

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE PAST

Recent Publications on Austrian History

The ignominious collapse of the allegedly Christian corporate regime in March 1938 was hailed by large sectors of the Austrian population, who enthusiastically welcomed the German armed forces as liberators. However, a tragic period began for Austrian Jewry, starting with pogrom-like excesses and lootings, soon refined by methodical measures of expropriation, expulsion and forced emigration and culminating in deportation and large-scale annihilation. Of a total of about 200,000 Austrian Jews, 60,000 perished as victims of Nazi persecution. At the end of 1944 only 7,800 Jews in the meaning of the Nuremberg racial laws remained in Vienna.

With considerable delay Austrian historians belonging to the younger generation have become engaged in systematic research into a chapter of the recent history of their country to which the overwhelming majority of their older, but hardly better compatriots have tended to pay scant attention for only too obvious reasons—the period starting with the German occupation in March 1938 until the liberation by the Allies in April 1945. One of the significant undertakings in this respect, the book "Wien vom 'Anschluss' zum Krieg", by Gerhard Botz (Publishers: Verlag Jugend & Volk, Vienna, 1978; 646 pp.) investigates carefully on the basis of ample documentation the taking over of power by the National Socialists in Vienna and its political and social transformation from spring 1938 to autumn 1939. In an introductory essay, Professor Karl R. Stadler of the University of Linz, who had spent the war years in Britain and has initiated several studies on the Nazi era, discusses Hitler's notorious dislike of Vienna, due to his negative experiences as a "down-and-out". But the later "Fuehrer" was no exceptional case; many provincials who had failed or had not quite made it in the capital of the Habsburg empire, hated the city and especially its conspicuous minorities, the Jews and the Czechs. Paradoxically, National Socialist policies which degraded Vienna to a provincial place, became one of the reasons for the disenchantment of many originally enthusiastic Nazi sympathisers after a short spell of delight about the defeat of the generally rejected régime of the "Christian-German corporate state", the partial improvement of the economic situation and the persecution and spoliation of the Jews.

Both Professor Stadler and Dr. Botz lay particular stress on the anti-Jewish actions and their approval by large sections of the population exceeding anything experienced by Jews in other cities of the Greater German Reich. Antisemitism had deep roots in the "soil" of Vienna, but on the other hand there had always been much intermarriage of Jews

and Gentiles, and in many social circles one did not know or did not care who was of pure "aryan", Jewish or partly Jewish extraction.

Even detached historians, like Dr. Botz, seem to be puzzled at the extent of Jew-hatred and lack of support received by Jews from their fellow-citizens. Reports on cruel and vulgar antisemitic diatribes by some Nazi leaders, who made fun about Jewish sufferings, frequently record "roaring applause" by the audiences. Economic reasons—the elimination of competition, the chances to acquire assets by "aryanisation" and to obtain flats from which Jews were evicted—were no doubt important elements contributing to and confirming antisemitic attitudes. It has, however, always been one of the characteristic features of Viennese "Gemütlichkeit" to accept and to behave in accordance with the requirements of the authorities and at the same time to express dissatisfaction by a peculiar kind of grumbling mockery.

Impact of the Anschluss

According to Dr. Botz's findings, such grouching against the no longer welcome Germans gained momentum soon after the "Anschluss", and the various cliques of the Nazi movements were at loggerheads on personal and policy grounds. There was also some disagreement on the methods to be employed to clean Vienna of the Jews, but basically National Socialists and their collaborators were of one mind in this respect. The Jews did not benefit from the change of behaviour of a greater part of the population of Vienna, which during about eighteen months changed from enchantment with or reluctant consent to the new rulers to indifference and even hidden rejection. This animosity prepared the ground for a political resistance, on the importance of which views vary considerably. As befits a serious historian, Dr. Botz conveys his findings objectively, but he voices strong feelings about Nazi misdeeds and compassion for the victims.

"Wien 1938", a collection of essays and memoirs (published in the series "Wiener Geschichtsblätter" of the "Verein für Geschichte der Stadt Wien", Vienna 1978, 326 pp.), is another noteworthy attempt to convey unpalatable facts to a usually reluctant public. Among its 37 contributions are a concise description of the fate of the Jews in Vienna in March and April 1938 by Dr. Jonny Moser, the foremost expert on the subject, and an enlightening article by Professor Georg Weis on the early stages of "aryanisation" in Vienna, beginning with outright robberies and soon developing into systematic expropriation. The situation at Vienna Uni-

versity, which had been a breeding ground of militant as well as "polite" antisemitism in the first two months after the "Anschluss", is recalled by Dr. Anton Massiczek, who in his youth was a convinced Nazi and soon lost his faith when confronted with harsh reality. He mentions some attempts undertaken by followers of the régime to help Jewish professors and provides interesting inside information on the mental and psychological confusion among academics. These recollections amount to a valuable warning against oversimplification; no doubt there existed also Viennese, among them even Nazi activists, who occasionally behaved decently and friendly towards a few Jews. These laudable exceptions do, however, not affect the generally glum picture.

Compared with Vienna's Jewish population in 1938 today's Jews are not a very impressive group. However the community, most of whose members have settled there only since after the war, has consolidated itself and is aware that it is the heir of a remarkably brilliant past. Mr. Max Berger is one of the "newcomers" to the city with a strong feeling for the cultural and religious traditions of Austrian Jewry. He has during two decades assiduously and expertly collected about 3,000 objects of art, ranging from paintings to religious implements, mostly originating from regions of the old Austrian empire; as a genuine connoisseur, he is willing to share his delight and interest in Jewish art with others by welcoming visitors. The magnificently produced volume "Judaica—Kult und Kultur des europäischen Judentums" (Publishers: Jugend und Volk, Wien, 1979; 300 pp.) contains beautiful reproductions of about 100 objects of the Berger collection by the noted photographer Erich Lessing, complemented by informative essays on Austrian Jewish history, Jewish religious customs and art, by Dr. Wolfgang Häusler, another young social historian interested in Jewish matters, and an annotated catalogue of the collection, compiled by Max Berger. He has been living in Vienna since 1950 and feels at home there, although he is certainly conversant with the tragic history of its once flourishing Jewish community. In his own way, he has come to grips with the past by lovingly and respectfully collecting works which bear witness of a culture deserving to be remembered by the children both of the survivors and of those who did their utmost to destroy it.

The tragedy of Austrian Jewry as well as its efforts to maintain its identity and dignity under increasingly terrible conditions are described in meticulous detail by Dr. Herbert Rosenkranz, who hails from Vienna and belongs to the staff of Yad Vashem, in a comprehensive survey "Verfolgung und Selbstbehauptung. Die Juden in Oesterreich 1938-1945" (Publishers: Herold, Vienna, 1978; 400 pages, DM 68.—). The book constitutes a record rather than an analytical assessment; it is based on a wide range of documentation and eschews any appeal to sentiment. The facts speak

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Coming to Grips with the Past

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for themselves. Anti-Jewish measures enacted in the Reich in the course of five years were implemented in Austria within a few weeks; they were applied and expanded with the utmost severity and brutality.

Dr. Rosenkranz' study gives due attention to the remarkable endeavours of the leadership of the Jewish community, Zionist organisations and others to sponsor emigration, to maintain religious life, to provide assistance to the needy, to care for the young and to cater for cultural interests. Assimilated and less integrated Jews, who had formerly kept apart socially, were forced into a community of fate which was also joined to a certain extent by those who had abandoned Judaism. Dr. Rosenkranz does not pass judgment on such controversial figures as the executive director of the Vienna community, Dr. Josef Löwenherz, and the disciplinarian Rabbi Benjamin Marmelstein; the latter played an important role in Theresienstadt. After the war, Dr. Löwenherz was cleared of allegations of misdemeanour; Dr. Marmelstein chose to move to Rome where he was reported to have undergone baptism.

Austrian post-war justice failed conspicuously to punish even prominent participants in the murderous "final solution of the Jewish problem"; Austrian juries evinced marked sympathy for them and manifested it by scandalous acquittals. The re-established republic failed to recognize any legal and moral obligation to make adequate recompense for the wrongs inflicted upon the victims of National Socialist persecution.

Under these circumstances Dr. Rosenkranz' valuable book, issued by a respected Catholic publishing house, may be considered as a particularly useful, though rather belated contribution towards strengthening the still reluctant awareness of the fate of Austrian Jewry, whose illusions of belonging to Austria generally and to Vienna particularly, were so cruelly shattered. Notwithstanding some inaccuracies, this book constitutes an impressive pioneering effort, throwing light on an important, albeit unpleasant, chapter of Austrian as well as of Jewish history.

HATIKVA FOR EGYPTIAN IN VIENNA

When, during a two-day official visit, the Egyptian Vice-President Hosny Mubarak visited the Vienna Federal Chancery, Israel's new Ambassador, Mr. Ben-Yaakov, was inspecting a guard of honour in the square with an Austrian military band playing the Hatikva. At a press conference, Vice-President Mubarak criticised the PLO for exerting pressure on West Bank Arabs to prevent them from joining the Israeli-Egyptian autonomy talks for their area.

LIECHTENSTEIN NAZI FIRM CLOSED

The Liechtenstein Government has closed down the "Documentary Series Establishment", set up in 1968, because it "disseminates propaganda for the NS ideology and thus acts against the interests of the principality of Liechtenstein." The Liechtenstein firm was a forwarding address for a Düsseldorf firm which specialises in the sale of records, cassettes and films of original songs and marches of the Nazi era and of speeches made by leading Nazis. Amongst the records were songs like "Wir fahren gegen England", and "Es braust ein Ruf wie Donnerhall" and speeches by Hitler and Goebbels.

VALETTA SYNAGOGUE DEMOLISHED

The High Holyday services in Malta had to take place in a conference room of the Valetta Hilton Hotel, because the synagogue, opened in 1912, has been demolished in the course of a redevelopment scheme. There are about 20 Jewish families in the Island. The authorities have provided temporary accommodation to store the community's eight Torah scrolls which are many hundreds of years old and priceless.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Tension between Jews and Blacks

President Carter has issued a statement, confirming that neither American Jewish leaders nor anyone else had urged him to ask for the resignation of Andy Young as America's UN representative. Mr. Young's successor, Mr. McHenry, a career diplomat, said he would not meet any PLO representative while he held his job. In his opinion, the PLO should publicly denounce terrorism.

Mr. Young has in the meantime visited eight African countries in which he recommended a renewed African dialogue with Israel. President Senghor of Senegal retorted that this would be easier if there was still a Labour government in Israel. Nothing could come from a dialogue "with the racist, non-progressive Right now governing Israel". Mr. Young replied that it was just as unacceptable for Africa to refuse to talk to Israel, as it was for the United States not to speak to the PLO.

After the resignation of Mr. Andrew Young as America's UN representative, many black leaders publicly blamed the Jews and Israel. Whilst acknowledging that American Jews had often supported black causes, they state, that Jews had helped them only when it was in the Jewish best interest. America's leading Jewish organisations decided at a national meeting that US Jews will continue to cooperate with blacks on many fronts, but "we cannot work with those who, in failing to differentiate between the Palestinian Arabs and the PLO, give support to terrorism by legitimising the PLO." One of the largest and most moderate civil rights organisations, the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, has asked President Carter to reconsider US pledges to Israel not to talk to the PLO. For many years, this organisation has been supported by wealthy liberal Jews.

Mr. Ed Koch, the Jewish Mayor of New York, was attacked by black leaders for saying that he finds the black community very antisemitic. He also said in a newspaper interview: "I want to be fair. I think whites are basically anti-black. The difference is that this is recognised as morally reprehensible, something you have to control."

"Holocaust" Shown Again

The National Broadcasting Company has repeated the four-part "Holocaust" series, accompanied by a number of programmes in which religious leaders and journalists discussed the effect of the film all over the world. Some commentators expressed the hope that the showing of the film would arouse more sympathy for the Vietnamese boat people. German groups once more staged protest demonstrations, claiming that there had been no holocaust.

Swiss Firm Fined

When Finagrain, a Swiss subsidiary of the Continental Grain Company, sold commodities to Iraq in July 1978, it certified that the goods were not of Israeli origin and that it was not affiliated with any blacklisted firm. It has now been fined \$20,000 (about £9,000) for violating the law against co-operating with the Arab boycott of Israel by the US Commerce Department. This was the first prosecution under the 1977 Export Administration Act. More than 100 other cases are under investigation.

TURKISH JEWS SEEK ADVICE

When Mr. Lucas, treasurer of the Board of Deputies and the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits, attended a wedding in Istanbul, Turkish Jews told them that they were afraid of a surge of antisemitism after the recognition of the PLO by the Turkish Government. At present, there are about 22,000 Jews in Istanbul, and 3,000 in Ankara and other centres. So far, Turkey has been the only Moslem country to maintain diplomatic and trade relations and an air link with Israel. The community is striving to keep membership in excess of 15,000, to preserve its status as a minority community, entitling it to a number of privileges. With an inflation rate of 80 per cent, it finds it very difficult to provide adequate Jewish education for a rapidly decreasing number of members.

AUSTRALIAN POLITICIAN A WAR CRIMINAL

Mr. Lyenko Urbanchich, who emigrated to Australia from Yugoslavia after the war, was suspended from his post as president of the New South Wales Liberal Party's ethnic committee. A 90-minute broadcast on the national system revealed that, according to Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, Urbanchich was on the list of war criminals, issued by the Yugoslav government. He is alleged to have led an anti-Jewish demonstration in 1943 and to have published a number of articles, attacking Jews and democracy.

NETHERLANDS

KLM Bows to Arabs

KLM, the Dutch National airline, has admitted that it does not send Jewish staff members to Arab countries, and that it issues certificates that those sent out have no direct or indirect contact with Israel and are professing Christians.

Menten's Restitution Receipts

A parliamentary report has just been published revealing that Pieter Menten, proceedings against whom have just been stopped because of his supposed insanity, has received nearly £300,000 in restitution payments from the Dutch and German governments. In 1969, the Germans awarded him about £120,000 for property alleged to have been lost in Poland owing to Nazi activities. He was to be tried for having murdered Polish Jews in 1941.

FRANCE

Bombs and Murder in Paris

During the High Holy-days, the Paris police put special guards on synagogues after the shop of a well-known Jewish merchant, Mr. Daniel Hechter, was blasted by bombs and Nazi slogans and swastikas were daubed on its walls. Another bomb devastated the flat of Mr. Jean Legrand, a former officer and resistance member during the last war. The daubs on his flat said that this was the revenge for having beaten up Otto Skorzeny, a former SS general, after his appearance in a French TV programme. Mr. Legrand is not a Jew. Furthermore, Mr. Goldman, 35, an extreme left-wing Jewish militant, was murdered in the street. He had just been released from prison after serving six years for armed robbery to help finance the extreme left.

150 Years Rabbinical College

The Seminaire Israelite de France in Paris, the training college for French Rabbis, celebrated its 150th anniversary. During the last war, it was closed down and many of its teachers were either deported or joined the Resistance. Its present head is Grand Rabbin Chouchna, and 27 of its 30 students are Sephardim. In his anniversary speech, Grand Rabbin Chouchna said that French Jews needed four times more rabbis than were available. Thousands of students had no religious contacts, and the sick and lonely in hospital as well as the inmates of prisons waited in vain for a rabbi's visit.

Iranian Mullah attacks Jews

A Moslem theologian, Mullah Montaxari, whose father belongs to Ayatollah Khomeini's inner circle, visited Paris during a world tour and said during a press conference that the Jews were "traitors who killed Jesus and wanted to kill Moses". He added that the Jews also killed Abraham Lincoln, Gandhi, De Gaulle, Pompidou, Nasser, and many other national leaders. What other explanation could there be, he asked, for the fact that "these men died so young, while the Zionist criminals and their imperialist allies live to so ripe an old age?"

Israeli Electronic Success

For the first time, Israel took part in the Strasbourg European Fair where an Israeli mini-computer, claimed to be the most advanced in the technological data-processing field, was the star attraction among the scientific and electronic devices.

Sentence on Israeli MP

A Paris court sentenced Mr. Flatto Sharon, the controversial Knesset member, in absentia to five years' jail for fraudulent property sales and tax evasion. In Israel, a charge of attempted bribery during the 1977 elections has been brought against him, and as in this connection his parliamentary immunity was lifted, France will now repeat its request for his extradition.

HOME NEWS

NO OIL FOR ISRAEL

When Mr. Itzhak Modai, Israel's Energy Minister visited London to sign an agreement, under which the National Coal Board undertook to sell 250,000 tonnes of coal a year to Israel's Electricity Board, he was told by Mr. David Howell, the British Energy Secretary, that Britain had no surplus oil available and no plans to change its export policy. The coal will be supplied to Israel's first coal-fired power station at Hadera near Haifa, which will increase the electricity supply by some 40 per cent.

IRAQIS SPY ON ZIONISTS

In Sir James Goldsmith's new weekly "Now", Mr. Robert Moss, a journalist who specialises in intelligence affairs, said that Iraqi military attachés and agents in this country and elsewhere were required to report on "Zionist organisations in Europe and their role in peacetime and wartime in helping Israel by sending money and volunteers" as well as on intelligence co-operation between Israel and Nato countries. He also alleges that the Iraqis provide the most extreme Palestine groups with "safe haven, finance, weapons and training camps".

MINISTER AT LUBAVITCH MEETING

Mr. Marc Carlisle, the Education Secretary, attended the 20th anniversary dinner held by the Friends of Lubavitch Foundation and said he was a strong supporter of denominational education. He praised the great contribution the Jewish community had made to life in this country which would be much poorer without it.

JEWISH AND BLACK COMMUNITY

On his return from a visit to the US, Mr. Greville Janner, MP, president of the British Board of Deputies, said that there was a warning for the British Jewish community that it was vital to establish good relations with the black community in this country. Mr. Tony Parsons, Britain's new representative at the UN, was a well-known Arabist who had been Ambassador to Iran. In his opinion, the rift between blacks and Jews in America would take a long time to heal.

CHIEF RABBI ON MEDICAL ETHICS

In a programme "Fit to be born" on BBC TV, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits, as a member of a panel emphasised the moral aspects in any decision taken about the future of deformed fetuses. He said no doctor could answer the question whether a life should be preserved or destroyed—he was merely the expert who carried out the operation. Every human life was equally precious, and often the birth of a deformed baby brought ennoblement into society which would not otherwise exist. He had discouraged the testing of Ashkenazi Jews in Britain for the rare degenerative Tay Sachs disease which may affect one in thirty of this group, although in America a screening programme had already been introduced. He had been advised by Lord Cohen of Birkenhead and Lord Rosenheim, two late members of the medical profession and of the Jewish community, to oppose such a scheme which might have led to a communal neurosis. Dr. Nancy Wexler, an American psychologist, said in reply that in the US the rabbinical authorities had supported the screening programme which was very successful and produced information for people to make a choice.

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MR. CALLAGHAN'S PEACE PLEDGE

Mr. James Callaghan was guest of honour at a Labour Friends of Israel meeting to launch an appeal for funds. He has been one of the 120 members of the Friends almost since the group was founded. He announced that he was soon going to Israel to give the Balfour Day lecture, arriving there on a direct flight from Egypt which had been arranged for him by President Sadat. He will also visit Jordan. He said that everybody must help to bring about a series of proposals, worked out by Israel and Egypt, which the Palestinian Arabs can take up as a basis for discussion.

JEWRY'S DEBT TO BRITAIN

During a ladies' luncheon, held at the home of Mrs. Amelie Jakobovits, wife of the Chief Rabbi, to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Jewish Welfare Board, Judge Myrella Cohen, QC, Judge of the Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, said, Jews in Britain enjoyed fair treatment. She said: "There is equality of opportunity for Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, and it is possible for people from a humble background like myself to make good." She explained that her grandparents had been Lithuanian immigrants, and added that a quiet revolution had taken place and Jewish women were beginning to take part in society at all levels. She condemned people with an "anti-goyim" attitude. Lady Karminski, JWB vice-president, recalled that Judge Cohen had been associated with the organisation's work for 35 years.

AN EDITOR'S APOLOGY

The editor of the Dublin "Evening Press" apologised to the Jewish Council of Ireland for the banner headline "Search for Zionist murder squad" over an article claiming that a bank raid in Tramore and an attempt of arson at the Irish mansion of Dutch war crimes suspect, Menten, were the work of men hired by an international Zionist group. He said he had been misled by his generally reliable crime correspondent.

AN AJEX PILGRIMAGE

A party of 50 members of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women braved rough seas in a hovercraft to visit the East Boulogne Military Cemetery and pay tribute to men and women of all denominations who died in the two world wars. The Ajex chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy, led prayers at the graves of Jewish soldiers. The party was met by the British Vice-Consul at Boulogne and the presidents of the organisations of French and Belgian war veterans.

GROWING TRADE WITH ISRAEL

Two-way trade between the UK and Israel totalled almost £300 million in the first seven months of 1979, a gain of 13 per cent over 1978. Imports from Israel reached £134 million, exports to Israel £164 million. UK imports of Israeli clothing totalling over £21 million in 1978, will greatly improve after the successful Israel Fashion Show at the Europa Hotel in London, when 25 leading fashion manufacturers showed their spring/summer 1980 range to British buyers.

DEATH OF LORD FISHER

At the time of going to press, we have learned with regret that Lord Fisher of Camden has died. An obituary will be published next month.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Princess Margaret opens Sobell House

Princess Margaret performed the official opening of the Michael Sobell Jewish Day Centre in Golders Green which was attended by the Chief Rabbi and many Jewish leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn de Rothschild, Sir Michael and Lady Sobell and the Mayor of Barnet, Mrs. Rita Levy. She praised the efforts of the Jewish Blind Society and the Welfare Board and said that the day centre was a tribute to their co-ordinated efforts. Sobell House, she said, had been created to cater for the elderly, blind, partially sighted, and handicapped. Mrs. Rebecca Barnett, the centre's oldest member, presented her with a bouquet. She also praised the generosity and vision of Sir Michael and Lady Sobell and the Sobell Foundation without whom none of this would have been possible. During a conducted tour of the building, the princess talked to members and workers, all of them voluntary, and was shown the facilities for the care of people recovering from mental illness, the library, and hairdressing salon. The Chief Rabbi said a prayer of dedication.

Shortage of Orthodox Rabbis

Mr. Nathan Rubin, secretary of the United Synagogue, said that the unfilled vacancies for rabbis at Hampstead Garden Suburb and Edgware Synagogues were symptomatic of the general shortage in the country. Ten major synagogue posts have remained vacant for some considerable time. At Jews' College, the yearly output consists of about two students who qualify as rabbis and several chazanim and teachers, according to its executive director Mr. Levine. Speakers for the Liberal and Reform movements have said that they do not experience a similar shortage, though they sometimes find it difficult to obtain cantors. Since the rabbinical course at the Leo Baeck College started in 1956, 60 liberal rabbis have been ordained there.

A similar shortage of rabbis exists in European countries. In Belgium, Rabbi Marc Kahlenberg of the Brussels Great Synagogue is leaving for Israel on reaching retirement age. His post is vacant, as is that of the Chief Rabbi of Belgium and the Chief Rabbi of the Antwerp Hadassah community.

Progressive Synagogue Jubilee

The Liverpool Progressive Synagogue held a service of thanksgiving and rededication to mark the 50th anniversary of its foundation as the Liberal Jewish Congregation, the first of its kind outside London. In his jubilee sermon, Rabbi Kokotek of the Belsize Square Synagogue, London, recalled his appointment as minister to the synagogue in 1951 and his induction by his saintly teacher, the late Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck. During his six years in Liverpool, it had been his achievement to integrate the congregation into the Jewish life of the community.

Glasgow Synagogue Centenary

The Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits, conducted the Thanksgiving Service to celebrate the centenary of Glasgow's magnificent Garnethill Synagogue. It was followed by a banquet in the Glasgow City Chambers, attended by the Lord Provost, the Secretary of Scotland, the Roman Catholic Bishop and many prominent representatives of universities and public bodies. The congregation started life in a rented room for communal worship in 1823. Among the guests was Dr. Sidney Naftalin who was medical officer to 40 refugee children who were given sanctuary in the synagogue buildings from 1938 to 1942, when they were evacuated to the country.

Guildford Jews build Synagogue

A crew, consisting of a woman architect, a heating engineer, academics from Surrey university and nearby research establishments, and local businessmen got together to build a synagogue for the 40 Jewish families of Guildford. Its first stage was inaugurated during the High Holydays. The second phase of building will begin later this year, and the Chief Rabbi will unveil the foundation stone next June. Lack of funds prevented the community for over 40 years to have a synagogue built professionally.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

THE ISRAELI SCENE

TRIAL OF GERMAN TERRORISTS

For more than two years a trial in camera was conducted in a Lod military court against two young Left-wing West Germans for being involved in a plot to shoot down an EL AL passenger plane in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1976. The Israeli authorities have never openly admitted that 25-year old Brigitta Schultz and 26-year old Thomas Reuter operated in Kenya to protect the Kenya government who had handed over the two, together with three Arab members of the Iraq-backed Popular Revolutionary Front. The Federal Government protested repeatedly against the secrecy surrounding the arrest and trial of the two who were sentenced to ten years' jail, but may expect to be released in 1981. The public prosecutor promised an early release in case of a full confession. A West German observer was present during the whole trial, but had to promise to observe the secrecy of the proceedings. The three Arabs who did not confess, will be tried separately.

ECONOMIC GLOOM SPREADS

The annual rate of inflation is now 91 per cent, but most food prices have increased much more. Wages in the public sector have been frozen and purchase tax on big cars has been raised by up to 50 per cent in order to fight inflation. The re-introduction of the travel tax is also under consideration. So far, 350,000 Israelis have taken a foreign holiday this year. Small savers have resorted to panic buying of dollars. The Bank of Israel had to release large amounts of American notes to meet the demand and to intervene to arrest the fall in the price of index-linked bonds, some issues of which dropped by as much as 3 per cent.

After a heated discussion, the Israeli Government decided to release land to private buyers in order to encourage house-building. The 45,000 poorest families needing homes are threatening to vote against the government in the next general election. Mr. Ariel Sharon, Minister of Agriculture, whose office had been keeping State land under tight control, protested on the grounds that such a measure would open the door to speculators and could lead to the purchase of land by hostile elements. He added that his Ministry had land sufficient for 150,000 flats on sites which had now been released. He was overruled by Housing Minister Mr. David Levy, who also won approval for reducing the price of flats by cancelling purchase tax and tax on building materials on new homes for poor people.

FLIGHTS TO EILAT

A subsidiary company of Lufthansa, the Condor company, has been given permission to land in Eilat after threatening to cease flights if its planes were forced to use the military airport Etzion in the Sinai peninsula.

ROW ABOUT SETTLEMENTS

Israeli troops were called in to evict several dozens of residents of Kiryat Arba, the Jewish suburb near Hebron, who attempted to expand their settlement to neighbouring hilltops. The settlers sheltered behind burning barricades. They had used bulldozers to demolish the fence which surrounds the suburb and began to build pre-fabricated houses close to the Arab town. Some 30 settlers were arrested, one soldier was severely burnt. At the same time, the Supreme Court reduced by half a seven-month jail sentence, imposed by a district court on Avigdor Arskin, 19, one of the settlers who had broken into Hebron homes and harassed the Arab occupants. Arskin had come to Israel from Soviet Russia last year and said he was out to revenge the 1929 massacre of 59 Jews in the town. The Supreme Court stated that it took into account Arskin's Zionist activities in the Soviet Union and the purity of his motives.

At a meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, Deputy Premier Professor Yadin accused Mr. Sharon, Minister of Agriculture, of secretly establishing four new West Bank settlements and deceiving the Cabinet by claiming that he was only consolidating existing ones. Mr. Sharon, incensed, shouted at him: "I shall strip you naked on the Cabinet table and demonstrate that everything you say is a lie." Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister, ordered the entire discussion to be struck from the record.

POLICE AND RABBIS HURT IN CLASH

After several weeks of quiet, there were again clashes between the ultra-orthodox inhabitants of the Mea Sharim quarter in Jerusalem and the police. The demonstrators demand the banning of Sabbath traffic on the road to the northern suburb of Ramot and threw rocks, bottles, and fireworks at policemen, after barricading themselves into a yeshiva. Several policemen were hurt, as were two rabbis taking part in the demonstrations. Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem, has emphasised that the road must remain open at all times.

PARDON FOR TERRORIST

As a gesture of goodwill to Egypt, the United States, and Holland, President Navon has pardoned 26-year-old Ludwina Janssen, a Dutch-woman, sentenced to six years' jail in 1975 for spying and aiding terrorist groups. A sympathiser of the PLO, trained at a South Yemen camp run by PLO supporters, she was arrested on her arrival at Ben-Gurion airport and confessed that she had come to Israel to help her terrorist friends to hijack the French airliner, on which she had arrived, during its return flight. After arriving home in Holland, Miss Janssen said she would continue to support the struggle of the Palestinian people.

UNIVERSITY COURSES FOR SEPHARDIM

More than half of Israel's population is of Asian-African origin, but only some 17 per cent of the young members of this group study at universities. To alleviate this state of affairs, Tel Aviv University's George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences picked some 50 of the best pupils of a junior high school in the poor Hatikva district of the town to take part in summer courses at the university. The courses were offered free of charge, and faculty members volunteered their services without pay.

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SIGNS OF PEACE

So far, the Egyptian Government has provided 250 visas for Israeli visitors to their country. The first group of 23, mostly middle-aged Israelis has just returned and reported that they were made very welcome, but that there had been delays at the airport on arrival, because the necessary documents had not been forwarded to the immigration department. The group stayed for seven days.

In a surprise gesture, the Egyptians returned a Torah scroll which had been captured, when an Israeli strongpoint had to surrender after gallant resistance in the Yom Kippur War. It was afterwards displayed at the Egyptian War Museum in Cairo. The return was effected during a meeting of the Israeli and Egyptian military negotiating teams in Beersheba.

Israeli and Egyptian film producers are planning to make a joint film on the Yom Kippur War, as soon as there is peace. The filming in both countries is to start within two to three months.

The Munich artist Jürgen Richter said after an exhibition of his paintings at Jaffa, that he had discussed with Prime Minister Begin and UN secretary Kurt Waldheim a plan for a mass demonstration, involving some 500,000 people, on the anniversary of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. These people are to line the 400-mile-long road between Jerusalem and Cairo and join hands. There will be camps along the road, and mass demonstrations for peace are to be held. President Sadat has not yet given an opinion, whereas the other two politicians have declared their interest in the undertaking.

BATTERED WIVES' DEMONSTRATION

About 200 women from the Haifa and Herzlia shelters for battered wives demonstrated in Tel Aviv against the murder of Mrs Carmel Ashkenazi, one of their members, and against the indifference of the legal and religious authorities to their situation. They marched to the Chief Rabbi's office in Rehob Uri, asking for religious courts to shorten and simplify divorce procedures, and for more urgent police action against husbands who beat their wives.

Mrs. Ashkenazi had been hiding from her husband for a year in the Herzlia shelter, and was murdered a day before her husband was to be charged in court with causing grievous bodily harm. The women said that in view of these charges, the husband should have been forced to divorce her. In its first 15 months, the Herzlia shelter has given refuge to 173 women, 21 of them pregnant, and 193 children.

TV AT JERUSALEM HILTON

The Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem is the only Israeli hotel to offer its guests its own television programme showing feature films from the US, Europe, and Israel in colour and in English. At the moment, all guests are given questionnaires to enquire what kind of programme they favour.

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C. C. Aronsfeld

THE LIES OF PAUL RASSINIER

Among the increasingly insolent distorters and debauchers of the story of the Holocaust, whitewashing Hitler and denying the crimes, one name has come to be regarded as something like a patron saint, draping all lies in a shroud of plausibility. This is Paul Rassinier, a Frenchman, some sort of a socialist, by his own admission a disciple of the out and out antisemite Proudhon. Though he himself spent some time in Buchenwald, he in a number of books poohpoohed the evidence of the extermination of Jews — in places rather weirder than Buchenwald—as so many tall tales. The best known of his books is in fact entitled "The Lies of Odysseus", for he is pleased to sneer at the survivors of Auschwitz as purveyors of fanciful fiction copying the wily inventive Greek.

With his credentials, and as he managed to get mixed up with the Resistance, Rassinier is presented by the new Nazis in much the famous words of counsel for the defence: "Is this what a murderer looks like?" He is actually a muddled misfit and cock-eyed freak, incapable of handling facts straight, but all the neo-Nazis will accept the uncorroborated word of this one survivor rather than that of thousands of others whose story has been treble-checked and a hundred times confirmed.

The author of the scurrilous screed "Did Six Million Really Die?", who obstinately maintains his cloak though he has long been exposed as National Front editor Richard Verrall, boldly writes: "Without doubt the most important contribution to a truthful study of the extermination question has been the work of the French historian, Professor Paul Rassinier". When a French Jewish leader accused the "Professor" of having "made common cause with his new neo-Nazi friends", Rassinier took legal action but failed; the Paris court found "the ideas preached by Rassinier are identical with those proclaimed by the neo-Nazis".

I would have forgotten all about this French freak who died in 1967 but as he is

becoming prominent now I cannot help remembering a characteristic encounter I once had with him.

In 1965 the late Hans Habe published a kind of documentary novel *The Mission*, dealing with a possible rescue of Jews at the time of the Evian Conference in July 1938. In this book an Austrian Jewish physician of international renown (Professor Heinrich Neumann appearing under a different name) is presented as having been blackmailed by the Gestapo into secretly canvassing an alleged Nazi offer (which Habe regarded as fact) to sell Jews at \$250 each.

In December 1965 Rassinier reviewed the book in the antisemitic Paris magazine *Lectures Francaises* where he made the following assertion: "Hitler never suggested to other countries that he would let them have the Jews in exchange for \$250 per head—on the contrary, he offered to pay \$250 per head to each country prepared to take them". Rassinier went on: "Britain and other democratic countries did not think fit to accept this solution. Nor did the international press at the time make any reference to this affair: it was reported only in the German press".

As I had never heard of any such thing, I wrote to Rassinier asking him to please state the date when the said report was published, also the name of any particular paper in which it had appeared. He replied referring me to the Ha'avarah Agreement between the Jewish Agency and the German Government in 1933. This, he said, contained an offer by Hitler to pay money to any country willing to receive German Jews; there had been plenty of comment on this, between 1933 and 1939, in the German though never once in the Western press.

He also referred me to the Evian Conference; at that time again, he claimed, nothing was published about the "offer" in the West but the German and Austrian press which he used to read regularly had carried reports. He had quoted "from memory", he said, since he did not keep press cuttings,

but I had only to look up any German paper, especially the *Völkischer Beobachter*, between 6 and 20 July 1938.

No great effort was required to debunk this nonsense. I explained to him briefly the character of the Ha'avarah Agreement which, being concerned entirely with emigration to Palestine, had nothing to do with any "offer of money to any country willing to accept German Jews"; it was a modified clearing arrangement designed to benefit both the German economy and the Palestine Jews. Since the Nazi leaders were not agreed about its merits, I don't think it was ever substantially mentioned in the German press, but it was of course discussed abroad: precisely the reverse of what Rassinier asserted. As for the equally irrelevant Conference of Evian which was reported by the Nazis (only to jeer at it), not a word was said at any time either in, before or after July 1938 that could be interpreted as bearing out the hare-brained allegations.

He came back with a story that the purpose of the Evian Conference was to extend the terms of the Ha'avarah Agreement to the whole world! Besides Hitler had reiterated his "offer" in December 1938 when Dr. Schacht took it to London! Not a shred of evidence, not even an attempt to produce it, but simply insolent repetition of arrant lies, red herrings and more lies. Those "Lies of Odysseus" were really his own lies.

Now I was beginning to get on his nerves. No, he could not supply chapter and verse; he repeated he had "quoted from memory". that must be enough; I could read it all up in a book by Israel Cohen and the Memoirs of Dr. Weizmann. Who was I anyway—he now adopted the tone of righteous indignation: "Don't expect me to inconvenience myself just to furnish you with those press cuttings. So far as I am concerned (he magisterially announced), the matter is closed. I am not the call-boy of those who ask me for references. You go and find out for yourself".

I did, as a matter of fact I had done so even before he so invited me, and I found that his "evidence" was not "from memory" but from imagination—an imagination closed to challenge and immune against scruple. Such is one of the star witnesses paraded before us by the defilers and corrupters of the story of the Holocaust. What the lesser stars may be like can safely be left to our imagination.

"A SPIRITUAL JEW"

Lord Ted Willis, author and TV scriptwriter, has just published a book, "The Lions of Judah", which he launched at a Zionist Federation meeting, at which he said: "If Israel were to perish, a light would go out of my life, and I would not want to survive, as life would not be worth living." He had been brought up as a Primitive Methodist in Tottenham, but he regarded himself as a "spiritual Jew". One of his private dreams was to live in Israel for a few months. His book was intended to show the courage of Jewish people in the guise of an adventure story. The original story had been told to him in 1967 by a Jewish woman living in Sweden. Her father, who had been deported from Berlin to a concentration camp, but survived, had met another former German Jew who had fought with the International Brigade in Spain and was captured by the Nazis. They had made him an offer that if he carried out a certain assignment for them, they would save the lives of 10,000 Jews. In the book, Goering himself offers a party of young Jews a bribe for the murder of leading nuclear scientists in America.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

GOETHE PRIZE FOR RAYMOND ARON

74-year-old French sociologist and historian Raymond Aron was this year's recipient of the Goethe Prize which is distributed every year on Goethe's birthday in Frankfurt's Paulskirche, one of the birthplaces of German democracy. This year there was a particularly festive atmosphere, as the Frankfurt Lord Mayor Wallmann honoured Mr. Aron in the presence of the president of the Federal Republic, Professor Carstens. The laudation was given by Professor Dr. Ralf Dahrendorf, German-born director of the London School of Economics, himself a Nazi persecutee. He stressed that many countries had honoured Aron who was a Frenchman and a Jew, but also a friend of Britain and of the United States; in the latter case it was a difficult friendship, where admiration and disappointment often clashed. In a way however, Germany was the country of Aron's destiny: Max Weber and Clausewitz had influenced him at least as much as Sartre and De Gaulle. Aron's criticism of Marxism had never been a criticism of his economic thinking, but it had opposed its claim to being the one and only line of thinking. Lord Mayor Wallmann thanked Aron for the humanitarian spirit in which he had worked for a reconciliation between the German and the French peoples, at a time when this must have been particularly difficult for him.

Raymond Aron comes from a Jewish family of Lorraine origin who, between 1930 and 1933, lectured at the universities of Cologne and Berlin. During the second world war, he was an air force officer who joined De Gaulle in London in 1940 and subsequently edited the Free French newspaper "La France Libre." After the war, he occupied the chair for sociology at Paris university and wrote several fundamental books, including one on the "Main Currents in Sociological Thought" which deals inter alia with the theories of Max Weber and Durkheim.

MAIDANEK TRIAL SENTENCES POSTPONED

After a duration of nearly four years, the last important camp trial, the Maidanek trial at Düsseldorf, is not as near conclusion as was expected. The Polish War Crimes Commission has just informed the Court that it is going to produce a number of new witnesses who are survivors of the camp. Apart from this, there are still another four witnesses in Poland, and three in the US, whose testimony cannot be heard before November.

PRISON SENTENCES FOR NEO-NAZIS

A West Berlin Court has sentenced 10 neo-Nazi activists to prison terms of up to three years for establishing a new Nazi Party. The presiding judge said that the sentences were intended to demonstrate to all incorrigible Nazis that the West German courts would not tolerate the rise of any version of Hitler's "gas chamber party".

In Bueckeberg, six neo-Nazis, aged between 22 and 42, were sent to prison for between four and 11 years for bank robbery, theft, incitement to racial hatred and disseminating Nazi propaganda. They had planned to attack a number of NATO and Federal Forces installations and to destroy the Belsen memorial.

A total of 292 neo-Nazi and antisemitic offences were committed in West Berlin during the first six months of 1979, compared with 99 during the same period last year, according to a police report.

APPLAUSE FOR "JUD SUESS"

When the Nazi film "Jud Süß" was shown as an introduction to a debate under the auspices of the Technical University Berlin and "Aktion Sühnezeichen", a number of Neo-Nazis applauded anti-Jewish scenes. During the ensuing discussion which had as its theme "Only the victims can forgive", and in which eminent scholars from W. Germany and from abroad took part, one of the young neo-Nazis said, the Talmud allowed the rape of three-year old children. He added that Germany was dominated now, as it had been before 1933, by Jews.

PLO TRAINED IN MOSCOW?

The German periodical "Der Spiegel" published an article by a Canadian journalist, who had interviewed a number of Palestinian defectors and prisoners. According to him, there are a number of training schools for PLO terrorists near Moscow, Tashkent, Odessa, and in the Crimea. One defector is said to have revealed that Arafat had always discussed terrorist attacks with the Russian Ambassador in Beirut, and that the Soviet Union supplied the PLO with arms, materials, and know-how.

CLUB 1943

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

- 5 November. Dr. Kurt Pflueger: "Die Entdeckung des alten Aegyptens".
- 12 November. Helen Meyer; Dr. E. F. Schumacher, author of "Small is beautiful". His life and works. Films and Discussions.
- 19 November. Gerald Holm: "Sir Thomas Beecham".
- 26 November. Adele Rosenbaum: "Kuenstler des 13. bis 20. Jahrhunderts sprechen ueber Kunst und Leben".
- 3 Dezember. Egon Larsen: "Der juedische Humor". Versuch einer Analyse.
- 10 Dezember. Rosalind Preston: "The contribution of the WIZO to the society of Israel".
- 17 Dezember. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Der Jude und die Umwelt" Zweiter Teil: "Vom Hausiererpack zum Nobelpreis. Die Ostjuden in Amerika".
- 24 Dezember. Kein Vortrag.
- 31 Dezember. Kein Vortrag.
- 7 Januar 1980. Lina Williams: "Wandlungen der deutschen Sprache seit dem Ersten Weltkrieg".

BERLIN BRIDGE NAMED AFTER JEW

A bridge in Berlin-Charlottenburg, near the Roman Catholic Maria Regina Martyrum Church, dedicated to the victims of National Socialism, has been called Siegmund-Weltlinger-Bridge in memory of Siegmund Weltlinger, a Jewish member of the town council who died in 1974. The bridge forms part of a district where streets are named after German resistance fighters, as it is situated near Plötzensee where many anti-Nazis were executed. Siegmund Weltlinger spent the war in hiding with his wife and was made representative for Jewish affairs in the provisional Greater Berlin Council of 1945. Since then he was active in public affairs as a member of the CDU Party. He was also a co-founder of the Council of Christians and Jews, and a member of the International League for Human Rights.

AWARD FOR ERNST CRAMER

Ernst J. Cramer, since 1971 managing director of the Axel Springer Society for Publicity, has been awarded the Federal Order of Merit 1st class for his work in the service of international reconciliation. After a spell in Buchenwald, Cramer emigrated to the United States in 1939, from where he returned as an American officer after the war to work first in the Military Government licensing department for press, radio and film, and later to become one of the leading journalists on the "Neue Zeitung". Cramer grew up as an active member of the Jewish Youth Movement and received an agricultural training at the Jewish Emigrants Training Farm of Gross-Breesen and has been active in many communal fields. He is a board member of the New York Leo Baeck Institute and a member of the committee of the Israelitische Krankenhaus in Hamburg. E.G.L.

CEMETERY DESECRATED

More than 100 tombstones were overturned and many severely damaged in the old Jewish cemetery at Steinbach near Kaiserslautern. The public prosecutor has offered a reward of DM 3,000 for information leading to the arrest of the people responsible.

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GERMAN-JEWISH PAST REMEMBERED

TRIBUTES TO MOSES MENDELSSOHN

The 250th anniversary of the birth of Moses Mendelssohn was remembered throughout West Germany. Berlin, the city of most of his activities, led the way with a splendid festive celebration, arranged by the reigning Lord Mayor in close collaboration with the Mendelssohn Society. Some 400 eminent visitors from the Federal Republic and from abroad heard Professor Alexander Altmann, the leading present-day authority on Mendelssohn, author of an authoritative biography and editor of the collected works and letters of the philosopher, discuss Mendelssohn's role in "Enlightenment and Culture". Professor Altmann pointed to the change that had taken place since, just 50 years ago, Leo Baeck had stressed the predominant position of German Jewry among the Jews of the world, the foundation for which had been laid by Mendelssohn. That period had ended, but it was to be noted with satisfaction that the new Germany has honoured the philosopher and has made 1979 a year of remembrance for Mendelssohn and his friend and fellow-fighter Lessing. They had both fought for a moral culture and unlimited tolerance towards all. When Mendelssohn died, he was mourned by the whole population, by Jews as well as Christians.

Dr. Cecile Lowenthal-Hensel, a descendant of the philosopher and founder as well as first chairman of the Mendelssohn Society, set up in Berlin in 1967, suggested that attempts should be made to transfer the spirit of Mendelssohn's humanity into our own days. She thanked the authorities for many acts of homage to Mendelssohn's memory: the Berlin Senate had inaugurated a Prize Foundation which will award DM 20 000 every two years to a personality, group, or institution which has significantly worked for the realisation of tolerance among men; the postal authorities have issued a special Mendelssohn stamp, and the Berlin State Library is showing a splendid exhibition "Moses Mendelssohn, Life and Work" with 150 publications, letters, documents, autographs and pictures, accompanied by a beautiful and scholarly catalogue.

Another exhibition under the heading: "I have acted reasonably—Moses Mendelssohn and the European Enlightenment", arranged by the Catholic Academy, Hamburg, and the Museum for Hamburg History, was followed by a conference, again opened by Professor Altmann.

The Mendelssohn Society, the Co-ordinating Council and the International Council of Christians and Jews sponsored a symposium and festive act under the auspices of the Wolfenbüttel Lessing Academy where Professor Dr. H. Levin Goldschmidt, Zurich, spoke on Mendelssohn's historical importance. A memorial plaque was unveiled on the Samson school building which had once housed a Jewish school. At a public meeting, Professor Dr. Katz, Jerusalem, discussed "Mendelssohn and his pupils in the field of religious criticism."

In Hanover, the Central Council of Jews in Germany held a conference, extending over several days, with "Youth and Culture" as its theme. During a symposium on "German Jewry and Jews in Germany", Rabbi Dr. Joachim Prinz (formerly Berlin, now Newark, N.J., US) discussed "The Hopes and the Tragedy of Emancipation."

Mendelssohn was also remembered in the German Democratic Republic. The Chairman of the East Berlin Jewish community, Dr. Peter Kirchner, laid a wreath on the memorial stone in Grosse Hamburger Strasse. In Mendelssohn's birth-place, the small town of Dessau, Professor Hartung of the Halle Martin-Luther University spoke during a memorial meeting, convened by the Lord Mayor, and a bust of the philosopher, created by the Halle sculptor Gerhart Geyer, was unveiled.

E.G.L.

TRIER HONOURS RABBI ALTMANN

The Lord Mayor of Trier, Dr. Carl-Ludwig Wagner, and the Chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews, Professor Dr. A. Havercamp, invited an impressive audience to a Memorial Meeting at the City's Great Guild Hall in honour of Trier's last Chief Rabbi Dr. Adolf Altmann on the occasion of the centenary of his birth. He died in Auschwitz in 1944 (cf. AJR Information, September issue). In his opening address, the Lord Mayor welcomed leading representatives of the City and Federal authorities and of the religious, political, and cultural life of West Germany. They included Dr. Bernhard Stein, Roman Catholic Bishop of Trier, Pastor Henke of the Protestant Church, Chief Rabbi Dr. Bouls, Luxemburg, who looks after the small present-day Jewish community, the President of the Province of Trier, Otto Theisan, members of the City Council, the president of the University, Professor Arnd Morke and the heads of Faculties, and representatives of the three political parties. Apart from the present members of the Jewish community, a number of former Trier Jews had been invited, and a special welcome was extended to Rabbi Altmann's sons, Professor Alexander Altmann and Dr. Manfred Altmann.

Dr. Wagner said that it was a matter of honour and of duty to the City which in 1957 had named a street after Adolf Altmann, to pay tribute to his memory and to express its pride in his long activities in Trier and its abhorrence of the crimes that put an end to them. Helped by expert his-

torians, he said, he had made a special study of Adolf Altmann's life. Professor Dr. Laufner, director of the City Archives, gave a survey of the history of the Jews in the city and county of Trier and mentioned the great scholarly contribution which Adolf Altmann's published research had made to the knowledge of that history.

Professor Alexander Altmann spoke of his father's life and work within the context of the social, national, cultural, and spiritual developments of European Jewry, and of the ideals and the faith which governed his life to the very end. The speaker wanted to extend the commemoration of his father to include all the victims of the Holocaust among the Jews of Trier and of Europe, and all other victims as well. After thanking the organisers, he expressed the hope that the meaning of this commemoration should express itself as an active resolution never again to allow evil forces to take over, but to build the future on the principle of Love. At the request of the Lord Mayor, the Altmann brothers then signed the Golden Book of the City. The commemoration was enhanced by songs and music performed by the well-known Von Spee Choir which had just returned from a Concert Tour of Israel. At an ensuing reception at the Communal Centre in the Synagogue, there was a re-union of many people who met again for the first time since their emigration. The Lord Mayor announced that the City will in due course publish a booklet containing the addresses given during the commemoration.

MAX LIEBERMANN EXHIBITION

A two months' exhibition of Max Liebermann's work and its background is being shown at the Berlin National Gallery. When it closes down, it will be transferred to the Munich "Haus der Kunst" (December 16). It contains 189 paintings and 327 drawings and prints. Some 80 public and private collections, including the New York Wildenstein Gallery and the Tel Aviv Museum, have sent contributions, and a magnificent catalogue, edited by Sigrid Achenbach and Matthias Eberle, reproduces on 688 pages all the exhibited works, many of them in colour. Apart from Liebermann's work, the exhibition contains paintings by artists who belonged to contemporary schools of painting and either influenced or antagonised him: the Barbizon school, the Munich Leibl circle, the Haag school, fellow impressionists, and the Berlin Secession group. In the preface to the catalogue, Dr. Honich, director of the Berlin National Gallery, regrets that this important painter is almost forgotten today, notwithstanding the fact, that even before the turn of the century he supported French Impressionism which he opposed to the bathos of the "Gründerzeit", that he encountered radicalism in the Weimar Republic with scepticism and that he was irrevocably opposed to anything Nazism stood for. In a chronological survey, Liebermann is seen against the background of his time (1847-1935) and the political and economical as well as technical and artistic developments which he witnessed. The bibliography contains one chapter "Liebermann the Jew".

E.G.L.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

ROBERT KEMPNER, 80

On October 19, Professor Dr. Robert M. W. Kempner celebrated his 80th birthday in Frankfurt. He was born in Freiburg, but grew up in Berlin, the son of a general practitioner father and of a bacteriologist mother who was the first woman university teacher in Prussia. Until the advent of Nazism, he was legal counsel in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, lecturer at the Berlin College for Politics, and a contributor to the "Vossische Zeitung" and other leading German papers. He emigrated to the United States and became a professor at the University of Philadelphia, but returned to Germany in 1945 to become deputy chief prosecuting counsel at the Nuremberg trials. In 1951, he settled in Frankfurt as a lawyer, but the greater part of his time was devoted to writing. He has published a number of books on Nazi crimes and on legal aspects of prosecuting their perpetrators, and he has been involved in many controversies in newspapers and learned journals. He is well-known far beyond the borders of the Federal Republic for his attacks on right-wing extremists, his research into the background of the Reichstag fire, and his campaign for bringing the members of the Nazi Peoples' Courts to justice. Many orders and awards were given to him: he holds the starred Great Federal Service Cross, the Silver Medal of Prague University, and the Carl von Ossietzki Medal of the International League for Human Rights. He is also an honorary member of the Hebrew University. All these honours were bestowed on a man whose vigorous fight for the ideals of justice and human rights belies his 80 years. May he long be able to continue it! E.G.L.

MRS. ROSE BERLIN 80

On November 27, Mrs. Rose Berlin will celebrate her 80th birthday. Like her late husband, Dr. Walter Berlin, a lawyer and courageous fighter for Jewry in Streicher's Nuernberg, she has been associated with Jewish activities throughout her life. When the family came to this country, they both bravely adjusted their lives to the changed circumstances during the initial period. They also took part in the work of the AJR from its inception. Yet the contacts with Rose Berlin became particularly close and intense, when in 1955 Otto Schiff House, the first of the Homes established with the funds derived from the heirless Jewish property in Germany, came into being. She served on the House Committee as a member and, after the resignation of the late Mr. H. Blumenau, became its chairman in 1967. She gave up her post in 1970 but still pays visits to the Home and takes an interest in its work. Her services to the Otto Schiff House were outstanding. She not only gave guidance in questions of general policy and smoothed out difficulties but also lent a hand whenever there was a shortage of staff. It is this unassuming sense of duty, which particularly endeared her to her fellow workers. Even now, when she can take things easier, she does some voluntary work at the Middlesex Hospital. As a Board member of the AJR, she keeps herself abreast with the development of the organisation, which has undergone many changes since its inception but has remained as strong as before. A personality with widespread interests and of unreserved sincerity, Rose Berlin has a wide circle of friends. With feelings of gratitude and affection we join them in wishing her many happy returns of the day. W. R.

Mrs. ILSE JOSEPH, MBE, 80

For many years, AJR Information has followed the amazing career of Mrs. Ilse Joseph of Hessel, Wirral, Merseyside, who will be 80 on November 19. She was born in Berlin as the daughter of a well-to-do textile manufacturer. At the age of 12, she attended a concert by young Yasha Heifetz and decided that she wanted to be a concert violinist, too. Her parents reluctantly allowed her to study at the Berlin Conservatoire, and she soon played in concert halls and on the Deutschlandsender radio. She married an architect and had two daughters with whom she escaped to Holland after Hitler's advent to power. From there she managed to reach London with her sec-

ond husband in April 1940. Her children and two step-children were to follow, but events moved too fast, they remained behind. It was not until she visited Israel after her husband's death in 1965 that she learned about their fate at the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. They had perished at Auschwitz on Yom Kippur 1942. It was the turning point in her life, and the beginning of her unique mission for peace.

During the war, she had played to thousands of soldiers in many places, now she decided to commemorate her children by playing to people all over the world, and significantly also in Germany, and to use the good will created by her artistic skill to promote reconciliation and peace. The Kol Nidrei became her signature tune. She has played in churches and synagogues, in large conference halls and in old age homes in this country, in Germany, and in the last few years, in Ireland with conspicuous success. All the fees went to good causes, to a great extent to the Save the Children Fund and Youth Aliyah, but also to the children of Ireland where she addressed 14 peace groups, gave interviews on radio and TV and was received by the Lord Mayor of Belfast.

She has donated a memorial window, depicting four ears of corn rising from stony ground to reach the intertwined words of "Love" and "Peace" to the Liverpool Progressive Synagogue, to which she belongs. The Dedication Service was conducted by the Jewish minister Rev. Norman Zalud, and by William W. Simpson, general secretary of the International Council of Christians and Jews. Last year, she gave a party for more than 1,000 children at Elizabeth House, the largest Save the Children Fund Centre in Britain and presented and unveiled a brass plaque in memory of her children. The proceeds of the sale of over 10,000 records she made of the Kol Nidrei and of Church Music, have also gone to the Save The Children Fund and Youth Aliyah.

Unfortunately, failing eyesight has forced her to reduce her activities, but as an expression of her gratitude to this country, she donated her 200-year-old Dalla Case violin to the Royal Academy of Music as the basis for an Ilse Joseph Prize for promising young artists who will be able to use it for several years. The RAM gave a reception in her honour for the presentation. The instrument has been valued at over £10,000.

Over the years Mrs. Joseph has often appeared on radio and TV, and a documentary about her life is at present being prepared by BBC Radio 4, London. At the Belsize Square Synagogue, there will be a special Kiddush for her on the Saturday after her birthday.

Mrs. Joseph has received many awards in recognition of her work among them the MBE, but to her, the greatest reward for her tireless and inspiring work for peace has been the response of many thousands of people whose life has been made richer and better by her. We wish her health and strength to remain for many more years the "Lady of Peace" as her admirers have called her. M.P.

RETIREMENT OF MEDICAL OFFICERS

Whenever an instance of retirement arises, it evokes sad feelings both for those who lose the co-operation of trusted friends and those who give up the work for a cause to which they feel deeply attached. This general experience particularly applies to the recent retirement of the medical officers of the Homes, Dr. P. Goldscheider and Dr. F. L. Newman. Both were associated with the Homes from their inception. Dr. Goldscheider was the medical officer of Otto Schiff House, established in 1955, and for nine years, from 1962 to 1971, also in charge of Osmond House. Dr. Newman looked after the residents of Leo Baeck House (founded in 1958) and Heinrich Stahl House (founded in 1962).

It is only natural that the care for the elderly residents considerably exceeds the average for a G.P., not only because the residents need more care more frequently but also because emergency calls are the rule of the day—and the night. Thus, both doctors could often be seen in the Homes at so-called unsocial hours. Their responsibility also included the medical examination of applicants, which is no easy task either. Yet though sometimes applicants could not be considered as eligible because they required more facilities than the Home can provide, as a rule the doctors' understanding for the plight of their elderly fellow refugees resulted in affirmative decisions.

In their work, both Dr. Goldscheider and Dr. Newman were not only motivated by professional considerations. The name of Dr. Baeck and all it stands for means very much for Dr. Newman, who already knew the family in his former Berlin days. Dr. Goldscheider has outside interests in the fields of painting and music, and his human wisdom is also reflected in his correspondence with the German-Jewish poetess Else Lasker-Schueler, which is included in the post-war publication of her letters.

In the course of more than two decades, hundreds of residents of the Homes have benefited from the care taken of them by Dr. Goldscheider and Dr. Newman. Equally, the staff of the Homes and the committees connected with their administration will miss them very much. Yet though the day-to-day contacts have now come to an end, we hope that our friends will not lose touch with the Homes but will come to special functions and also put their long experience at our disposal and allow us to consult them if necessary.

The medical officers who succeed them form the group practice Dr. J. S. Freund, Dr. J. H. R. Brook and Dr. M. Angeloglou. We feel confident that they are well able to take over this onerous and valuable task and look forward to an equally long and fruitful period of co-operation with them. W. R.

CORRECTION

In our September issue (page 2) we referred to an East-Berlin publication about Moses Mendelssohn. The name of the author is Heinz Knobloch (not Knoblauch) and the book is published by "Der Morgen", not by the "Aufbau" Verlag.

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A LITERATURE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS

The Stuttgart publishing house of Metzler has long enjoyed a distinguished reputation for the high quality of the small *Handbuecher* which it devotes to literary and linguistic topics. One of the latest, an introduction to Yiddish literature,* provides German readers with an excellent survey of a field with which most of the world is unfamiliar. Its authors manage to present a mass of information in a concise and easily digestible form. As an introduction, their work undoubtedly gains from the fact that it is largely a distillation of two far more extensive works, Dinse's *Die Entwicklung des jiddischen Schrifttums im deutschen Sprachgebiet* and Liptzin's *History of Yiddish literature*.

The fact that the book is based on two works by different authors reflects a basic feature of the subject: that there is not one Yiddish literature but two—an older, predominantly Western European one which came to an end with the Enlightenment and a newer, Eastern European one which only came into existence in the nineteenth century. That there is virtually no connection between the two is only one curious aspect of a particularly intriguing history.

Just when Ashkenazi Jews began to commit their vernacular to writing is a matter for conjecture since hardly any manuscripts antedate the fifteenth century and few even antedate the sixteenth. Nevertheless, it is generally believed that many of the manuscripts which have survived are not the first of their kind but are based on earlier models. Two fairly recent discoveries seem to bear this out. The first is the oldest Yiddish sentence known, a two-line verse written inside the ornamental Hebrew lettering of a thirteenth-century *Machzor*. The second is a collection of poems written down towards the end of the fourteenth century which was found in the Cairo Genizah.

The Genizah poems have engaged the attention of both Yiddishists and Germanists ever since they were first published nearly a generation ago. They consist of *Dukus Horant*, an epic poem belonging to the Middle High German Gudrun cycle and a collection of shorter poems on Jewish topics written in the same mediaeval poetic style. What they confirm is that the secular literature of the period, particularly *Spielmannsdichtung*, was as popular in some Jewish circles as it was among Gentiles. Jewish *Spielmaenner* must have entertained their audiences in much the same way as their Christian counterparts did, drawing on the same stock of oral poetry (usually modifying it slightly for Jewish tastes) and adding their own contributions in the same literary style.

This secular poetry represents one end of the early Yiddish literary spectrum. At the other end, one finds word-for-word translations of biblical texts intended as translation aids and devotional works, many of them translations or adaptations of Hebrew originals, intended for the use of those whose command of Hebrew was inadequate, especially women. It is in the area between the two that one encounters some of the most interesting examples of cultural cross-fertilization. There are, for example, collections of folk-tales which blend elements from Jewish and non-Jewish sources and a whole series of rhymed paraphrases of books of the Bible, works which could only

*Helmut Dinse/Sol Liptzin: *Einfuehrung in die jiddische Literatur*. Stuttgart, Metzler, 1978. (Sammlung Metzler, 165.)

have been written by authors who combined an extensive Jewish knowledge with a mastery of contemporary German poetic styles.

Clearly many manuscripts have been lost. However, if Yiddish libraries existed at all before the invention of printing they must have been extremely small and, more often than not, owned by wealthy women, wealthy because manuscripts were expensive to reproduce and women because men with any command of Hebrew would tend to consider vernacular texts beneath them. Poorer Jews probably had to be content with oral transmission.

This began to change towards the end of the sixteenth century, a period which saw the development of printing houses specializing in the production of cheap books which catered to the more diverse needs of a mass market. Distribution was unsophisticated but effective: Jewish book pedlars (*sefrimtreger*) would carry their wares from one end of the Ashkenazi world to the other.

Although the main centres of Yiddish book production after the middle of the seventeenth century were in the West—in Germany and in Amsterdam—Yiddish literature in this part of Europe seems to have been an early casualty of the Haskalah. It is, in fact, rather remarkable that, although spoken Yiddish showed some tenacity, written Yiddish was largely unable to withstand the disapproval and ridicule of Mendelssohn and his successors. Significantly enough, the last few works in the Yiddish of Germany are all comedies, and among the very last of all one finds the antisemitic parodies of von Holzschuher, a Bavarian *Freiherr* who wrote under the pseudonym of Itzig Veitel Stern. An ignominious end indeed.

It was just this period which saw the beginning of modern Yiddish literature in Eastern Europe. The Hassidim were the first to recognize the value of Yiddish as a means of reaching the mass of the Jewish population, and it seems that many of the Maskilim began to write in the language in order to counteract Hassidic influence. Some of them used it with a certain amount of distaste, regarding it as a necessary stop-gap, and cultivated an artificial, Germanized style. Nevertheless, it is to them that we owe the earliest examples of modern Yiddish belles-lettres.

It was not, however, until the 1860s that Yiddish began to move from its marginal position towards the centre of the literary stage. In 1862, the editor of *Hamelits*, a Hebrew weekly, was persuaded to publish a Yiddish supplement entitled *Kol-mevaser* which provided Yiddish writers with their first real literary vehicle. Mendele Moykher-Sforim's first Yiddish work was published in its pages in 1863, to be followed by other works which have since become classics.

What Professor Liptzin calls the classical period of Yiddish literature begins in the 1880s, when Sholem Aleichem and Perets both began to write in Yiddish, and ends during the First World War with the deaths of the three "founding fathers" within a few years of one another.

The battle for literary acceptance was a long, uphill one. Indeed, some would maintain that it was never really won. Yiddish literature was

forced to fight on two fronts, against the claims of modern Hebrew literature on the one hand and against those of local non-Jewish languages on the other. It is, in fact, striking to find that a substantial number of Yiddish writers also wrote in other languages, especially in Hebrew, Russian or Polish. Usually they changed to Yiddish early in their careers as a result of a conscious ideological decision. This may have been a source of strength, but it also reflected a weakness, since a literature which cannot take itself for granted is always at something of a disadvantage.

Surely no literature has a more tragic history. Reading Professor Liptzin's short biographical sketches, one is struck by the fact that hardly any of the writers who spent their entire lives in a single country died natural deaths. Most of those who did not die during the Holocaust were the victims of Stalin's purges. The majority of the remainder led anything but settled lives. Some began their careers in one country and ended them in a second, but a surprising number moved from country to country throughout their lives. This mobility can only be partially explained by external political factors. It also seems to reflect an inner restlessness which is worth analysing. Significantly, several spent a number of years in Palestine in the 1920s and 1930s but left again. Others finally settled in Israel and died there. This reflects attitudes which the ideology of the Yishuv makes it easy to understand. Before the establishment of Israel, Yiddish, the mother tongue of most immigrants, was the only language which ever posed a threat to Hebrew. As a result, it was the object of considerable hostility, a hostility which even took a physical form on occasion. After the destruction of European Jewry and the establishment of Israel, however, the Yishuv showed itself to be more generous. In 1949, the Histadrut launched what has become the leading Yiddish journal in the world and in 1951 the Hebrew University belatedly established a chair of Yiddish. Today, Israel is the world's most important centre of Yiddish writing and publishing.

Another tragic aspect of modern Yiddish literature is its short life. Mendele was born in 1836. The youngest writer mentioned in Liptzin's survey was born in 1925. In other words, Yiddish literature is little more than a three-generation phenomenon. Indeed, one could even call it a predominantly one-generation phenomenon, since well over 200 of the 300 writers mentioned were born between 1880 and 1914.

Under the circumstances, the fact that it produced any major writers at all is a truly significant achievement. Nevertheless, viewed historically, it is tempting to characterize it as a literature which never really had a chance. For most of its existence, it was condemned to live in the interstices of Jewish life, much as the first Yiddish sentence lives in the interstices of a few Hebrew letters. In the modern period, it was condemned to be a transitional phenomenon, to be superseded by Hebrew on the one hand and literature in non-Jewish languages on the other. One should not, however, bury it too soon, since many literatures survive and continue to exert an influence even when the languages in which they are written are no longer spoken. Perhaps the fact that last year's Nobel prize for literature was given to one of the last major Yiddish writers is a hopeful sign.

*Helmut Dinse/Sol Liptzin: *Einfuehrung in die jiddische Literatur*. Stuttgart, Metzler, 1978. (Sammlung Metzler, 165.)

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IN MEMORIAM

EUGENE WILLS

Mr. Eugene Wills died in London on September 7 at the age of 83. In Germany, he had distinguished himself by his concern and work for the under-privileged and was, in young years, elected Honorary Chairman of the Municipal Welfare Department of the Berlin-Kreuzberg district.

He came to England in 1938, followed some months later by his wife and daughter. Notwithstanding the difficulties of establishing himself in this country, he immediately participated in efforts to save Jewish children from Germany and Austria. After the war, he joined the Leo Baeck (London) Lodge and at once took an active part in its welfare work. For many years, he was Chairman of the Lodge's Welfare Committee and in this capacity established an excellent co-operation with the AJR, the Jewish Welfare Board and other welfare organisations. In recognition of his outstanding services, the Lodge made him an Honorary Life Member of its Council.

Eugene Wills also took a prominent part in founding, together with his wife, Dr. Vally Wills, the Leo Baeck Centre for the Over-Sixties and assisted in its management. He was also a founder member of the B'nai B'rith Surrey Lodge and one of its first Presidents. The AJR has lost an interested member; his wife is a member of our Board.

A man of the best German-Jewish tradition, driven by a desire to serve the common good, has passed away. All who knew him will share in the deep sense of loss felt by his widow, his daughter and his granddaughter.

F.E.F.

REV. ISSAAC LIVINGSTONE

For many refugees, the Rev. I. Livingstone, who has died at the Hampstead Hospital, aged 94, was the first English minister they met: he was the rabbi and "father" of the Golders Green Synagogue from its foundation in 1916 until he retired in 1953. In 1916, it had 30 members, in 1953, over a thousand. He was a minister of the old school who was not only an inspiring preacher and Torah scholar, but who also took a deep interest in the lives of the members of his congregation and was available for advice and comfort to all who asked for it. His first job had been that of a chaplain with the Forces at Aldershot, to which he was appointed at the age of 22. Throughout his life, he was active in the service of the Jewish and of the general community. He was the Chief Rabbi's representative on a number of public bodies, including the London Churches Group, chairman of the Central Jewish Lecture Committee of the Board of Deputies whose work aimed at disseminating

Jewish teaching and fostering harmonious relations between Christians and Jews, and a member of the British Churches Housing Trust, the Council of Social Service and the Council of Christians and Jews. He continued to preach at his old synagogue on his birthday every year. His successor at Golders Green, Rabbi Jonathan Sachs, said of him: "He was the synagogue. Not only did he found it, but his whole presence hung over it after his retirement and will continue to do so for ever." He was also a very popular speaker at many gatherings such as Rotary Clubs, church associations and other organisations who wanted information on Judaism and the Jewish way of life.

RUDI H. GOLDE

With the death of Rudi Golde on September 20 1979 our community has lost a man of great character and outstanding ability.

Born in Berlin where he studied electrical engineering, he came to Great Britain in 1935 to join "The British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association" as a scientist and later became Deputy Director and Head of his section. When he retired in 1969 at the age of 65, he continued to devote much of his time to the study of Lightning Discharge and its effects on electrical supply systems, telephone systems, buildings, ships and aircraft. In this complex and highly specialised field he was an authority of international standing whose many publications and lectures have become accepted as standard works of fundamental importance. Soon after the war the result of his studies and writings led to the award of a PhD by Queen Mary College of London University, to be followed a few years later by the award of an honorary DSc.

Up to the end, he was in great demand to advise, to partake and to lecture on his special field of electrical science. A devoted husband and family man, their house was a regular meeting place for the large number of friends and acquaintances who appreciated the cultured atmosphere, by which it excelled.

Staunchly Jewish and open-mindedly liberal, he was a founder member of the Wembley and District Liberal Synagogue, to which he rendered services as a Treasurer and Chairman of the Membership Committee and which later elected him Vice-President. He was a Council Member of the Leo Baeck College and a member of the AJR.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Grete and to the family. Rudi Golde will be gratefully remembered by the very many who loved and admired him.

L.S.

Dr. GERHARD SCHMIDT

Dr. Gerhard Schmidt died in New York at the age of 77. In Berlin, he was from 1928/38 a junior partner of the well-known firm of real estate brokers, Israel Schmidt Soehne, which was founded by his grandfather in 1873. In 1939, he emigrated to England and from there, in 1944, to the US. He was first a lecturer and, from 1966, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, which appointed him an Ordinary Professor in 1970. He was also a fellow of the Accademia Tiberiana (Rome) in 1967.

E.G.L.

Dr. FRANK ROSENTHAL

Dr. Frank (Franz) Rosenthal, the last Rabbi of the pre-war community of Mannheim, died in Chicago, 68 years old. He was born in Beuthen and active in the German-Jewish youth movement "Der Ring". He studied at the Breslau Jewish Theological Seminary and the Friedrich Wilhelms University, where he was one of the last Jewish students who received a doctoral degree. After his emigration, Dr. Rosenthal held several rabbinical offices in the US until, in 1956, he became Rabbi of a widely recognised congregation in Chicago. At the invitation of the Federal Government, he visited schools and other educational institutions in Germany in 1966, and he also received youth groups from Germany in Chicago.

E.G.L.

Letters to the Editor

SIR OTTO KAHN-FREUND

Sir,—As a student of Sir Otto Kahn-Freund in the late Thirties I was deeply grieved to read the news of his death in AJR Information (October 1979); Sir Otto's deep understanding of both the common law and continental legal systems greatly helped the few of us who tried to continue their legal careers after they came to this country to grasp and understand the differences in the approach by both legal systems. His vast knowledge and his unending human interest in his students, his great sense of humour and his intrinsic modesty will not be forgotten.

F. HELLENDALL

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FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

BUCKLEY.—Mr. Leo Buckley of 45 Belvedere Court, London, N.2, will celebrate his 85th birthday on November 13.

GRUNEWALD.—Mr. H. Grunewald of 5 Dover Road, Branksome Park, Poole, will celebrate his 85th birthday on November 11.

Deaths

GLATTER.—Lilly Glatter of 10 Topiary Square, Stanmore Road, Richmond, Surrey, passed away on September 26 after a short illness. Deeply mourned by her husband Paul, her sons Ronald and Peter, her daughter-in-law Edith and her grandchildren Jacqueline and Annette.

HAAS.—Mrs Hansi Haas, aged 84, died peacefully on October 1. Deeply mourned by her children, grandchildren and devoted friends.

MICHEL.—Erwin Ismar Michel died peacefully on Jom Kippur in his 88th year. Deeply mourned by his family, relatives and friends.

POLLAK.—Fay Grove Pollak (née Fanny Hauser) died peacefully after a long illness on September 3 in Tel-Aviv. She got many refugees out of Germany through her forceful efforts and her great heart.

SANDER.—Max Sander, London, N.W.2, passed away peacefully on October 13, sadly missed by his wife, son, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and great-granddaughter and many friends.

ZIFFER.—Margarete Ziffer died peacefully on September 2 in Osmond House. Fondly remembered by her friends.

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Miscellaneous

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KATZENSTEIN.—The names and addresses of the daughters of the late Dr. Willy Katzenstein, formerly Bielefeld, Marianne and Eva (now married), are wanted in connection with a collection of material about former Deputies of the Westfalian Provinziallandtag. Any information to be sent to this Office.

KRAFFT.—Information about the late lawyer, Dr. Ludwig Krafft, born November 4, 1889 in Vienna who is supposed to have died in Britain, wanted for enquirer in Vienna. Replies to AJR Office.

Personal Enquiries

LACHMAN-ENGEL.—Would anybody who knows the whereabouts of Traudi Lachman (née Engel) who emigrated from Vienna to London in 1938 please get in touch with Mrs. H. Fried, 18 Dawlish Drive, Pinner, Middx.

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THE SURVIVOR SYNDROME

Last month, the Institute of Group Analysis and the Group Analytic Society, London, organised an International Conference to study the nature of major social traumas and their consequences. A whole day was devoted to the discussion of the "Survivor Syndrome", i.e., the disturbances of people who have survived concentration camps or catastrophes like Hiroshima and Aberfan. Psychiatrists in Israel have long been acquainted with such occurrences, and there is in Israel a special Institute for the Study of Social Trauma which sent representatives to the conference. Some weeks earlier, BBC4 broadcast a report on the problem by Gill Pyrah which demonstrated that the problem is now widely recognised in many countries. At the time, Sam Davidson, director of the Israeli Institute, said that the problem did not only exist for the survivors themselves, but also for their children, because parents put an intense burden of expectation on their children through whom they tried to re-live their lives. He often had to treat children of over-protective parents who are trying to leave home, but feel they cannot leave parents whose whole lives depend on them. In the majority of cases, survivors break down after a long period—often after 30 years, because after retirement, they suddenly find time to dwell on the

past—often losing track of the present. Rabbi Hugo Gryn, senior rabbi of the West London Synagogue, said the mistake that had been made immediately after the liberation of the survivors, was that their physical needs were attended to, but not their emotional and spiritual needs. Many survivors had increasing guilt-feelings for the mere fact of their survival, but those who looked for treatment, often found that no connection was made between their symptoms and their camp experience.

Red Cross workers and other social agencies have often found that up to this day, there are survivors terrified of filling up forms or getting on a train or car, in case it took them back to the camps. It took two years of regular visits to persuade one old man to leave his house and go on holiday. He believed the Red Cross had booked him into a concentration camp.

At the conference, Dr. R. J. Lipton, professor of psychiatry at Yale University, said one of the causes for the "30-year embargo" on the Holocaust was that "we know in some corner of our psyches that such catastrophes may recur". He also described the psychic numbing of the survivors—their diminished capacity to feel. "It seems that one had to undergo considerable numbing to sur-

vive, but if one had too much, one became like 'walking dead' in the camps. . . . The survivor has death indelibly stamped on his mind. However, the graves are missing—one does not have the accoutrements of mourning which are so important. . . . Witnessing other people's death gave one a responsibility for the death. It should be the perpetrators who feel guilty, but very often survivors feel guilty, too."

SEARCHING FOR ROOTS

Mr. Jeremy Langford, a young Londoner working with the Yeshivat Kol Yehuda, the Jerusalem Research Centre for Cabala, said, during a lecture tour in Britain, that the Centre was helping people of all ages, between 16 and 80, who were looking for an answer in their search for roots. Many young Israelis are desperately looking for such an answer in other cults and religions and joining one of the numerous cults and sects which are advertising their activities. Israel has the highest proportion of people in the world practising transcendental meditation, and over half of the Maharishi's followers are Jews. Many others are joining eastern religions or the cults of Gurdjeff and Ouspensky. A great number of these people are disappointed and turn to the Cabala Centre which has suddenly found the numbers of its students rising from some 60 to about 600. It was founded in 1922 by Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag and is now run by Rabbi Dr. Shrago Berg and stresses, in a philosophical manner, the study and the deeper aspects of Torah.

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MISCELLANEOUS

AROUND THE GALLERIES

London and Leicester

An exhibition of sculptures by Edith Greenwood, born in Frankfurt, has just finished at the Camden Arts Centre. The present exhibition, until November 25, is devoted to Enid Marx and Christopher Dresser.

Enid Marx is a second cousin, thrice removed, of Karl Marx, but the political philosophy of her illustrious kinsman is not reflected in her work. By profession she is a designer, and the exhibition contains outstanding examples of her textile designs and her graphic work, including book covers and illustrations, postage stamps, posters, etc. Particularly interesting are her designs for the covers of King Penguins and also for the cover of a book on Dürer published by the Insel Verlag. The exhibition also contains a comprehensive selection of work in silver, pottery, glass and furniture by the designer Christopher Dresser (1834-1904).

The Leicestershire Museums and Art Galleries has an important collection of German Expressionist Art which is now on permanent display. The origin of the collection arose from the appointment of the late Hans Hess as Assistant Keeper of Art in 1944. His father, Alfred Hess, had been an outstanding collector in the days of the Weimar Republic and the family home in Erfurt was a place of pilgrimage for leading artists and musicians. Some of the works in the Leicester collection, including a Feininger, Nolde and Pechstein, originally belonged to the Hess family. The collection was, however, greatly enriched by Dr. Rosa Schapire (1874-1954), an art historian and "passive" member of *Die Brücke*. Born in Brody on the Austrian-Polish border, she came to England in 1939 with her large collection

of works by Schmidt-Rottluff which she eventually bequeathed to the Museum.

For those who may find it difficult to visit Leicester to see this exhibition, there is a scholarly, well-illustrated and finely produced catalogue "The Expressionist Revolution in German Art 1871-1933" prepared by Barry Herbert and Alisdair Hinshelwood. It is obtainable from the Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries & Records Service, 96 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TD.

A selection of David Bomberg's later work was on show until 28 October at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. This was a despairing period in his life, but no one can fail to appreciate the massive quality and lucidity of these works. It is a pity that only now has his work attained the public recognition that it so richly deserves and which he so dearly wanted.

ALICE SCHWAB.

GOLDEN BOOK ENTRY

Dr. and Mrs. Mac Goldsmith of Leicester have had their names inscribed in the Jewish National Fund Golden Book in appreciation of their devoted work for the European Maccabi Games in Leicester.

DAVID'S CITY FOUND

Israeli archaeologists have discovered the site of King David's Biblical capital, established in Jerusalem 3,000 years ago. In the second season of excavations by the Society for the Excavation, Restoration, and Preservation of the City of David, led by Dr. Yigal Shiloh of the Hebrew University, and financed mainly by the Rothschild family, stone structures and pieces of pottery were found near the Kidron valley, south of the Temple Mount. About 600 volunteers from all over the world helped the work in fortnightly stints, and an equal number are expected for the next three

summers. The aim is to piece together day-to-day life in Jerusalem during the periods of the first and second temples. The Rothschilds bought the land earlier this century to try and discover more of the city's history.

BEGIN'S BOOK BANNED

"White Nights", Mr. Menachem Begin's book on his Soviet internment in 1940 and 1941, was banned by customs officials, when it was sent over for the Moscow international book fair, together with about three dozen other books published in America. Mr. Alexander Hoffmann, chairman of the Association of American publishers, and Mr. Sjoegren, president of the International Publishers' Association, protested against the Russian authorities' refusal to issue visas to Mr. Robert Bernstein, chairman of Random House in New York, 14 Israeli publishers and a group of South Korean publishers to attend the Fair. Mr. Stukalin, chairman of the Fair's organising committee, said they had only banned books which spread propaganda for Fascism, war or racialism, or were anti-Soviet. A director of the Fair said Mr. Begin's book was not conducive to friendly international relations and would outrage the national dignity of the Arab nations.

HEBREW GUIDE FOR MUNICH

The city of Munich which attracts many visitors from Israel, has published a town plan and 18-page guidebook in Hebrew.

NEW RABBI FOR BERNE

Mr. Marcel Marcus has been nominated Rabbi of the Berne Jewish community which is unique in combining all shades of Jewish belief. He is a graduate of the London Leo Baeck College and was at one time assistant to Rabbi Louis Jacobs of the New London Synagogue, and later the first rabbi of the Newcastle Reform synagogue. His parents live in Berlin.

THEATRE AND CULTURE

Our friend S.B. is on holiday. His column will be resumed next month.

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