of cholera swept through Russia and Poland in the following year and threatened the population of Königsberg. Jacoby went to Poland to study the disease, which helped to fight the epidemic when it reached his home town and quickly established him as a dedicated, conscientious and courageous physician. Although this was a period when many educated, middle-class Jews—like Jacoby's friend over many years, Fanny Lewald—adopted the Christian faith in order to enhance their social positions, Jacoby remained within the Jewish fold, fought strongly for Jewish emancipation and in his earlier years also participated in the movement for religious reform, though the changes he advocated were to become widely accepted practice even in present-day Orthodox communities. Politically, Jacoby was first and foremost a democrat. He favoured a constitutional monarchy in place of the German absolutist tradition, and achieved

simultaneously and typically both fame and notoriety in 1841, when he wrote "Vier Fragen beantwortet von einem Ostpreussen", a copy of which he sent to Friedrich Wilhelm IV. The Prussian king, enraged by the "insolence" of this "circumcised East-Prussian", caused Jacoby to be charged with insulting the crown and attempted high treason, Jacoby's first, though by no means his only, conflict with the law. In 1848, Jacoby, now a famous member of the Prussian National Assembly, had his second confrontation with the king. As a member of a deputation from the Assembly which called on the king, Jacoby was angry when Friedrich Wilhelm IV refused to listen to the deputation. To the horror and consternation of his fellow delegates he exclaimed "That is the trouble (Unglück) with kings, they do not want to hear the truth!"

These two incidents contributed more to Jacoby's reputation than the subsequent 30 years of activity as a fearless and uncompromising champion of universal rights and freedoms, devoted service as a physician and loyal dedication to the city and people of Königsberg. His tempestuous career has been chronicled with care and methodical scholarship by Silberner, who has compiled this biography with the same patience, resourcefulness and exhaustive analysis that we have come to expect from the author of *Moses Hess—Geschichte seines Lebens*, even though sources and data for Jacoby are much more problematic, and, as Silberner repeatedly points out, largely lost or destroyed. The biographer's empathy with his subject is freely evident, but does not impair his critical judgement. To the extent then that this biography is a work of meticulous scholarship, it succeeds brilliantly in harnessing the available information, in guiding the reader through the complex and at times confusing ideas, events and personalities which make up the multifaceted social and political history of nineteenth-century Prussia. Silberner expresses a hope that this biography might be instrumental in awakening an interest in an outstanding German democrat whose personality exercised such a compelling attraction on the biographer. One cannot escape a feeling however, that in spite of the massive accumulation of facts and records, activities and publications, the person Johann Jacoby, his personality, the forces which formed him, motivated him, drove him—all these remain obscure, possibly muted by self-imposed constraints of scholarship, more likely inevitably the result of a secretive and contradictory nature.

If it is a biographer's task to bring order into the seeming chaos of a complex career, perhaps a reviewer can attempt to delineate in short, bold strokes what may be the main-springs of action of a remarkable person. Jacoby was a Jew but he was not Jewish, he loved women but did not marry, he was a German but not a loyalist, a fighter for the people but not of the people, a combatant but not a victor. This dialectical nature is also reflected in his tendency, or perhaps even need, to see issues in confrontational terms, as though only conflict could elucidate reality. There is the German versus the Jew, body versus mind, traditional versus reform Judaism, democracy versus absolutism, national liberalism versus social democracy, Prussia versus Germany. All these were issues confronted by Jacoby, but were they real issues, perceived and challenged with sincerity and conviction? Shortly before the breakup of the longstanding friendship between Jacoby and Fanny

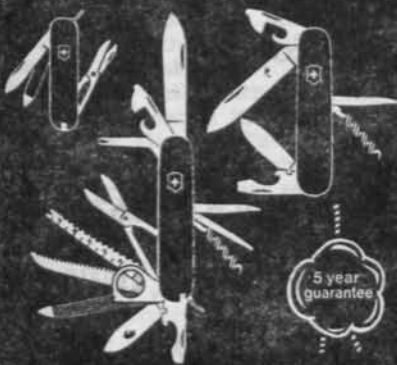
Lewald—a break which does not receive the attention it deserves in Silberner's biography—shrewd, dispassionate Fanny Lewald posed the same question. Could it be, she asked, that the need to gain recognition and establish one's place by opposition becomes a habit, so that eventually one opposes for the sake of it, even when opposition ultimately goes not against established power, but against the views and feelings of one's supporters. Jacoby's often single-handed sallies against Prussian hegemony, against royal absolutism and against German chauvinism owed their tremendous impact to his ability to articulate the aspirations, demands and fears of the steadily advancing liberal bourgeoisie. Yet it was not only the opponent who retreated reluctantly before the growing power and influence of middle-class liberalism. Its great advocate, Jacoby himself, moved progressively to the left and in his final years formally joined the Deutsche Arbeiterpartei.

It is not surprising that Silberner, the biographer of Moses Hess, should have been attracted to the personality of Johann Jacoby. In many ways Hess and Jacoby were very much alike, in their honesty, sincerity, selflessness and absolute dedication to universal rights and freedoms for all mankind. In the final analysis however, there was a fundamental difference between them. Moses Hess, Germany's first socialist of note, tutor to Marx and Engels, "returned", and, as the Bible might have expressed it, "was gathered unto his people". History has seemingly dealt more harshly with Jacoby. The city to which he gave so much is no more, for Königsberg has become Kaliningrad. The community from which he came is no more. Most were destroyed by the Hitler régime and a pitiful handful of survivors, in a final degradation, were expelled by the Russians together with all Germans in 1948. The cemetery in which Jacoby was buried is no more, nor is the final resting place of the man who in life as in death never did find the peace of permanent belonging. Both East and West Germany have named a street in a major city after Johann Jacoby—the man whose enigmatic personality might perhaps be summed up in an epitaph that he was and is acknowledged by those who know, but not accepted by those for whom he cared.

* Edmund Silberner — Johann Jacoby — Politiker und Mensch 648 pp.— Verlag Neue Gesellschaft, Bonn-Bad Godesberg. 120 DM.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

ISRAELI COURT CRITICISES GOVERNMENT

The Supreme Court in Jerusalem has found that the Israeli Government was guilty of contempt by breaking an undertaking given in court by the Attorney-General's office that the Government would not permit any Government agency to begin work on land near Kibbutz Lahab, north-east of Beersheba, without an appropriation order from a district court. The land, on which the Government wants to build a road, is claimed by a 31-year-old Negev Bedouin. When nevertheless the Public Works Department moved heavy machinery to the land to begin with road-building, workers clashed with members of a local Bedouin tribe, several of whom were injured and arrested. They appealed to the Supreme Court for redress. Justice Syssmann said, if he could establish the name of the official who gave the order for the machinery to be brought to the plot of land, he would not hesitate to send him to prison. The Government was ordered to remove the equipment and pay the costs of the hearing.

OIL FOR ISRAEL FROM MEXICO

Oil supplies to Israel are being increased by 50 per cent by Mexico, notwithstanding strong opposition from Communists, Left-wing groups, and pro-Arab organisations. This year, some 2,347,000 tons will be sent to Israel, compared to 1,565,000 tons last year. The Israeli Embassy has strongly denied allegations in a paper of the Socialist Workers Party, according to which Israel was selling some of it to South Africa.

70 PER CENT INFLATION

According to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics an annual inflation rate of 70 per cent is indicated in Israel. From April 1978 to the end of March 1979, it was 56 per cent, the highest rate for ten years.

DEATH PENALTY FOR TERRORISTS

After a heated discussion, the Israeli Cabinet rescinded a ten-year-old order barring prosecutors from asking for death sentences against terrorists. Seven Ministers voted for, and five against the proposal, brought by the Prime Minister, Mr. Begin. Mr. Ezer Weizman, Minister of Defence, voted against it and said the majority of members of the Israeli High Command were opposed to the death penalty which would not have any deterrent effect. Many political groups are vehemently opposed. Mr. Begin said, the sentence should be carried out by firing squads, and not by hanging as was done in the case of Nazi criminal Adolf Eichmann.

INVITATION TO THE POPE

Mr. Ciechanover, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, was received in audience by the Pope. He is said to have brought an invitation from President Navon for the Pope to visit Israel. The official communique, published after the audience, said one of its objects had been the "promotion of dialogue and more frequent contacts between the Holy See and Israel".

TECHNION LINKS WITH COAL BOARD

At the London Savoy Hotel luncheon of the British Technion Society, Mr. Winston Churchill said that there was an appeal for £300,000 to rebuild the auditorium of the Haifa Technion, named after Sir Winston Churchill, which was destroyed by fire last February. The 100 guests present contributed £125,000. Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, emphasised the close links between the Technion and the Board, and the joint research into the conversion of coal into energy. He added that Israel was almost entirely dependent on imported energy, and the use of coal should be expanded. A power station was under construction at Hadera which would be coal-fired. Hadera would probably become a distribution centre for coal, and a jetty was being built which would be able to handle 8,500,000 tonnes a year.

ISRAELI HELPED TERRORISTS

Yosef Nidam, 22, of Bat Yam is the first Jew to be convicted for helping terrorists. He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for smuggling arms into Israel for use by terrorists planning to bomb Jerusalem's main cinema area. When he was arrested for a traffic offence last October, he told the police of two big bomb attacks which were planned and led them to the terrorists who were arrested. In return, they set him free, but found out later that he himself had carried out a number of smuggling runs in the Lebanese border area, involving weapons and sabotage equipment.

SUCCESS OF SECURITY FORCES

During the past year, the Israeli security forces in the West Bank have uncovered some 140 terrorist cells, mostly belonging to the PLO Fatah group. More than 100 of them were found before they became active.

DEATH OF WAR VICTIM

Major Uri Cohen who was in a coma since 1973 when he was wounded in the battle for Mount Hermon, has died. He was unconscious for 1,921 days.

RABBI FOR CAIRO

Egypt has agreed to the immediate appointment of a rabbi from Israel to act as a spiritual head of the small Cairo Jewish community of about 180. He will be paid by the Egyptian Government.

ABBA EBAN'S SECOND HONEYMOON

When the former Israeli Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, and his wife Susie accompanied Mr. Begin to Ismailia in 1977, Mrs. Eban told President Sadat that 32 years ago, she and her husband had spent their honeymoon in Egypt. The President replied he thought it was time they had another honeymoon in Egypt. Mr. Begin thought this was a good idea, and the Ebans recently spent a week in Cairo to retrace their youth.

SHIPS FOR ISRAEL

The second of four new container ships ordered by the W. German CIS Line is now in service on weekly sailings from Ipswich to Haifa and Ashdod. Two more ships are due for delivery in the next two months.

1979 BOOK FAIR

More than 900 firms from over 50 countries took part in the 9th Jerusalem Book Fair, the most important in the world after the annual Frankfurt Book Fair. Some 50,000 books were on display. 400 publishers attended. During the opening ceremony, Mayor Teddy Kollek presented scrolls of honour to five publishers, including Lord Weidenfeld of the London firm of Weidenfeld and Nicholson, for their contribution to international publishing. Mr. Kollek also presented the 1979 Jerusalem Prize of £1,500 to Sir Isaiah Berlin, the Oxford historian who delighted the audience by his ability to lecture and answer questions in impeccable Hebrew. The prize is awarded in recognition of special merits in promoting "the freedom of the individual in society".

STRICTER SECURITY MEASURES FOR ISRAEL PARCELS

The Federal Post Office has introduced stricter security measures for air mail parcels to Israel. They have to show the full address of the sender and, if necessary, of the person who actually hands in the parcel. In both cases, identity cards have to be produced. The sender has to agree in writing that the parcel can be examined. At certain post offices, such parcels can only be handed in at one particular window. These measures follow the recent explosion of a bomb at Frankfurt airport.

BIG HAUL BY STAMP THIEVES

Thieves who broke into Tel Aviv's central post office on a Saturday and stole £28 million (about £651,000) worth of revenue stamps, forced the Finance Ministry to cancel all existing stamps and print a new design.

NO CONVERSION FOR NON-RESIDENTS

Rabbi Shlomo Goren, the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, has advised Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits of Britain that he will not accept any applicant for conversion coming from Britain, who does not intend to become a permanent resident of Israel. Certificates of conversion, issued by him, would be invalid outside Israel.

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E. G. Lowenthal

A CHAPTER OF THE GERMAN-JEWISH PAST

The eleventh volume of the *Neue Deutsche Biographie* (NDB) has just been published (Duncker & Humblot, Berlin). It forms part of a monumental undertaking by the Historical Commission of the Bavarian Academy of Science and has just reached the letter K. Its predecessor, the 56-volume *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie* (ADB) was completed in 1912, and the NDB therefore contains the names and biographies of people who have either entered public consciousness in our own day, or contributed to the shaping of present-day history. Like previous NDB volumes, the present one includes the names of many Jews and people of Jewish ancestry who have left their mark in many different fields.

Literature and Arts

Many of them were writers. Here we find Mascha Kaleko, whose poetry expressed the mood of many of her contemporaries who grew up in the 'twenties and 'thirties. Another poetess was Friederike Kempner, often mentioned with mirth for the style of her outpourings. Several paragraphs are devoted to Franz Kafka. A well-known Kafka specialist, Professor Hartmut Binder, Ludwigsburg, has contributed a very informative essay on his life and work. Less space is devoted to Alfred Kerr and his unique, if controversial, theatre reviews, the "roving reporter" Egon Erwin Kisch who has been frequently referred to in recent years, and the philosopher Erich von Kahler, who, like Kafka and Kisch came from Prague. Arthur Kahane, for many years Max Reinhardt's dramatic producer, is mentioned as is the literary historian Gustav Karpeles, well-known through his history of Jewish Literature (1886) which was translated into several foreign languages. Two bearers of the name Kalisch in the early 19th-century were probably not related: David from Breslau was a frequent contributor to the Berlin satirical paper "Kladderadatsch" between 1848 and 1872 when he died, whereas Ludwig Kalisch from Lissa, Posen, is also remembered for his satires.

Among the Jewish musicians, Emmerich Kalman, composer of "Die Czardasfürstin" and other hit operettas, is probably best known. Professor Robert Kahn, the Mannheim composer and pianist who died in exile, was for some time a member of the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin. Leo Kestenberg, the son of a cantor who became a Counsellor in a Prussian Ministry and who died in Tel Aviv in 1962, was a gifted educator and left a book of lively memoirs "Bewegte Zeiten" about his involvement in Further Education, particularly in the field of music.

There are some well-known architects: Oskar Kaufmann built theatres in Berlin until 1938 and later inter alia the Tel Aviv Habimah Theatre. Professor Katzenellenbogen (Frankfurt 1901-Baltimore 1964) was an art historian. The archaeologist Professor Georg Karo, grandson of a rabbi, sacked from public service in 1936 because of his Jewish origins, returned from exile after the war, and is stated to have been a Protestant.

History, Law, Humanities

The Austrian anglicist Leon Kellner (1859-1928) who was denied a chair at Vienna university because he refused to be baptised, was an early follower of Theodor Herzl. One of the outstanding Jewish historians of his day was

Meyer Kayserling, for many years rabbi in Budapest who was awarded a degree in Halle for his thesis on Moses Mendelssohn in 1856.

Several eminent scholars belonged to the Kantorowicz family of Posen, who otherwise prospered as manufacturers of spirits and liqueurs. Two of them are dealt with at length: the historian Ernst Hartwig, who died as a professor in Princeton (USA) in 1963, and the eminent jurist Hermann, best known by his book on "Action and Culpability" in 1933, a contribution to the concept of the constitutional State, who died in Cambridge in 1940. Another five outstanding lawyers are included: Walter Kaskel (1882-1928), the Berlin specialist on social insurance and labour legislation, Rudolf Katz whose study paved the way for the new German constitutional State after 1945 and who was for some time Minister of Justice and later vice-president of the Federal Constitution Court in Karlsruhe; Erich Kaufmann, expert on constitutional and international law, before 1933 and after 1950 legal adviser to the German Government; Hans Kelsen between 1918 and 1920 involved in the drafting of the Austrian constitution, and finally the Austrian High Court Judge Heinrich Klang (1875-1954) whose selfless humanitarian work in Theresienstadt Leo Baeck used to mention with high praise. Iwan Katz, the social thinker who was active in various groupings of the German Labour Movement and who was a member of Parliament at one time, survived several concentration camps and died in Switzerland after the war.

Among medical men, we find the cardiologist Bruno Kisch, another member of the Prague family known for its scholars. Dismissed from his post at Cologne university, he emigrated to New York where he died in 1966. The "non-Aryan" (there are no quotation marks in the NDB volume) David Katz (Kassel 1884-Stockholm 1953) was dismissed from his post as Professor of child psychology at Rostock university. Fritz Karsen (originally Krakauer) was active in the field of school reform in Berlin and after his emigration to the USA occupied several teaching posts as an expert in teacher training and educational theory. He died in 1951.

Economic Life

The Economy—taking the term in its broadest possible meaning—was to all intent and purposes disregarded in the old ADB. The NDB tries to make up for it: the 11th volume mentions—in alphabetical order—the successful 17th-century Frankfurt merchant Ysaak Kann, the textile manufacturer Salomon Kauffmann (1823-1900), one of the sons of Meyer Kauffmann, the founder of the Silesian Weaving Mills of that name, and the Wuerttemberg Kaula family with its many Court Jews and bankers. It starts with Chaile (1739-1809), the redoubtable matriarch, and includes Alfred Kaula who was ennobled in 1893. His main achievement, the Württembergische Vereinsbank incorporated the Wuerttemberg Hofbank,

another of the family's banks, in 1922. Another entry refers to Berthold Kempinski (died 1910), the founder of the well-known firm of Berlin Restaurants which survives in the Kempinski Hotel A.G. set up after the last war.

Problems of Selection

The various entries in the NDB supply a lot of valuable information of a genealogical and biographical nature, but they differ greatly in size and content. To a certain extent this is due to the sources and information available. By and large, the NDB can be relied upon for its thoroughness and lack of bias, and for a well-balanced selection of personalities included. There is always room for disagreement on the individuals selected for inclusion and those left out. It might seem that amongst those who ought to have been included are Ernst Kahn (1884-1959), the specialist on economic questions, Alfred Kantorowicz (1880-1962), professor of dentistry in Bonn, I. Kauffmann, the publisher (1878-1953), the painter Arthur Kaufmann (1888-1971) and Alfred Klee (1875-1943), leader of the German Zionist Movement. On the other hand, it appears doubtful whether SS leader Kaltenbrunner, sentenced to death and executed in Nuremberg as a war criminal, or the Nazi Minister for the Churches, Kerrl, deserve an entry. Perhaps this was unavoidable in order to supply objective and scholarly information on the recent past, however unpleasant and unjustifiable it may have been. In the 9th volume of the NDB, 15 pages, written by Joachim Fest, were devoted to Hitler, in the 6th volume Heinrich Fraenkel wrote 3 pages on Goebbels and Gerhard Stoltenberg another three on Göring. We are sure that the NDB stands by its statement 25 years ago that it would always be grateful for factual criticism.

HOLOCAUST DISCUSSION CONTINUES

The "Holocaust" Film has now appeared on the TV screens of most European countries and led to unending discussions everywhere. In Greece, three million people, most of them remembering their personal experience of the Nazi occupation of Greece from 1941 to 1944, said they had never believed that things were quite so bad. Some 75,000 Greek Jews had been murdered. The Greek-Arab League protested against the showing of the film on the Forces TV network, but were strongly criticised by the press for their attitude towards "the most horrible crime of the present century".

In Austria 2½ million people watched the film. It has been put on the curriculum of Austrian schools. The Minister of Education Dr. Sinowatz, instructed some 90,000 teachers of the major schools to use the film and its political background in the teaching of history.

In Sweden, where four million viewers watched the film, the Stockholm paper "Aftonbladet" reminded its readers that between 1939 and 1941 many German Jews had been refused entrance at the Swedish frontier and been sent back to certain death. When the official attitude changed later on, Jews were unable to leave Germany. Because of threats from neo-Nazi circles, all transmitters were heavily guarded by the police. In Norway, a number of prominent Jews received threatening letters from anti-semites when it was announced that the film would be shown.

In Belgium, "Holocaust" was seen both on the Flemish and on the French-language TV programme and led to long discussions. Pupils and students asked for more information about the Nazi past about which their parents never talked. In Brussels, a Jewish committee was set up for the creation of a monument to remember Jews who had participated in the Belgian resistance, including the names of 240 of them who were killed in action, and at the same time the many Belgians who saved Jews from deportation.

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IN MEMORIAM

YOCHANAN GINAT

Yochanan Ginat (formerly Hans Gaertner), Director of the Jerusalem section of the Leo Baeck Institute, recently died at the age of 71. Until 1938, he was deputy headmaster and teacher at the Theodor Herzl School in Berlin. In Israel, he was first Director of the Ludwig Tietz-Schule and later served Youth Aliyah as organiser in directing its teachers' training college and in various other educational capacities. When he retired in 1970, he took up his appointment with the LBI. He also wrote several monographs for the Year Books of the LBI and was co-editor of the collection of Kurt Blumenfeld's letters (1967). In all his activities Yochanan Ginat attained the respect and friendship of his colleagues and fellow workers. Due to his high intellectual level and his thorough background knowledge his death is a particular loss for the Leo Baeck Institute.

MAURICE ORBACH

Seventy-six year old Mr. Maurice Orbach, who has died recently, spent his life in the service of the Jewish community, Israel, and the Labour Movement. He was Labour MP for Stockport South since 1964, but had declared his intention not to stand again. Between 1945 and 1959, he was MP for Willesden East. A trained engineer, he served on the London County Council from 1937 to 1946. He was best known in Jewish circles for his work on the Trades Advisory Council where he fought against any kind of discriminatory action. He was also chairman of the British Emigrants Families Association and a member of the world executive of the World Jewish Congress.

ERNST SCHRAGENHEIM

Mr. Ernst Schragenheim who has died, aged 85, came to this country in 1939 from Frankfurt where he had been architect to the Jewish orthodox community for 20 years. He continued working as an architect and surveyor in Britain, and was a surveyor to the United Synagogue from 1944 until his retirement in 1959. Even after that time, he remained active in his profession, particularly in the building of mikvahs in Manchester and elsewhere. He invented a new method for laying the foundations for tombstones which has become standard practice in all United Synagogue cemeteries.

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

The AJR Club is not allowed to take any notice of a special birthday of its charming co-chairman Dora Segall.

The AJR CLUB conveys heartiest congratulations on their special birthdays to its members Mrs. Freda Schallamach and Mrs. Irma Weiss.

ROTHHOLZ:—Mr. Siegfried Rothholz celebrated his 80th birthday on May 10.

Deaths

THE AJR CLUB mourns the death of Mrs. Jenny Dean, who has been a member of the Club since its foundation. She has been a well-loved hostess throughout the years and will be remembered with love and gratitude.

BAER.—Gertrud Baer died peacefully on April 30, aged 73, Sadly missed by her son Ralph and daughter-in-law Barbara, their children Hugh, Alison, David and James and her sister Else Rabin and many friends and colleagues.

MEYER:—Mrs. Margaret Meyer passed away on April 17th at 111 Hillfield Court, Belsize Avenue, N.W.3. Sadly missed by her friends.

THE LATE DR. ADELHEID LEVY

Rabbi Dr. O. Lehman, Curator of Manuscripts Emeritus, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, writes:

Adelheid Levy's name was a household word in the social work of the Berlin Jewish Community. A whole generation of Jewish students went to see her, when they needed a scholarship, really one aspect of her work. But if later many of them attained to great positions in the Jewish or the academic world, it was none the least her support in need that made things possible. With tact, insight, efficiency and sympathy she dealt with all who contacted her. Modest as she was, all of us remember her for the nobility of her character and her many good qualities—one of the great women in Israel.

THE LATE FREDDY FREEDMAN

H. H. Harrison (formerly Heinz Nadel) writes:

To do justice to the very many activities Manfred Freedman crowded into his all too short life (your obituary in the April issue) would take up many columns, but may I just add three aspects which I feel should not be forgotten. They all fall in the eventful years from 1933 to 1939, and to each of them he brought a dedication and distinction so characteristic of everything he undertook. There were his youth movement activities in the Berlin group of the BDJJ, his work with and under Martin Sobotker in the Jugendpflegedezernat of the Jewish Community, and last but not least his many years as the efficient goalkeeper of the distinguished ITSC 05 handball team.

Although our ways diverged after the war and I saw little of him, his death leaves a sad gap in the life of his many friends in all parts of the world.

DENIAL OF THE PAST

An Italian archaeological team has been digging in Syria and discovered massive evidence of the 4,500 year old kingdom of Ebla with thousands of tablets which refer to Biblical events and characters, amongst whom Abraham, Esau, Saul and David have been identified. A language expert, working on the team, Professor Pettinato of Rome university, has resigned in protest against instructions from the Syrian government to suppress all indications that parts of Syria had ever been occupied by Hebrews, and to concentrate on the role of the tablets in Syria's own past.

UPROAR IN COURT

When the Düsseldorf court acquitted four of the 13 remaining former members of the Maidanek death camp staff, about 100 young protesters entered the courtroom, shouting "Nazi murderers" and singing an anti-Nazi song. Later they marched to the site of the synagogue, destroyed in November 1938, where they laid a wreath and called for the abolition of the statute of limitations for Nazi murderers. The jury in the case had decided that, after hearing some 250 German and foreign witnesses, there was insufficient evidence to convict the four. Many Jewish and non-Jewish organisations strongly protested against the acquittals. Mr. Moshe Dayan, Israeli Foreign Minister, sent a strong telegram of protest to the West German Foreign Minister, Mr. Genscher, Mr. Shmuel Tamir, the Israeli Minister of Justice, said the verdict marked another failure of the West German legal system to bring suspected Nazi criminals to justice.

Public indignation was raised when it became known that one of the defendants, Hildegard Laechert, a former SS camp guard, has been chosen as a candidate of the Aktionsgemeinschaft Neues Europa, a group led by Erwin Schoenborn, a leading neo-Nazi campaigner, in the forthcoming elections for the European Parliament. She was known as "Bloody Brigit" in the camp because of her extreme cruelty. Schoenborn himself is the first candidate on the ANE list, followed by Eberhard Engelhardt, a Nuremberg lawyer, and others. The Hesse State prosecutor has appealed against the acquittal of Schoenborn on charges of inciting hatred against Jews. Schoenborn had distributed a pamphlet saying that Anne Frank's diary was a swindle and the document of an anti-German Jewish atrocity campaign to support the lie of the six million dead and to finance the State of Israel. He also announced that Hildegard Laechert had given him her word of honour that she was innocent, and that he would therefore secure for her all the rights of a democratically chosen election candidate.

"DYBBUK" IN HAMBURG

The Hamburg Deutsches Schauspielhaus has staged "The Dybbuk", An-Ski's play about a woman possessed which was enthusiastically received many years ago when presented by Max Reinhardt and Max Ophuls in German, and by Habima in Hebrew.

HEIMER.—On April 4, Alfred Heimer, aged 89, at Finchley Memorial Hospital. He was the last surviving child of Bernhard and Helene Heimer of Vienna, husband of Ida and father of Hans and Felix. He was a warm hearted Viennese who will be sadly missed by his large family and many friends.

SCHIFF.—On May 5, in hospital, Siddy, dearly beloved wife of Curt Ernst Schiff, of Morris Feinman House, 178 Palentine Road, Manchester 20. Deeply mourned and sadly missed.

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Letters to the Editor

CLARA GRUNWALD

Request for Information

Sir,—A colleague of mine in the GDR is preparing a monograph on one of the forgotten heroes of the holocaust, the Jewish teacher Clara Grunwald, who went of her own free will with her pupils to the gas chambers.

She was born c. 1875, lived for over 30 years in Berlin N.W. 87, Cuxhavener Str. 18, and was transported with the children in her charge to Lodz on October 27, 1941; from there they were taken to one of the extermination camps. Very little else is known about their ultimate fate, not even the name of the camp where they were killed—but it is certain that she refused to let the children go without her to the lethal "bath-house".

My colleague would be extremely grateful for any information your readers could offer about Clara Grunwald's life and death. There must be survivors who knew her, or relatives of her who might have some data; for instance, her two brothers had a farm near Berlin where they trained young Jews for their later work in a kibbutz. There may be descendants who knew that farm. It is also important to know how many children in her

charge were killed. A friend of Clara Grunwald ran the Berlin foto studio "Bieber", but her name is unknown.

I should be happy to receive any information (preferably in German), which I shall pass on to my colleague. Your journal, Sir, with its wide readership among former refugees, is her last hope of filling the gaps about Clara Grunwald's fate.

EGON LARSEN

34 Dartmouth Road,
London NW2 4EX.

HEINRICH GEORGE

Sir,—I note with astonishment that in the April issue of your publication you include the name of Götz George—who incidentally played the film part of the notorious commandant of Auschwitz Rudolf Höss—in your list of familiar names of actors appearing on the Munich stage. You also state that he is the son of Heinrich George. Lest it be forgotten, Heinrich George ought to be remembered as one of the most rabid Nazi actors of his day.

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The 100th birthday of Sir Robert Mayer, the enthusiastic sponsor of children and youth concerts and well known philanthropist, will be celebrated on June 5 by a special concert given in his honour in the Festival Hall. The Queen, accompanied by Prince Philip and Prince Charles, will attend the function.

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In recognition of his signal services, he was awarded several honorary doctor degrees. The country of his birth bestowed on him the Grand Federal Cross of Merit in 1967. For a number of years, Sir Robert was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Council of Christians and Jews.

E.G.L.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Basle. The management of the "Schauspielhaus", as ever assiduous in providing progressive theatre presented a Mammoth production of the "Nibelungen" trilogy, 11 acts on one evening, from "Gehoernter Siegfried" to "Kriemhildens Rache". A great all-round effort certainly, and a suitable tribute to Friedrich Hebbel, it proved sensational for some but seemingly no longer acceptable for the bulk of modern theatre audiences.

Munich. Among works announced for the coming season is a play that has had a very positive echo on many German-speaking stages: Hartmut Lange's "Frau von Kauenhofen" with *Marianne Hoppe* in the title part, originally played by *Grete Mosheim* in Berlin and by *Paula Wessely* in Vienna.

Berlin. The Schillertheater saw a revival of Brecht's "Schweyk im Zweiten Weltkrieg", produced by *Harry Buckwitz*, whose career started under Falckenberg at the Kammerspiele, Munich. After the war, Buckwitz was instrumental in introducing Brecht plays to audiences in Frankfurt where he was Generalintendant for 17 years.

A popular Taxi Driver. When *Heinz Rühmann* (76) recently filmed a "Rühmann Special" under the title "Balthasar im Stau", he drove taxis in Paris, Amsterdam and in the South of England

where filming finished in a typical countryside pub with every member of the cast taking part in the jollifications. Rühmann does not only drive his 2-litre car but still indulges in flying his own one-engined plane.

Memories. *Paul Lincke's* life story, together with sketches and melodies, was the subject of a German TV evening under the heading "Das ist die Berliner Luft". The Vienna "Bellaria" Kino, continuing its tradition "cinema of the past", showed a series of Zarah Leander films, as well as the old success "Zwei in einem Auto" with *Wolf Albach-Retty* and *Hans Moser*.

Birthdays. Tributes were paid to *Viorica Ursuleac*, Rumanian-born soprano, widow of conductor *Clemens Krauss*, at the occasion of her 80th birthday; Vienna "Burg" actor of 45 years standing *Fred Liewehr* is 70; *Paul Hörbiger*, active and still a firm favourite with German and Austrian stage and film audiences, celebrated his 85th birthday.

Obituary. The death at 73, is announced of *Elisabeth Lustig*, daughter of the late *Fritzi Massary* whose first husband was the author *Bruno Frank*. She was well-known for her ever-ready assistance given to refugees arriving in the United States. S.B.

DRESDEN ARTISTS OF THE THIRTIES

An exceptionally interesting exhibition under the above title was recently held at the *Margaret Fisher Gallery*, 2 Lambolle Road, N.W.3. It included works by *W. H. Nessler*, a very much under-rated artist, *Hans Grundig* and *Lea Langer-Grundig*. The exhibition closed on May 15.

The sculpture of *Eva Hesse* is now showing at the *Whitechapel Art Gallery* until June 17. The exhibition is then going to *Otterlo* and from there to *Hanover*. *Eva Hesse* was born in *Hamburg* in 1936, left Germany in 1939 and settled in *New York* where she died in 1970. Her work has been shown all over the USA and in *Canada, Holland, Switzerland, West Germany* and *England*. There is also a retrospective exhibition of her work on paper until June 8 at the *Mayor Gallery*, 22a Cork Street, W.1. Personally I prefer her drawings to her sculpture since she was such a good draughtsman. At the *Whitechapel Gallery* there are a number of structures in *fibreglass, rope, net, rubber hose* and a variety of other materials, many untitled yet somehow giving an impression to the viewer. As she said of her own work: "I wanted to be surprised. To find something new. I don't want to know the answer before but want an answer that can surprise." I was surprised.

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