

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Fritz Friedlaender (Melbourne)

## MOSES MENDELSSOHN

Two hundred and fiftieth Anniversary

*The story of Moses Mendelssohn is one of the most important landmarks of this epoch—Heinrich Heine.*

One day in 1777, a middle-aged hunchbacked Jew humbly took a seat at the back of a lecture-room in Königsberg University. Some of the students noted his presence only to mock him. He ignored their ridicule and they fell silent when the lecturer, Immanuel Kant, entered. Catching sight of the solitary figure at the end of the hall, Kant left the platform, cordially welcomed the stranger and led him to a front seat. The young men, ashamed of their conduct, whispered amongst themselves, "That is Moses Mendelssohn, the famous philosopher from Berlin". When Kant and Mendelssohn left, the students stood up as a mark of respect.

Although Moses Mendelssohn was then at the pinnacle of his fame and influence, he had had a hard struggle. Born in Dessau on September 6 1729, he had arrived in Berlin in 1743, a poor, weakly, misshapen lad, but driven by an iron will to learn and to advance his education. At first he earned a scanty living as a tutor, and then became a clerk in Isaac Bernhard's silk factory. On his employer's death, Moses and Bernhard's widow took charge of the business. He proved a conscientious manager, though he suffered from the burden of these duties. Nevertheless he developed into a most prolific and successful writer, for his frailty of body was counterbalanced by a brilliant mind and a strong character.

Besides Mendelssohn's excellent grounding in Hebrew, his command of Latin and even more of German enabled him to become a master of German prose whose stylistic elegance was admired by Kant. His happy marriage to Fromet Guggenheim was a source of strength to him: they had nine children and, although three died young, six survived their father.

Time and circumstance favoured Moses Mendelssohn. In his days Prussia, under Frederick the Great, became a strong European power and her capital Berlin a centre of the Age of Enlightenment. It was there that Mendelssohn's thinking was decisively shaped by the man of genius Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. The two enjoyed a firm and harmonious friendship, which lasted until Lessing's death in 1781. The author of "Nathan der Weise" was Mendelssohn's idol, while he himself was described by Lessing as "the brightest mind, the most excellent philosopher, the best literary critic of our century".

Friedrich Nicolai, a publisher endowed with a spirit of enterprise and himself a talented writer, was friendly with both men. In co-operation with Lessing and Nicolai, Moses Mendelssohn made his name as a leading literary critic and the author of an influential aesthetic theory, which put beauty at the service of morality.

In 1763, the Prussian Academy of Science preferred Mendelssohn's prize essay, "Ueber die Evidenz in den metaphysischen Wissenschaften", to that of Kant. However, Frederick the Great failed to ratify the choice of Mendelssohn as a member of the Academy in 1771. Contrary to legend, the King and the philosopher never met. But Luise Ulrike, Frederick's sister, was under Mendelssohn's tuition in 1774, and Minister von Zedlitz sought his advice in academic matters.

Widespread resentment was caused by the King's treatment of a Jewish thinker already celebrated as the "German Socrates". Mendelssohn's first book, "Philosophische Gespräche" (1755), had been followed by his magnum opus "Phaedon" (1767) which, following Plato, expressed a belief in the immortality of the soul based on the principle of the continuity of nature; as to the purpose of life, man, wrote Mendelssohn, must strive for moral perfection and harmony of the soul.

"Phaedon" was translated into many languages and made its author famous throughout Europe. Herder stressed its importance for mankind, society, state and philosophy, and, when Mendelssohn fell seriously ill in December 1771, lamented that with him Germany would lose a mind in the forefront of aesthetic and philosophic thought.

## Out of the Ghetto

Moses Mendelssohn was always ready to use his influence and reputation in the interests of his fellow Jews, intervening on behalf of all troubled Jewish communities who sought his help. At his suggestion, Christian Wilhelm von Dohm wrote "Ueber die bürgerliche Verbesserung der Juden" (1781), a treatise which caused considerable stir, since it was the first time that a high Prussian official had advocated emancipation of the Jews.

Above all, Mendelssohn led Western Jewry from the ghetto into the realm of Western civilisation. Here, his translation into German of the Pentateuch and the Psalms (1770-1793) was epoch-making: through it the German Jews became familiar with the German language. He realised that his people could not remain in the ghetto but must accommodate themselves to the world about them. For this reason, he continued his Biblical translations, though this work was fiercely opposed by orthodox rabbis.

The Executive Committee of the  
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REFUGEES**

wishes all members a  
**VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
and thanks them for their continuous support

In 1769, the well-known Zürich theologian Lavater, author of "Physiognomische Fragmente" and a friend of Goethe, publicly challenged Mendelssohn either to refute Bonnet's "Untersuchung der Beweise für das Christentum" or to become a convert to Christianity. Aply defending his faith, the Jewish philosopher declared that no other religion could replace the truth of Judaism in his mind. Lavater acknowledged the force of the argument and apologised.

Mendelssohn's definitive interpretation of the Jewish faith appears in his "Jerusalem oder Ueber religiöse Macht und Judentum" (1785), considered by Leo Baeck as his most important and original work. He presents Judaism as a rational religion, for the Divine Law is in complete harmony with the essence of reason. The function of Jewish ritual is to guarantee the unity and continuity of Judaism. The State has a moral obligation to safeguard freedom of conscience and thought, as well as the independence of religious practice. Tolerance and mutual respect must be the noblest objective of social conduct.

## Mendelssohn and Kant

Kant wrote to Mendelssohn on August 16 1783, commenting on "Jerusalem":

Ich halte dieses Buch für die Verkündigung einer grossen, obzwar langsam bevorstehenden und fortrückenden Reform, die nicht allein Ihre Nation, sondern auch andere treffen wird. Sie haben Ihre Religion mit einem solchen Grade von Gewissensfreiheit zu vereinigen gewusst, die man ihr gar nicht zugetraut hätte und dergleichen sich keine andere rühmen kann. . . .

The young Wilhelm von Humboldt, with his brother Alexander, was also an associate of Mendelssohn, and was probably influenced by him when he called for the State to grant complete personal freedom, as in his "Ideen zu einem Versuch, die Grenzen der Wirksamkeit des Staates zu bestimmen" (1792).

A supplement to "Jerusalem" was "Morgenstunden" (1785), which arose from philosophical discussions between Mendelssohn, his talented son Joseph and other young followers. In this work, he acknowledged that ill-health prevented him from fully exploring Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason".

Against his will, Mendelssohn was drawn into a quarrel with the philosopher F. H. Jacobi, who asserted that Lessing was a Spinozist—equivalent at that time to "Atheist". Mendelssohn's pamphlet, "An die Freunde Lessings" (1785), strongly denied this statement, but the stress of conflict was too much for him: he died in Berlin, deeply mourned, on January 4 1786. Perhaps it was time for him to die, for although he had given his children a thorough Jewish education, four of them converted to Christianity after his death: Dorothea, Henriette, Nathan and Abraham, co-founder of the banking firm bearing his name and father of Felix Mendelssohn. Henriette even wrote to the Protestant theologian Friedrich Schleiermacher, that she "loathed Judaism". The sad chapter of the mass conversion of German Jewry had begun.

Continued on page 2

continued from page 1

## MOSES MENDELSSOHN

Undoubtedly, one cause of this wave of conversion was that State and society in Germany ignored Mendelssohn's demands for tolerance and freedom of conscience, so exposing German Jews to the pressure of discrimination. Nevertheless, Yeheskel Kaufman has recently criticised Mendelssohn for, in his view, having replaced the culture of the Torah by the culture of the Christian nations, so leading to the de-Judaicisation of the modern Jew. This reproach is of course unjust, since it was Mendelssohn who appealed in "Jerusalem" to his fellow-Jews:

Schickt euch in die Sitten und in die Verfassung des Landes, in welches ihr versetzt seid; aber haltet auch standhaft bei der Religion eurer Väter. Tragt beider Lasten, so gut ihr könnt!

These words prove that Moses Mendelssohn clearly saw the precariousness of Jewish life in the Diaspora and the difficult task of future leaders of German and Western Jewry: to preserve Jewish identity in the face of the secularising impact of the surrounding world.

Eugen Fuchs (1856-1923) showed fidelity to Mendelssohn's legacy when he condemned conversion to Christianity as a betrayal of Judaism. Under him, the Centralverein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens strove for co-operation and mutual understanding between German and Jew, as Mendelssohn had envisaged. But these efforts were frustrated when the horrors of World War I, the bitterness of defeat, the curse of inflation and the misery of the Great Depression drove masses of Germans into the arms of Hitler, lured by his dream of the German master race and then inflamed with lust for violence and hatred. Symbolically, during the November Pogrom of 1938, the bust of Mendelssohn in Berlin's Jewish Mittelschule, in Grosse Hamburger Strasse, was thrown down from its pedestal. Such events and the Holocaust itself would have been beyond the philosopher's comprehension.

Nevertheless, we can believe that his spirit hovered over the postwar attempts at German-Jewish rapprochement, the Christian-Jewish dialogue and over all defenders of freedom against tyranny. The last words of "Jerusalem" are Mendelssohn's message to mankind "Liebet die Wahrheit! Liebet den Frieden!"

### MOSES MENDELSSOHN BOOK IN EAST BERLIN

"Herr Moses aus Berlin—Auf den Spuren des Menschenfreundes Moses Mendelssohn" is the title of a book by Heinz Knoblauch, published by the East-Berlin "Aufbau" Verlag. It relates numerous episodes of the philosopher's life, quotations from his writings and letters and evaluations of his work by modern authors and scholars, among them Arthur Eloesser, Franz Mehring, Ismar Elbogen and Selma Stern-Taubler.

Six commemorative special stamps, recently issued by the West-Berlin Postal authorities, include a stamp (90 Pf.) depicting Moses Mendelssohn to mark the 250th anniversary of his birth. E.G.L.

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

The B'nai B'rith First Lodge of England has established a senior fellowship in the field of modern diaspora studies as a memorial to Sir Israel Brodie at the Oxford Centre for Post-graduate Hebrew Studies. The holder will deliver an annual memorial lecture under the auspices of the Lodge in London. The late Chief Rabbi was a distinguished member of the Lodge and had close connections with Oxford.

The English Tourist Board is creating a series of annual rewards for initiative in tourism in honour of its founder chairman, the late Sir Mark Henig of Leicester.

# A GREAT GERMAN RABBI

## Adolf Altmann Centenary

The 8th September marks the centenary of the birth of Chief Rabbi Adolf Altmann, one of the select group of outstanding German rabbis in the pre-Nazi period. Martin Buber praised his "multidimensional spiritual greatness", and Leo Baeck called him "one of the greatest and noblest rabbis and leaders of traditional Judaism of his time." His achievements extended far beyond the religious sphere: like quite a few of his contemporaries, he was also a scholar in several secular fields, and greatly respected by Jews and non-Jews for his involvement in the problems of the environment of which his congregations formed part.

He was born in Hungarian Hunsdorf and received his training in Jewish subjects at the famous Yeshivah of his native town from the wonder rabbi Samuel Rosenberg, and later at the equally famous Pressburg rabbinical college. His thirst for knowledge in the secular field led him to Berne University where he graduated in history and philosophy.

As a young man, far ahead of his time, he became an ardent religious Zionist and contributed important articles on the subject to leading Austrian and Hungarian periodicals. In 1904, he attended the first Mizrahi congress at Pressburg as a delegate. In 1903, he married beautiful Malvine Weisz, his faithful helpmate in his manifold tasks throughout his life. He started his rabbinical career in Neustadt, Moravia, but was soon transferred to Salzburg which, thanks to his efforts, became an important independent community. At that time, he first revealed his scholarship as a historian by researching local Jewish history and publishing several volumes on the subject. In the first world war, he was appointed chaplain to the 10th Austrian Army where he shared the dangers of life at the front with the soldiers and collected documentary evidence on Jewish contribution to the war effort. In recognition of his services, the Austrian Emperor awarded him the Order of Merit.

In 1920, Rabbi Altmann was elected Chief Rabbi of the traditional Trier community, the oldest Jewish community in Germany. His most important work was done there, it was the most creative period of his life, and he remained in Trier until forced to escape from Nazi persecution. He was an outstanding preacher and teacher, and his pastoral work in which his wife took her full share, won him the love and admiration of his congregation. He was held in high esteem by the non-Jewish population for his part in civic life, especially in the educational field. The Bishop of Trier, Franz Bornewasser, later known for his courageous stand against the Nazis, became his personal friend. Dr. Altmann also played a leading part in the work of the "Preussische Landesverband jüdischer Gemeinden", where his aristocratic bearing and wise counsel were highly appreciated.

Apart from his immediate duties, Rabbi Altmann continued writing and researching. A bibliography of his writings between 1902 and 1939, published in Tel Aviv in 1971, contains more than 150 items and covers a wide field: political, religious, philosophical and historical essays, literary reviews, novels and poetry. His History of the Jews in Roman Trier which appeared in 1932 under the aegis of the provincial museum and its learned Society, was acknowledged as a work of unusual merit, which threw new light on the subject.

In 1938, he was forced to leave Trier. He emigrated to Holland, where he continued to teach and instruct and his scholarship was widely recognised. Many tributes to him appeared in Dutch newspapers on the occasion of his 60th birthday in 1939. Alas, persecution caught up with him and his family. After the invasion of Holland, they were deported to Westerbork and Theresienstadt, and eventually to Auschwitz. He died there soon after his arrival as a result of the suffering and privations he had endured, but up to the last he gave spiritual support to his fellow sufferers and discussed religious subjects with other rabbis he met at the camp. His wife, his youngest son,

and his only daughter with her family died in the gas chambers. Three of his sons survive him: the learned Rabbi Dr. Alexander Altmann, for many years chief rabbi of Manchester and emeritus professor of Brandeis University in the U.S., Dr. Erwin Altmann, a high official in the Los Angeles Social Services, and Dr. Manfred Altmann, London, head of an important export and import house and active in Jewish affairs. They are also the guardians of his literary estate: the Tel Aviv bibliography mentions quite a few manuscripts that still await publication.

He is also remembered with love and veneration by all those who came in contact with him during his all too short life. When the new synagogue in Trier was consecrated in 1957, his memory was evoked as a shining example of devotion to duty and strength of character. A year later, the city named a street after him.

### PROFESSOR HERBERT MARCUSE

Professor Dr. Herbert Marcuse has died recently, while on holiday in Germany. He is perhaps best known for the part his teachings played in the student uprisings of 1968, but he was also a leading contemporary philosopher, included in last year's BBC2 TV series "Men of Ideas". Together with Horkheimer and Pollock, he was one of the founding fathers of the Frankfurt Institute for Social Research in the Twenties. After the Nazis came to power, the Institute and its leaders were offered refuge at New York's Columbia University, where Marcuse once more worked together with Horkheimer, Pollock, Adorno, Erich Fromm, and Leo Löwenthal. During the war, he worked for the American Office of Strategic Studies, later he researched at Columbia, Harvard, and Brandeis University. Subsequently he became Professor of Political Thought at the San Diego Campus of the University of California, where he won over the students by teaching that modern Society was controlled through the manipulation of false needs created by vested interests. The new young left glorified him for three works—"Eros and Civilisation" (1955), "One Dimensional Man" (1964) and an Essay "Repressive Tolerance". He was labelled a Marxist, but the students overlooked his "Critical Analysis of Soviet Marxism" which he published in 1958 and in which he strongly criticised trends in Soviet morality. In 1968, the glorification of his name by student protesters all over the world brought him so many threats, that he suddenly departed from his home in La Jolla and spent most of the summer in Europe at a series of academic meetings, explaining that he had never advocated physical action to realise his ideas.

### CHIEF RABBI'S WARNING ON HOLOCAUST MENTALITY

At a meeting of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture in Geneva, Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits warned against the "sanctification of the Holocaust as a cardinal doctrine in contemporary Jewish thinking." He said that in allocating its contributions, the Foundation should focus on the regeneration of Jewish life rather than on mere remembrance of the past. "Real remembrance means to rehabilitate the survivors, to give birth to a new world, to replace what has been swept away." The catastrophe and its victims, together with their historic legacy, would have to be remembered with supreme reverence for all times, but "we must beware against breeding a Holocaust mentality of morose dependency among our people, especially our youth. . . . The slogan 'Never Again' now so popular, is a poor substitute for purposeful Jewish living. . . ."

### "LEST WE FORGET"

On the occasion of the High Holydays, we remind readers to have the names of perished relatives and friends of theirs entered in the Hall of Names at the Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. The requisite number of forms (one form for each victim) may be obtained from: The Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0EP.

## HOME NEWS

### FAREWELL OF ISRAELI AMBASSADOR

Mr. Abraham Kidron, Israel's sixth Ambassador to Britain, has left to take up his new post in Canberra, Australia. He is being replaced by Mr. Shlomo Argov. His transfer to Australia after only two years in London is a by-product of the change of government in Israel which brought Menachem Begin to power, despite the fact that he has never been associated with any political party. He played a crucial part in establishing a close rapport between the British government and Israel, culminating in Mr. Begin's State visit to this country, and maintained friendly relations between the Embassy and the Anglo-Jewish community. Both the Conservative and the Labour Party Friends of Israel gave farewell parties for him at the House of Commons.

### CALLAGHAN FOR ISRAEL

Mr. James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, is to visit Egypt, Israel, and Jordan during the first half of October. During his three day stay in Israel, he will be the guest of honour and principal speaker at the annual dinner to mark the 62nd anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

### PLO STATUS

In a letter to the Board of Deputies, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, explained that the status of the PLO representative in Britain would remain as it has been since 1971: "provided that his activities remain within the law—and there is no evidence that they are not—there are no grounds for action against him. He has no special privileges." She added that the Government would strengthen UK support for international action against terrorists.

### KU KLUX KLAN BARRED

Mr. Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, gave an assurance in the House of Commons that known Ku Klux Klan members trying to visit Britain would be refused entry.

**NATIONAL FRONT MAN SNUBBED IN USA**  
Barely 300 people, 50 of them children, turned out to hear John Tyndall, chairman of the National Front in Britain, address the convention of America's largest neo-Nazi group in Atlanta, Georgia. He is on a lecture tour in the United States to speak about the "menace" of the Jews and the Blacks. The American press has largely ignored him.

### NEW TAC GENERAL SECRETARY

In succession to the late Mr. Maurice Orbach, MP, who died in April, Mr. Harry A. Farbey has been appointed as General Secretary of the Trades Advisory Council, which was founded in the 1930s under the auspices of the Board of Deputies to oppose discrimination against Jews in industry, trade and commerce. Mr. Farbey, who was born in London in 1921, is a former Mayor and Councillor of the Borough of Southgate and an active member of the Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women.

### BOARD OF DEPUTIES ELECTIONS

At the first session of the Board of Deputies under its new President, Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz was elected senior Vice-President, and Mr. Martin Savitt, the outgoing Chairman of the Defence Committee, became the other Vice-President. The deputies also elected the members of the Board's committees. One of the new members of the Foreign Affairs Committee is Dr. F. E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, who is one of the B'nai B'rith representatives on the Board.

### £1 MILLION APPEAL FOR REFORM MOVEMENT

At the annual conference of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain in Harrogate, a £1 million appeal for the development of the movement was announced. With the aid of the Jewish Educational Development Trust, a Reform Foundation to fund an education department is being set up. In a sermon, Rabbi Boyden of the Cheshire Menorah Synagogue said that a positive attitude to proselytes was essential for the future of a Jewish community in an open society.

### ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

American and European leaders of Conservative Judaism who met at the New London Synagogue, St. John's Wood, formed an European Association of Conservative Judaism, with head office in London and Rabbi Jeffery Cohen as director.

### RECEIVER FOR JEWISH SCHOOL MOVEMENT

In the High Court of Justice, Mr. Justice Walton appointed Mr. Bernard Garbacz a temporary receiver and manager of the Jewish Secondary Schools Movement which administers the orthodox Hasmonean Schools. The application had been made by the Attorney General to protect the property of the Trust and the interests of the 2,000 pupils involved. Mr. Justice Walton said the Movement had a large number of debts which could not be easily discharged and it would be deplorable if the schools were sold to satisfy the creditors. In addition, the affairs of the State-aided boys' school in Holders Hill Road, Hendon, were being conducted in a most improper manner. The judge said primary responsibility must be placed on Rabbi Dr. S. Schonfeld and added: "Many men of God keep their eye so much on the next world that their conduct in this world is not easy to follow." The commissioners of Inland Revenue have also issued a writ against Dr. Schonfeld for £34,000 income tax and national insurance contributions for the movement. Dr. Schonfeld issued a statement saying the troubles were due to personal animosity against himself and anti-Orthodox elements. Barnet Council had a large number of non-orthodox Jews. He had been precluded from starting legal proceedings because "Jewish law states that such a litigant is disqualified from holding office within a charity."

At the same time, Dr. Schonfeld produced his plans for the Hasmonean schools and the golden jubilee celebrations of the Movement, which will be held at the Royal Albert Hall next March under the presidency of Mr. Arthur Hubert of St. Anne's. On that occasion, an appeal for £250,000 for the girls' school's sixth form college and a new three-storey classroom block for the boys' school will be launched.

### JEWISH AID TO VIETNAMESE

At a press conference, called by the Board of Deputies, the Chief Rabbi Dr. Jakobovits said Britain could find herself greatly enriched by welcoming the Vietnamese boat people. He himself had come to Britain at the age of 16 unable to speak a word of English. "The hands that are stretched out to the Vietnamese are the same that were stretched out to me when I came to Britain to escape Nazi oppression." Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, the new president of the Board said it was the first press conference called not on behalf of Jews, but of "wretched humanity". He continued: "We are here to pledge the efforts of the entire community in helping people whose suffering is vast and which we find reflected in our own history."

In his presidential address at the meeting of the Board, he received unanimous encouragement when he spoke of the help the Jewish community intends to give to the refugees. A working party was set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Hyman Diamond.

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## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### Arab Fencer Expelled

A Kuwaiti fencer was expelled from the Stoke Mandeville Games for the Disabled, because he refused to compete against an Israeli. Two other members of his team withdrew before the start of the competition. Other Arab nationals are taking part in the games which are supposed to be "free of political, religious or racial pressure."

### Film on Refugee's Life Story

In Hamburg, the book of London refugee author Robert Muller "The World that Summer" is being made into a film. Muller who is half-Jewish came to Britain from Hamburg in 1938, and the film, sponsored by West German TV, depicts his life story. The Hamburg population protested against the decoration of a street with swastika flags during the filming on July 20, the anniversary of the 1944 generals' attempt on Hitler's life.

### Art Legacy

Mrs. Marta Sophie Walzer has left a legacy of Impressionist paintings by Monet, Cézanne and others, valued at over £650,000 to the National Gallery and the Oxford Ashmolean Museum. Mrs. Walzer was the daughter of the Berlin publisher and art historian Bruno Cassirer, and the wife of Dr. Richard Rudolf Walzer, the classical and Arab Scholar of Berlin University. Dr. Walzer, who died in 1975, was a fellow of St. Catherine's College, Oxford, and of the British Academy.

### CBF's Growing Sphere of Action

CBF World Jewish Relief approved grants totalling nearly £90,000 at a recent council meeting, including £40,000 for Communities in Eastern Europe and £5,000 for Jews in Syria. An emergency reserve was set aside for the growing number of Iranian Jews arriving in Britain. During the current financial year, the total amount of grants will be £250,000, nearly £100,000 more than last year.

At a reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Klug to launch a new CBF committee in Hampstead Garden Suburb, £8,000 was raised. The guest of honour, Rabbi Hugo Gryn, said that the work of the CBF had started with its rescue of 100,000 Jews from Nazi Germany. A sizeable proportion of the Jewish population in this country owed their lives to it.

### A VOTE OF THANKS

The name of Anne Michel, who last month retired from her senior position with the CBF, is known to hundreds of people and to practically all those who are connected with the work for the Old Age Homes, where she is a familiar figure—always confident, always capable, always with deep compassion for the residents. Indeed she has devoted a lifetime to the service of the community. She understood the mentality of those in our charge because she herself came to this country as a refugee. Whenever she speaks German, the melodic "Kölsch" of her city of birth becomes evident. She was a good colleague to her opposite numbers on the staff of the AJR and endeared herself to the members of the House Committees and the Matrons of the Homes, who could always rely on her counsel and help, inside and outside office hours. She rose splendidly to the occasion in many emergencies.

Parting is always a sad business. Yet we are sure that, with her vigour and enthusiasm, she will find other spheres of activity in keeping with her abilities and experiences. All that remains for us is to say: Thank you, Anne Michel, and good luck. W.R.

### RETIREMENT OF JOSEF FRAENKEL

Josef Fraenkel, Zionist historian and journalist, retired from his post at the World Jewish Congress, which he helped to found in Geneva 43 years ago. Before he came to this country shortly before the outbreak of war, he was secretary of the WJC's Austrian branch in Vienna. Among his many books and monographs is a biography of Herzl. He also plays a valuable role in fostering Yiddish in London. Mr. Fraenkel has always taken a great interest in the AJR and, on several occasions, contributed articles to "AJR Information".

## NEWS FROM ABROAD

### UNITED STATES

#### Carter Upsets Israelis

In a recent "New York Times" interview, President Carter said the Palestinian issue was highly emotional and involved a matter of rights. He likened the Palestinians to the civil rights movement in the United States and expressed the hope that leading American Jews would support efforts to give autonomy to them in such matters as schools, police, housing, and immigration on the West Bank. If Israel were to permit Palestinians to return to the West Bank, they would be satisfied with being given the right to do so, and very few would make use of it. They would, for their part, be willing to accept Israeli military units on the West Bank as a safeguard for Israel's security. US officials are hoping that the PLO will allow moderate Palestinians to participate in the autonomy talks. American Jewish leaders and Israeli politicians are very upset about the President's attitude which Mr. Richard Cohen of the American Jewish Congress described as inept and unfortunate, as it compared a struggle for freedom with terrorist attacks. Yasir Arafat has let it be known that he plans to repeat his appearance at the UN General Assembly in November, 1974.

In addition, Mr. Harold Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State, told a Congressional subcommittee that Israel was supposed to have nuclear weapons, and that some Arab States have the ambition to have them, too. He made it clear that America strongly opposes all nuclear development in the Middle East, as it would make nuclear conflict a plausible, if not an inevitable outcome. There are strong rumours that, encouraged by the recent talks between Arafat, Chancellor Kreisky of Austria and Mr. Willy Brandt, key US officials are working for the opening of a dialogue between the USA and the PLO.

#### Award for "Holocaust" Author

At a colloquium held under the auspices of the International Council of Christians and Jews, the National Media Award of the American Conference was presented to Gerald Green, the author of the novel "Holocaust" and the TV film made of it. One hundred and twenty delegates from 13 countries attended the conference. The second largest delegation—the largest was the American—was the West German. The British Council was represented by its treasurer Sir Sigmund Sternberg, by Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, and several others. The colloquium ended in a solemn declaration of conscience to strive in every way to respond to the special needs of all, in whatever State, who are still denied their basic human rights.

#### Training for Russian Jews

For the first time ever, two Moscow Yeshiva students will be allowed to visit the United States for three years in order to train as rabbis, scribes and for other religious functions at the Orthodox Yeshiva University in New York. Rabbi Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation in New York was informed about this decision during a visit to the Council for Religious Cults in Moscow and conveyed it to the Jews of Moscow in a sermon in Yiddish which he delivered in the Moscow synagogue. Both students are at the moment at the Moscow Yeshiva. They are both married and in their early thirties. Their families will not be allowed to accompany them.

#### Synagogue for Singles

In Los Angeles, the Mount Zion Synagogue for Singles was opened. It promises single Jewish parents and adults the usual religious services, free personality and marriage counselling, workshops and a Jewish marriage agency.

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### CANADA'S JEWS HELP VIETNAMESE

In Canada, Rabbi Gunter Plaut, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, announced a plan to resettle 1,000 Boat People in Canada with the aid of the Jewish community. Organisations and individuals in different parts of Canada are being urged to sponsor such immigrants to Canada.

### PARAGUAY REVOKES DR. MENGELE'S CITIZENSHIP

Dr. Joseph Mengele, the Auschwitz "angel of death", who has been hiding in South America since the war, is reported to have left Paraguay after the authorities revoked his citizenship of the country.

### FRANCE

#### Car of anti-Nazi fighter bombed

Mr. Serge Klarsfeld, whose car was destroyed in an underground car park by a bomb which damaged 20 other cars and started a fire, said he had been attacked as president of the French Jewish organisation set up to bring Nazi war criminals to trial for crimes committed in France. His father was killed in Auschwitz. His German-born wife Beate has won an international reputation as a leading campaigner to bring war criminals to justice. The police have rejected repeated requests for protection by the Klarsfelds, notwithstanding the fact that they receive threatening letters and parcel bombs nearly every day.

It has just been announced that one Nazi whose prosecution they had sought will be brought to trial in Cologne at the end of October. 68-year-old Dr. Kurt Lischka, a retired clerk living in Cologne, was Nazi security chief in Paris during the war. He and two other former Gestapo members who will have to stand trial with him, have denied responsibility, claiming that they believed the Jews were being sent to labour camps. In 1950, Dr. Lischka was sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by a French court for complicity in the deportation of 100,000 French Jews, but the German constitution forbids the extradition of West German citizens.

#### No Statute of Limitation for Nazi Crimes

Mr. Jean François Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, has officially stated that the French Government will not apply the Statute of Limitation to Nazi war crimes and Nazi crimes against humanity perpetrated by Germans, French or other nationals.

#### Lord Mayor's Gift to School

Mr. Jacques Chirac, the Lord Mayor of Paris, has given a plot of land near the Porte Maillot in the exclusive 17th arrondissement, to build an Israeli school, the first in France. The money to build the school was donated by an anonymous benefactor. There will be room for 300 Israeli and 200 French children.

### DUTCH QUEEN HONOURS WIESENTHAL

Simon Wiesenthal, the head of the Vienna Jewish Documentation Centre has been awarded the highest civilian decoration, that of a commander of the Order of Orange-Nassau by the Queen of the Netherlands in recognition of his services to humanity and his campaign against fascism.

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### IRAN AND ROMANIA REASSURE JEWS

When a Zionist Federation delegation called at the Iranian Embassy in London to express concern at the position of the Jewish community in Iran, they were told by the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Kakhi, that there were no restrictions on the Jewish community "since they are like our brothers and sisters". Iran had the best record in the world of tolerance to minorities.

In Bucharest, President Ceausescu of Romania told representatives of the American Joint Distribution Committee at their first meeting with the President of an East European country, that any Jew wishing to leave Romania for a family reunion in Israel or elsewhere could do so. The JDC leaders had come for the dedication of the new 220-bed Amalia and Moses Rosen Home for the Aged, named in honour of Chief Rabbi Rosen's 40 years' service to the Jewish community. The head of the Joint Committee, Mr. Donald M. Robinson, said that his organisation spent about £1,600,000 a year to help more than 10,000 of the 40,000 Jews estimated to be living in Romania.

### LIBERAL JUDAISM MEETS IN GENEVA

Delegates from Britain, the United States, France, Holland, Sweden, Australia and Israel attended the meeting of the World Union of Liberal Jewish Congregations in Geneva. Rabbi Hugo Gryn and Rabbi B. Jacobs, vice-president of the London Leo Baeck College, represented Britain. The meeting expressed its concern at the attitude of the younger generation, stressing that it was one of the main tasks of Liberal rabbis to involve them in Jewish life from which they were all too often estranged. Some hundred young rabbis, trained in England, were regarded as a pioneering elite which worked in many countries.

### "HOLOCAUST FUND" IN VIENNA

Representatives of the Vienna Israelitische Kulturgemeinde and of other leading Austrian organisations and institutions have founded a "Holocaust Fund" from which students and pupils are to receive prizes for essays about the Holocaust and the Resistance. Applications as well as donations to the Fund are to be addressed under the heading "Holocaust Fonds" to the Dokumentationsarchiv des oesterreichischen Widerstandes, Altes Rathaus, Wipplinger Str. 8, 1010 Wien.

### SELF AID CONCERT

This year's Self Aid Concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on November 5 (now given in conjunction with AJR) promises to be an outstanding event. The Jupiter Orchestra, consisting in the main of young professional musicians at the threshold of their orchestral or soloist careers, probably contains more potential orchestral leader material than many a fully established orchestra. It will be conducted by Peter Gellhorn whose career spans prominent positions at Covent Garden, Glyndebourne and the BBC. Soloist will be the violinist Ivry Gitlis who, apart from one London appearance in a modern work (dedicated to him), has not been heard in this country for many years. About him the French paper, VSD, wrote last year: "Gitlis est un des plus grands violinistes du monde".

The demand for tickets is heavy. They are obtainable either at the Queen Elizabeth Hall box office from October 5 or from Self Aid, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London NW3 6JY, tel. 328 3255 and 624 9096/7.

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# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## FORMER BERLINERS VISIT THEIR HOME TOWN

Ten years ago, the City of Berlin and its Lord Mayor Klaus Schütz started a scheme under which former Berliners, who had to leave as refugees from Nazi oppression, were invited to pay a visit to Berlin as guests of the municipality. So far, 8,623 have done so, and there is a waiting list of another 15,000. To mark the tenth anniversary of the scheme, 750 special guests were asked this year. They included a number of men and women who have built up successful careers abroad, among them the vice-president of the Jerusalem Knesset, Moshe Meron, the rector of the Hebrew University Josef Tamir, the editor-in-chief of the "Aufbau" Dr. Hans Steinitz, and a number of rabbis including the well-loved Manfred Swarsensky. The major celebration was held at the new International Congress Centre. The present Lord Mayor Dietrich Stobbe welcomed the guests and said that the circumstances which had forced them to leave and the fate of those who did not manage to leave in time would always be remembered in sorrow and shame. He was glad the scheme had succeeded and he thanked those among his guests who had contributed to its success. Dr. Steinitz of the "Aufbau" and Siegmund Gross, head of the Israeli travel agency "Express Tours" received the silver Ernst-Reuter medal in appreciation of their work. The Lord Mayor also thanked the sculptor Pablo Hanne-mann, who now lives in Argentina, for the donation of a sculpture "Reconciliation" which will be put up in Wilmersdorf. In his closing words, Mr. Stobbe said that history cannot be revoked, and continued: "We must all work together so that the past does not weigh on the future as an unbearable mortgage. We thank you that you have grasped the hand that was extended towards you. It is one more reason for us not to forget the past." The former Lord Mayor Klaus Schütz who is now West Germany's Ambassador to Israel, said the invitations had first been sent out to help create a common future for those who had left and those who had remained behind.

Moshe Meron, vice-president of the Israeli Parliament and chairman of its group of Israeli-German parliamentarians, felt that on such an occasion, the unsung heroes who had risked their own lives to save those of Jews should also be remembered.

So far, the city of Berlin has spent about £1,750,000 on invitations to Jewish refugees. This year, there were 220 visitors over 75. Some, who could not walk, were carried to their hotels.

The town council of Frankfurt has just announced that it will follow the example of Berlin and invite former citizens. It has voted some £25,000 for this project. Apart from their travelling and hotel costs, the visitors are to receive an amount of about £6 per day for expenses.

## VISITORS TO WEINHEIM

28 Jewish former residents of Weinheim attended a reunion as the guests of the Municipality. The programme included a guided tour through the town, a visit to the cemetery and a social evening.

## SALE OF HITLER BOOK LEGAL

The Federal Supreme Court in Karlsruhe has ruled that the sale of old copies of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" is not illegal, as long as it serves the purpose of providing information about the Nazi period. A second-hand book-seller who had been fined by a lower court for displaying in his shop two old copies of the book, published in 1936 and 1943, was acquitted, but the Court added a rider that the decision did not mean that the sale of original Nazi literature was no longer illegal, if it was sold or distributed together with comment directed against the country's democratic order.

At a Munich auction, two water colours by Adolf Hitler were sold for about £4,500 each to buyers from outside Germany. High prices were also paid for Hitler's beer mug and Goering's lead crystal drinking glasses.

## MEMORIAL FOR JULIUS W. SCHUELEIN

On July 5 a plaque was fixed by the city of Munich on the house Leopoldstrasse 21 in Munich which from 1908 to 1930 housed the studio of the painter Julius W. Schuelein, one of the co-founders of the "Münchener Neue Sezession". The artist's daughter, and his nephew, Professor Werner J. Cahnman of New York, attended the ceremony.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

## COURT SENTENCES ON OLD AND NEW NAZIS

The Frankfurt Appeal Court rejected the appeal of Heinz Roth from Odenhausen, Hesse, against a court order fining him £125,000 unless he refrained from publishing statements that the Anne Frank Diary was a forgery, produced by a New York film-author in collaboration with Anne Frank's father. The latter, who brought the case, showed the diary to Roth who still continued to make the allegations. For the appeal court trial, he was unable to find a lawyer willing to represent him.

In Frankfurt, 64-year-old Erwin Schoenborn, West Germany's leading neo-Nazi activist, was sentenced to 18 months' jail for defamation, libel and coercion arising from his propaganda attacks against trials of former Nazis. He had publicly declared that the gas chambers had never existed and offered about £2,500 reward to anyone who could prove that a single Jew had been gassed. After the sentence, Schoenborn said he was innocent, because he had only told the truth. The prosecutor has appealed, because Schoenborn was not convicted of inciting race hatred.

A Munich court imposed a suspended two years' prison sentence on 72-year-old Friedrich Schwend, Hitler's expert on counterfeiting, who in 1944 conducted the attempt to ruin Britain by inundating the world with 350 million forged pound notes, produced in Castle Labers near Meran with the aid of forced labour Jewish master lithographers. He was found guilty of having induced an Italian collaborator in the project, accused of having stolen some of the money, to try to escape and then shooting him. Schwend was arrested on his return from exile in Peru in 1976, and the Court gave him credit for having come to face trial.

## JEWISH ACTION FOR ALGERIAN STUDENT

When an Algerian student maintained that he had been given too little change when buying a railway ticket in Hamburg, the railway official, a woman, said: "You foreigners should be gassed like the Jews". He informed the Hamburg Jewish congregation which took the matter to court on his behalf. The official was fined £1,000 in lieu of a 100 days' prison sentence, and ordered to pay costs.

## AUSTRIAN NAZI VICTIMS HONOURED

The German Ambassador in Vienna gave the German Order of Merit to five Austrian nationals who spent the war in German concentration camps, saying that they had helped other victims of National Socialism to overcome the memories of their untold sufferings and to be fair in their attitude to present-day Germany. One of those who received the award is Anton Pick, president of the Vienna Jewish community.

## UNSUNG ITALIAN HEROES

Two Catholic priests and five other Italians, including two women, were presented with the "Medal of the Righteous" of Yad Vashem for helping Jews persecuted by Nazis and Fascists during the war. One of the men is former fascist leader Francesco Garofano who took great risks in hiding several Jewish families in his flour mill.

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## THE ARTIST'S BURDEN

"I do not mind that I am not loved—but I consider it as tragic that nobody wants to be loved by me, for I still have the same urge to love which I had in my younger days." These words stand at the beginning of the self-confession of Else Meidner in a recently published book "Aus den Erinnerungen von Else Meidner" by Josef Paul Hodin.\* In the first chapter of the book the author surveys the life history of Else Meidner, starting at the end with the description of his visit to her London abode at Leaside Crescent. Born in 1901 into a well-to-do middle class family in Berlin, she had from the very beginning decided to become an artist, but her father, after initial resistance, only agreed to her plans after three leading artists, Kaethe Kollwitz, Emil Orlik and Max Slevogt, had confirmed her gifts. As a student, she met Ludwig Meidner, 17 years her senior, became his pupil and, in 1927, his wife. As personalities and as artists they differed fundamentally from each other. She was entirely independent from him in her artistic approach, and her paintings and drawings bear witness to her as a personality in her own right. Her all too short career in Germany was crowned in 1932 by an exhibition of her works in the "Juryfreie" in Berlin.

The creative power of the Meidners was deeply affected when, under the Nazis, they were considered as outcasts of a culture in which they were deeply rooted. For Else the uprooting

already started before her emigration when the couple and their little son had to leave her beloved Berlin and move to Cologne, where Ludwig got a position as drawing teacher at the Jewish school—an appointment entirely out of keeping with his standing, but unavoidable for economic reasons. Later, in London, the family had a very difficult time. In 1953, Ludwig returned to Germany, where he regained recognition. But Else, who followed him ten years later, came back to London after a few months. On his death in 1966, she wrote an obituary published in the "Darmstaedter Tageblatt", which testified to her deep feelings for her husband, notwithstanding the tensions which persisted between them during their marriage.

The autobiographical "Aufzeichnungen" of Else Meidner, incorporated in the book, give us a glimpse into her complex personality. Her prose, spiced with humour and irony, and her poems reflect her gifts as a writer and poetess as well as her widespread knowledge in the fields of literature and history and her love of music. Perhaps, for the first time, those who know her only superficially and sometimes have difficulties in understanding her reactions to her fellow men, get to realise the deeper layers of her unique personality. By writing his book, Josef Paul Hodin has, at the same time, set up a lasting monument for Else Meidner.

W.R.

### GHETTO DIARY PUBLISHED

Dr. Raul Hilberg, renowned scholar on the holocaust, has edited the English edition of the diary of Adam Czerniakow, the head of the Warsaw Judenrat which was acquired by the Israeli Government in 1964. It starts before the German occupation in 1939 and ends in 1942 when the author took poison because he could no longer bear the responsibilities of his office.

\*Josef Paul Hodin: *Aus den Erinnerungen von Else Meidner*, published under the auspices of the municipality of Darmstadt with a postscript by the Lord Mayor Heinz Winifried Sabais. Justus von Liebig Verlag Darmstadt 1979, 132 pp.

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## THE WINES OF AUSTRIA

Travellers to Austria have often been heard to praise the local wines they were able to taste, but Austrian wines have hardly ever appeared on the wine-lists of the trade or of restaurants in other countries. It is safe to predict that this situation is about to change: that champion of quality wines, our old friend and board member S. F. Hallgarten, together with his equally knowledgeable wife Friedel, has just published a beautifully produced book "The Wines and Wine Gardens of Austria" (Argus Books Limited, 14 St. James Road, Watford, 339 pp. Price £6.95). It can be expected to do for the wines of Austria what other books of his have done for those of Germany, Alsace, Luxemburg, and Israel: to make readers eager to taste, and guided by his wise counsel, to choose what suits their taste and their purse. It is a delightful book, very useful, too, as a travelling companion, as the authors describe the manifold wine-growing areas and their mouth-watering products.

Austria has only recently produced enough wine to be interested in exporting it, and now has laws governing growing conditions, quality, and designations as stringent, and sometimes even more stringent than those of the EEC countries. Its viticultural area is now about 50,000 hectares, the same size as that of Germany in 1950. The USA has already discovered Austrian wines and imports them in increasing quantities. For the time being, prices compare very favourably with those of German and French wines of similar quality. Readers of the Hallgartens' book will certainly see to it that the UK soon follows suit and will also take it with them on their next visit to the land of wine, women, and song.

M.P.

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# BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

## ERWIN ROSENTHAL 75

The Talmud records that when Rabbi Nehuniah ben Hakanah was asked to what he attributed his great age he replied that he had never made capital out of colleagues' embarrassment. For those engaged in scholarly pursuits that is a fine ideal and a bold claim, but it is one which, were he inclined, Dr. Erwin Rosenthal might with justice assert as the motto of the 75 years which he will have completed on September 18. Erwin Rosenthal—*felix opportunitate natus*—belongs to a generation of Jewish academics born in Germany whose formative years, despite the privations consequent upon the First World War, were passed in the autumn sunlight of the Weimar Republic and whose training for scholarship of professional competence was complete before Nazidom snatched away their prospects in Germany. The resultant intellectual benefit to this country, amongst others, has become a commonplace, but as far as most members of the intelligentsia are concerned the names of those who typify it are mainly borne by scientists. Humanists do not so frequently hit the headlines, but their influence is no less significant.

Rosenthal received his training in Arabic and Hebrew at Heidelberg, Munich and Berlin, and when he came to England to search for a niche for himself and his young wife his scholarly potential was at once recognised by Herbert Loewe, who was deeply involved in trying to help academic refugees and who relinquished to Rosenthal some part-time Hebrew teaching at University College London. Celebration of his 75th birthday is not an occasion for rehearsing his entry in *Who's Who*—or even of filling in what is hidden between its lines: but it must go on record that Rosenthal's teaching career has taken him to Manchester and ultimately to Cambridge to a post that in due course became a Readership in Oriental Studies. Another English scholar to recognise his worth was A. J. Arberry, professor of Arabic at Cambridge, whose college—Pembroke—has a long standing interest in oriental studies; and in due course Pembroke elected him as a Fellow. Nor should one ignore the difficult years of the war and its aftermath, when Rosenthal was engaged in intelligence work and later in teaching of a less exalted kind, but the value of which to society at large he might well feel complemented his teaching of undergraduates in the university.

His research work has centred round the theme of political philosophy, as a Greek heritage passed by the Arab world to the Hebrew and back to Europe, with (as a counterpoint) the influence of Jewish exegesis of the Hebrew Bible in the Christian west: the two themes being linked by the cir-

cumstance that the Bible, as deemed to contain the outline of a divinely ordained polity, had to be taken account of in Christian political thinking. Rosenthal's first publication, in 1930, concerned a projected treaty between Charlemagne and Abdurrahman III of Cordoba; his *Political Thought in Medieval Islam* (1958) has been translated into Spanish and Japanese. What he may well consider his *chef d'oeuvre*, *Averroes' Commentary on Plato's Republic* (which survives in a Hebrew translation of the original Arabic) appeared from the Cambridge Press in 1956. Rosenthal has some half dozen books to his name, and has in addition edited three others. Discounting reviews, there are over 75 articles—more than one for each of his years—the more important of them being collected in his 2-volume *Studia Semitica*, Jewish and Islamic Themes. And Cambridge is shortly to confer on him the accolade of a *Festschrift* to which colleagues in various universities have contributed articles, and in which a full bibliography of Rosenthal's publications will be included.

But Rosenthal's interests have never been cloistered; he has applied his scholarly expertise to fostering Jewish life, and during his three decades in Cambridge he has given generous hospitality to Jewish students and has afforded an unobtrusive Jewish leadership. His interest in Israel has found its outlet, *inter alia*, in address to the implications—political, theological, pedagogical and much else—of the way in which the Bible is studied and taught there. He is also a member of the London Board of the Leo Baeck Institute.

The years have been stern taskmasters to Erwin and Elisabeth Rosenthal, but they can look back with pride on a record of achievement and of service, as also with satisfaction on the distinction which their son has achieved in an entirely different field. Their friends will take this opportunity to pay their tribute to what they have done, and for the future to wish them all that they would wish themselves.

RAPHAEL LOEWE.

## LOTHAR NELKEN 70

On September 9, Lothar Nelken celebrates his 70th birthday in the circle of his family and numerous friends. Although he has reached the proverbial venerable age, he is still as active as any young man.

Unfortunately, Lothar could not follow his intended legal career in Germany. After his immigration to England, he entered the pharmaceutical industry where he soon became very successful due to his initiative, drive and personality.

Lothar Nelken is a traditional Jew and, with his wife and family, staunchly adheres to the faith. In spite of all his professional commitments, Lothar still finds time to devote himself to many

Jewish activities, being a Board member of the Association of Jewish Refugees, and on the Management side of the Theodor Herzl Society. Last, but by no means least, he has been the Chairman of the KC in Great Britain for many years, and his untiring efforts have gone a long way to keeping this Fraternity together.

He is always willing and ready to help anyone in need, being ably supported in all this by his wife. With these birthday greetings it is sincerely hoped that Lothar will continue his valuable work for the community for many more years.

J.W.

The Theodor Herzl Society wishes to pay tribute to Dr. Lothar Nelken on the occasion of his 70th birthday. For many years he has rendered invaluable services to the Society as its Co-Chairman and Executive member. A religious Jew, who has many other important honorary commitments, he has always given us his time and most valuable support. By his agreeable disposition he has become a much appreciated friend of his fellow workers. We extend our sincerest congratulations to him and are looking forward to having the benefit of his guidance for many years to come.

H.M.H.

## ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLER HONOURED Oxford Degree for Albi Rosenthal

The degree of Master of Arts *honoris causa* was conferred by the University of Oxford on the well known antiquarian bookseller Albi Rosenthal. At the ceremony, the Public Orator described him as one "who had enriched in many ways the lives of our citizens and the University". Albi Rosenthal belongs to an old booksellers' family. Three sons of his great-grandfather, who originated from Fellheim in Bavaria, became booksellers in Munich. The work was continued by his father, Dr. Erwin Rosenthal, scholar, bookseller and publisher, who now lives in Lugano. The Orator also referred to the services rendered by Mr. Rosenthal to the Oxford University Orchestra. At a garden party held after the ceremony in Mr. Rosenthal's house in Boars Hill, the newly appointed Master of Arts expressed his gratitude for his warm reception in England as a refugee over forty years ago. Mr. Rosenthal was also elected a member of Worcester College, Oxford.

## AWARD TO RABBI Dr. M. SWARSENSKY

Dr. Manfred Swarsensky (Madison, Wisc., USA) was awarded the honorary doctor degree of Wisconsin State University. He will be well remembered by former members of the Berlin Jewish community, whose Rabbi he was from 1932 until 1939. From 1940 until his retirement in 1976 he was Rabbi of the Temple Beth-El in Madison.

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## RELIGION SCHOOL

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Registration of New Pupils:

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## CLUB 1943

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3 September. Leonard C. Goss (Council of  
Christians and Jews: "Friendship across  
Frontiers".

10 September. Jacob Rosen (Information  
Attaché of the Israeli Embassy): "The  
political situation in the Middle East".

17 September. Dr. Ellen Kessel-Ruhemann:  
"Briefe berühmter Menschen".

24 September. Kein Vortrag.

1 October. Kein Vortrag.

8 October. Paul Geiger: "Photographie  
als Mittel zum Vergleich". Lichtbilder  
aus vielen Ländern.

15 October. Grete Sachs: "Die erste  
Akademikerin der Welt". Elena  
Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia.

22 October. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: Vor-  
tragsreihe: Der Jude und die Umwelt".  
1. Teil: Der deutsche Staatsbürger  
juedischen Glaubens oder Jecke?

29 October. Dr. Ruth v. Schulze-Gaever-  
nitz: Thema wird noch bekannt gegeben.

## THE ISRAELI SCENE

### IMPENDING VISITS TO EGYPT

A recent opinion poll showed that 74 per cent of Israelis plan to visit Egypt at the earliest opportunity. The Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Tourism has issued a warning against an inundation of Egypt by Israeli tourists, and warned would-be visitors that they must secure accommodation beforehand. In addition to the small tours which have been tentatively started, the Greek Epirotiki shipping lines are planning weekly sailings of the 5,250 ton motor cruise ship "Jason" which can carry 298 visitors, for December. It will leave Suez port on December 24, call at Akaba in Jordan and sail through the Red Sea to Elat, from where tours to Jerusalem and Galilee will be laid on. On the return trip "Jason" will land at Safage for a tour of the Egyptian temples at Luxor.

Dr. Eliezer Shmueli, director-general of the Israeli Ministry of Education, has been invited by his Egyptian counterpart to attend an international congress in Cairo next February, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Bureau of Education.

### TRADE WITH EGYPT

Koortrade, Israel's international marketing firm, has established a subsidiary in Cairo in co-operation with an un-named Egyptian firm which, in turn, will open a branch in Tel Aviv. Mr. Balla, head of Koortrade, said the name of the large Egyptian private company would be kept secret, because it had international links and feared reprisals from the Arab boycott office. Goods leaving Israel would be packed so as to allow for the removal of the "Made in Israel" label. The Egyptians were interested in agricultural equipment, medical electronic devices, solar heating and oil refining equipment. In 1978, Koortrade's turnover was £218 million.

### BEGIN AND WILLY BRANDT

When the Knesset angrily discussed the Vienna meeting between Yasir Arafat and Chancellor Kreisky which was also attended by Willy Brandt, Mr. Begin said the former Federal Chancellor was now a private person. However, if the PLO were ever to be victorious, Mr. Brandt would have to repeat his genuflection in Auschwitz to demand forgiveness from the Jewish people. However, the case would not arise, as the Jews now had a homeland and could no longer be annihilated. They would survive "the Nazi Arafats and their collaborators whoever they may be."

### KISSINGER AND GOLDMANN HONOURED

At the Hebrew University's annual convocation, honorary doctorates were awarded to Dr. Henry Kissinger and to the US Senator Henry Jackson, a firm defender of Israel in the Senate.

When the first anniversary of the Tel Aviv Museum of the Diaspora was celebrated, it was announced that it would in future be called the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Diaspora, because it had been planned by Dr. Goldmann, and he had worked in support of it since the late 1950s. More than 400,000 people, both Israelis and tourists, visited the museum during its first year.

### INVOLVEMENT IN NICARAGUA

During the last stages of the Somoza Government in Nicaragua, Israel was its main supplier of bombs, rockets, ammunition and infantry weapons by air and sea. It meant the repayment of an old debt: during the 1948 fights for the establishment of a Jewish State, Nicaragua supplied the Jewish underground with arms and passports. In retaliation, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the governments of Algeria, Libya, Syria, and South Yemen supported the Sandinistas who overthrew the Somoza regime.

### MP'S IMMUNITY LIFTED

Knesset members voted by 61 votes to 30 to lift the parliamentary immunity of Mr. Flatto-Sharon to allow him to be tried on charges of bribery during the 1977 General Election.

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

According to an estimate published by the Knesset Immigration Affairs Committee, 17,500 newcomers arrived in Israel during the first six months of 1979, compared with fewer than 12,000 in the same period in 1978. On the other hand, some 2,000 Israelis leave the country every month. In 1977 6,000 returned, in 1978 only 5,100.

### EL AL'S LOSSES

Mr. Haim Landau, the Israeli Transport Minister, said he had been shocked to discover that the average subsidy for each of El Al's 6,000 employees amounted to £2,000 a year. The airline's losses will rise from an expected £34 million this year to double that amount in 1982, unless something drastic is done.

### MONUMENTS OF PEACE

A Monument of Peace and Friendship, created by sculptor Yigal Tumarkin, was inaugurated in a square near Lod airport which is situated between a synagogue, a church, and a mosque. According to tradition, St. George the Dragonkiller, was born and buried there, and the first church over his grave was built in the 6th century.

A planning competition has been opened for the far more ambitious project, dreamed of by President Sadat, on Mount Sinai which is to include a synagogue facing Jerusalem, a mosque facing Mecca, and three churches of the main Christian denominations. Nearby there will be three small hotels for pilgrims.

### CAMPS

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### SCIENCE AIDS SABBATH KEEPING

The faculty of agriculture at the Hebrew University has produced a "magic solution" which, if used on flowers, prolongs their life by two to three weeks. It had been asked for help by a religious Kibbutz in the Negev, where flowers cut on Friday have to be kept until Sunday before being sent abroad.

Electronic engineers have similarly developed a sophisticated electronic device, already approved by rabbis, which will help security officers, doctors and nurses to carry out their duties on Saturdays. A special button which carries no electrical current, turns off the engine and the lights at the end of a journey. Another device controls the supply of petrol to the engine without using the accelerator. It has always been permitted to turn on the engine and the lights in an emergency, but not to switch them off.

### "RELIGIOUS HOOLIGANISM"

Mr. Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, has asked Dr. Yosef Burg, Minister of the Interior, to curb renewed violence by ultra-Orthodox groups against Sabbath traffic. On Friday nights and Saturdays, members from an Orthodox community and yeshiva students threw stones at motorists using the new road to the Jerusalem suburb of Ramot. Mr. Kollek said the motorists had so far shown restraint, but they would soon act against "religious hooliganism."

### HOMOSEXUALS NOT WANTED

When Israeli homosexuals and lesbians, supported by colleagues from Europe and the USA, planned to plant a 3,000-tree wood in the Negev, the Jewish National Fund cancelled the ceremony and returned to the Israeli organisation about £4,000 subscribed, because it could not allow the dedicatory plaque to state that the donors were homosexuals. Earlier, a Tel Aviv Hotel and two kibbutzim had refused to allow the Israeli organisation to stage an international conference of Jewish homosexuals and lesbians, because they had been told by the rabbinate that it would suspend their kashrut licences, if they did so.

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P. Yogi Mayer

## JEWISH SPORT IN NAZI GERMANY

Professor Dr. Hajo Bernett of the "Sportwissenschaftliche Institut" of the University of Bonn has, as the result of thorough research, published a book on Jewish sport in Nazi Germany. It is dedicated "to the memory of the Israeli Olympic Champions murdered in Munich in 1972". The objective, thoroughly investigated and well documented evaluation of a unique period in the history of Jewish Sport is projected against the background of the German Sports Movement, which found itself degraded by the exploitations of the Third Reich.

Bernett, a non-Jew, bases his publication on material found in archives and on personal interviews. He shows a remarkable understanding of the motivation and the underlying inner conflicts.

Many students at German universities have lately been drawn to studies of the unique Jewish situation in Nazi Germany in the field of athletics. Yet, like the producer of the TV film "Dornen im Lorbeer" (referred to in the January issue of this journal), they found it difficult to arrive at well-balanced assessments. This is partly due to the fact that as far as the non-Zionist sports movement is concerned, very few first-hand witnesses and very little material could be traced. On the other hand, the world-wide Jewish National Maccabi Union had deposited films, photographs and trophies in its museum in Ramat Gan, and further material has been preserved in Yad Vashem (Jerusalem). The producer and students were also able to interview leading personalities of the former "Deutsche Makkabi-Kreis", who gave them valuable information.

I suggested that Bernett should publish a list of German Jews, who represented their country in the Olympic Games, became German champions or participated in leading positions in the administration of sport in Germany. Most of them never belonged to a Jewish sports organisation, a situation similar to that in England, America and Eastern Europe today. Bernett is less interested in the individual but more in the collective reactions of a persecuted minority. Still, he tells the story of Felix Flatow, the first German to gain a Gold Medal in the first Olympic Games in 1896, who, together with his "Turnbruder" Gustav, was murdered in a K.Z.

\*Hajo Bernett: *Der juedische Sport im nationalsozialistischen Deutschland 1933-1939*. Verlag Karl Hoffmann, Schoendorf. Obtainable from Bundesinstitut fuer Sport und Wissenschaft, Hertz Str. 1,5000 Koeln 40.

I was able to supply Bernett with some material about Gretel Bergmann, the High Jump champion, who was "robbed" of a Gold Medal by the political events, the same medal which was gained by an Hungarian Jewish girl at the Berlin Olympic Games. As a sociologist, Bernett sees these and other individual achievements in their relation to the Jewish sports movement as a whole. He finally queries the "political dogma", which at times divided the "Deutsche Makkabi-Kreis" from the "Schild" in Germany and the "Maccabi Union" and the "Association for Jewish Youth" (AJY) in England, and which today manifests itself in the duality of "Maccabi" and "Hapoel" in Israel.

To do justice to Bernett's very expressive German style, extracts from the last paragraphs of his book, headed "Problemgeschichtlicher Ausblick" are published below in their German original:

"Der juedische Sport im nationalsozialistischen Deutschland hat alle Stufen der Erniedrigung durchlitten: den entehrenden Ausschluss aus der deutschen Sportgemeinde, die Entmuendigung durch die Reichssportfuehrung, Ueberwachung und Massregelung durch die Geheime Staatspolizei, die Kollision mit einer feindseligen Umwelt, die Einengung des Lebens-und Handlungsraums, die Zerstoerung der Organisation, die Enteignung des Besitzes, die Austreibung.

"Dieser Vorgang ist in der Sportgeschichte ohne Beispiel . . . Eine problemgeschichtliche Betrachtung fuehrt zu dem Ergebnis, dass der juedische Sport trotz mancher Differenz als legitimer Teil der deutschen Turn- und Sportbewegung zu verstehen ist. Um so tragischer die Verblendung, diesen Partner als angeblichen Fremdkoerper zu diffamieren und ihn dem Diktat der politischen Machthaber zu opfern."

Readers of "AJR Information", who were active members of Jewish sport organisations in Germany, will find Bernett's book a most interesting and gratifying evaluation of the events.

### "THE YELLOW STAR" A Paperback in English

About 18 years ago, in the July 1961 issue of "AJR Information", we reviewed a pictorial history of the persecution of the Jews in Germany by a German writer of the younger generation, Gerhard Schoenberger. On that occasion, we called for an English translation of this "moving and terrifying book". It is gratifying to note that, "due to the worldwide interest in TV's Holocaust", Corgi Books have now issued in paperback an excellent English translation by Susan Sweet of this documentary of the horrors of 1933 to 1945\*, which we can recommend to our readers and their children, grandchildren and friends as strongly as we recommended the original German edition in 1961.

F. Hellendall

\*Gerhard Schoenberger: *The Yellow Star. The Persecution of the Jews*. Translated from the German by Susan Sweet. Corgi Books, paperback. £2.95.

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## THE WUERZBURGER RAV

To coincide with the 100th anniversary of the death of the famous "Wuerzburger Rav", R. Seligmann Baer Bamberger (see "AJR Information" of April, 1979), several of his descendants living in Israel published a second, up-to-date and improved edition of his family tree.\* The list of descendants, complete at the time of issue, in two lists, viz., compiled both genealogically and alphabetically, runs to 1,670 names.

The elegantly produced volume contains, also, much useful additional information. First of all, there is a genealogical table of the ancestry of the "Wuerzburger Rav" which, though (so far) sketchy and incomplete, traces his descent back to the renowned Bible and Talmud commentator, Rashi (R. Sh'lomo Jizchaki, 11th century), as well as to the "Great Intercessor of German Jewry", Joselmann of Rosheim (16th century). It might also have been expressly mentioned that his father-in-law, R. Seckel Wormser, District Rabbi in Fulda, was a cousin of his world-famous namesake, R. Seckel Loeb Wormser, the "Baal Shem" of Michelstadt. This fact is, at best, only hinted at.

No less useful and indeed interesting are several articles which grace the Hebrew part of the volume. These deal, respectively, with Rabbi Bamberger's personality, life and work; with his writings and published books; and with a bibliography of all his works. The illustrated section presents photographs of various tombstones relating to him, his wife and members of his family, photographs of the first generation after him (there is no known picture of the "Wuerzburger Rav" himself), and photostat copies of rolls of honour issued to him by sages in the Holy Land on the occasion of his completing 25 years in the rabbinate (1865).

Altogether, this is a worthy memorial to a great man and an impressive record of his far-flung family.

W. Stern.

\* "The Bamberger Family". *The Descendants of Rabbi Seligmann Baer Bamberger, the "Wuerzburger Rav" (1807-1878)*. Second Edition. Published by the Bamberger Family, Jerusalem 1979.

### GLADSTONE PARK MEMORIAL SERVICE

The ninth Annual Interdenominational Memorial Service organised by the Willesden Branch of AJEX in memory of those who died in Prisoner of War camps and in concentration camps will be held on Sunday, September 16, at 3 p.m., at the Prisoners' Memorial, Gladstone Park, N.W.10.



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# IN MEMORIAM

## ERNST A. SONNENBERG

Our community has suffered a grave loss by the death of Ernst A. Sonnenberg on August 1 at the age of 72. Born in Wetzlar, he spent his formative years in Frankfurt, where he was also active in the Jewish youth movement. He had a successful business career in Germany, where he held several responsible positions, and he quickly struck roots in this country, where he arrived in 1938 and where, due to his outstanding gifts, he was instrumental in expanding the enterprises with which he was associated.

When he retired at the age of 66, he immediately put himself at the disposal of our work for the aged and became House Committee Chairman of Osmond House, the Home for the frail. This is about the most difficult job our organisation could offer to a voluntary worker. He visited the Home regularly, and the well-being of the residents was always near to his heart. He would discuss current problems with the Matron and, based on his long standing experience, could advise her, especially in questions of staff and administration. At the same time he knew that there were other spheres connected with the running of the Home, with which only the Matron and the senior staff could be familiar. Thus a happy and effective co-operation between him as the lay leader and the professionals in charge of the day-to-day work developed. His untimely death leaves a void which it will be very difficult to fill.

In view of his abilities and his devotion to the work, he was also soon co-opted to the Management Committee, which is in charge of the general policy concerning all the Homes. Here, his sound judgment always proved most valuable, especially because he was associated with the field work in one of the Homes and therefore knew the position from within.

Last but not least, he served for five years on the Executive Committee of the AJR. He had an open mind for the variety of social and political questions with which our community is faced, and his contributions to the deliberations were always particularly helpful, because, being a "newcomer", he would always see the problems in their wider context.

Ernst Sonnenberg was full of vigour almost up to the end and he enjoyed travelling and sport. His appearance made it difficult to believe that he was already in his 73rd year. The committees with which he served have lost a dear colleague and good friend and we feel united with his widow in her sense of loss. Yet much as we shall miss him, we find some comfort in the thought that he was spared long suffering. As a capable, kind-hearted and helpful personality he will be remembered with gratitude and affection by all who knew him.

W.R.

## PROFESSOR HERMANN ZONDEK

Professor Hermann Zondek has died in Jerusalem at the age of 91. Before 1933, he was Director of the Urban Hospital in Berlin. His patients included many leading politicians of the Weimar Republic, among them Foreign Minister Dr. Gustav Stresemann and Reichstag President Paul Loebe. He left Germany when the Nazis came to power and, after spending one year in England, settled in Jerusalem, where he became professor of endocrinology at the Hebrew University and Director of the Bikur Cholim Hospital. In 1960 he was elected a member of the Royal Society of Medicine in London. His memoirs, which are of particular interest from the medical as well as from the political and Jewish point of view, appeared in 1973 under the title "Auf festem Fusse" as a publication of the Leo Baeck Institute (Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart).

## DR. REINHOLD H. FUERTH

The death of Dr. Reinhold H. Fürth, a long-standing member of the AJR, has occurred at Chislehurst on July 17. Born in Prague in 1893, he obtained the degree of Dr.phil at the Prague German University in 1916. Three years later, he was appointed lecturer, and in 1931 Professor of Experimental Physics and Head of the Physics Department. From 1937 to 1938, he was Dean of the Faculty of Science. In 1939, he came to Britain and worked with Professor Max Born at Edinburgh University, where he was appointed Dewar Research Fellow and part-time lecturer in 1942. In 1947, he became Reader in Theoretical Physics at Birkbeck College, University of London, where he remained until his retirement in 1961. In 1966, he was awarded the Keith Prize of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, of which he was a member. He published several books and almost 200 papers and articles in scientific journals and handbooks. The occasion of his 80th birthday in 1973 was marked by friends, colleagues and former students from all over the world. He made important advances in a great area of physics and was an inspiring and caring teacher, as well as a man of great charm and modesty.

## DR. HELMUTH NATHAN

Dr. Helmuth Nathan, who died in New York at the age of 77, will be remembered by former German Jews in many countries as a leading personality of the "Kameraden", and of the Central-Verein. A surgeon by profession, he held positions in Freiburg and Hamburg, his city of birth. He emigrated to the US in 1936 and became professor at the Albert Einstein Hospital of the Yeshiva University. At the same time he continued his Jewish activities as a Board member of "Selfhelp". Helmuth Nathan was also a gifted painter and sculptor, and his Einstein bust, exhibited in the Yeshiva University, attained world fame. In recognition of his academic career in Germany, which was cut short in 1933, he was retroactively appointed Professor of Medicine by the University of Hamburg.

## 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.

## Deaths

**HULSE.**—Dr. Rudolf Hulse passed away on August 14 after a short illness. Deeply mourned by his wife Resi, family and a large circle of friends. 1 Highpoint, Highgate, London, N6.

**KOBNER.**—Mrs. H. Kobner is sorry to announce the death of Dr. H. L. Kobner peacefully in his bed. No letters please.

**ROTHOLZ.**—Siegfried Rotholz passed away peacefully on August 1. Deeply mourned by his wife Lilly, brother-in-law Herbert, sister-in-law Gretl, Daniels and Phillips families, and all other relatives and friends. 48 Northolme Gardens, Edgware, Middx.

## CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 50p for five words plus 25p for advertisements under a Box No.

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### Personal Enquiries

**AUFFAERBER.**—Would Ilse Auffaerber, born in Vienna (present name unknown), daughter of Oskar Auffaerber, contact her aunt, Grete Auffaerber, Tel. 01-485 0449.

**KRAUS.**—Hertha Kraus (maiden name), formerly Kluckygasse 15, Vienna XX. Will persons who know anything about her, please contact Gertrude Gruber (née Arnold,) 735 Pelham Parkway North, Bronx, NY 10467, USA.

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## Letters to the Editor

### OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Sir,—The report about the Oberammergau Passion Play (AJR Information, June 1979) requires a comment. The money and effort spent in more than half a dozen visits to Oberammergau and Munich by American Jewish representatives has been wasted. There is no doubt that the baroque Rosner play is vastly superior to the romantic Daisenberger play, both artistically and as far as Jewish interests are concerned. But the Daisenberger play is longer and keeps the guests one day longer in the village. That fact cannot be changed by revision in the text and by appeals to the Cardinal. The situation might have been influenced by a musical addition to the play or the promise of assistance in a world-wide propaganda for the older play. Whether measures of this kind could have been suggested by Jewish organisations is open to question. What has been done was counter-productive.

WERNER J. CAHNMAN

67-71 Yellowstone Boulevard,  
Forest Hills, NY 11375.

### THE LATE EDUARD ROSENBAUM

Sir,—It was with deep regret that I saw in your July issue the news that Eduard Rosenbaum had passed away. He was one of the kindest, the most generous, the most civilised and also one of the wittiest human beings I have ever known. For many years I saw him practically every day at the London School of Economics—a few words with him were always a refreshing privilege.

Here is a small example of his very personal style of inventive humour: One day he asked me at lunch whether I had read a particular book, and I said I had reviewed it. Rosenbaum: "I did not ask you whether you had reviewed the book, but whether you had read it. Lichtenberg says that one does not have to read a book in order to review it, but that the fact that one is reviewing it is not a sufficient reason for not reading it." That evening I tried to look this up in a Lichtenberg collection I happen to possess and did not find it. Next day I mentioned this to Rosenbaum. His answer: "Who knows, maybe it isn't Lichtenberg, but couldn't it be?" He had—on the spur of the moment—made up an epigram in the perfect and unmistakable style of Lichtenberg himself.

He had many friends, and he will be greatly missed.

(Prof. Sir) OTTO KAHN-FREUND

At the moment of going to press, news has reached us that Sir Otto has suddenly died. An obituary will be published next month.)

### HONOURS FOR SIR HANS L. KORNBERG

Within the space of seven days, Sir Hans Kornberg, Professor of Biochemistry at Cambridge University, was recently awarded three Honorary Doctorates (from Leicester, Sheffield and Essex Universities). We extend our sincerest congratulations to Sir Hans on this rare sequence of well deserved honours.

### LEO BAECK HOUSE COMES OF AGE

On Sunday August 5, the sun shone brightly on Leo Baeck House by special order to help the residents, staff and all their families and relations celebrate the 21st Birthday of the Home. Preparations were made long before the event and the tea, provided by Matron and her staff, the music provided by Mr. Streat and the stalls of goodies provided by many generous people all combined to make the occasion an outstanding success. Indeed, so many lovely gifts were made in money and in kind that a total of about £1,500 was raised. This money, which will be used entirely for the benefit of the residents of the Home, was far in excess of anything anticipated. Grateful thanks are due to all who worked and gave for the occasion. Perhaps as important as the money was the lovely day which will remain in pleasurable memory for a long, long time.

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## THEATRE AND CULTURE

Is the German Theatre doing well? By all accounts it is not. If it were not for the ubiquitous subscription system, actors would often play to half-empty houses, and the British method of coach firms taking groups from villages to towns, as well as arranging special afternoon trips for children and pensioners, has been adopted in many parts of Germany. Advertisements are signs of the times: conscious of today's sensation-seeking audiences, one Frankfurt theatre calls itself "schlechtestes Theater der Welt", and another theatre (also in Frankfurt) exploits the Germans' love of their nostalgic past, by staging a revue with all the revue features of the glorious "Berlin 1930" days.

**Austrian Tit-Bits.** In honour of the celebrated Austrian comedian *Hans Moser* (1880-1964), Schloss Scharnstein in Upper Austria has arranged an exhibition which includes photographs, film titles, texts and statistic features concerning this unique artist, an exhibition which will be open until October 14.—A Film Festival held at Vienna's "Urania" under the heading "The best films of the world" gave top ranking to Germany's "Kabinett des Dr. Caligari", produced in 1920 with Conrad Veidt, Werner Krauss and Lil Dagover, as well as René Claire's "Sous les toits de Paris" (1930).

**Operetta—50 years ago.** Autumn 1929 saw the start of the richest operetta season ever known when every composer of rank provided lasting successes. Paul Abraham showed his great talent with his first major work "Viktorie und ihr Husar", Franz Lehár premiered "Schön ist die Welt", Ralph Benatzky enriched the scene with "Meine Schwester und ich", while also contributing to Robert Stolz "White Horse Inn" which was soon to become a world sensation.

Kalman's very melodious "Veilchen vom Montmartre" (today regrettably neglected) did not quite equal his "Gypsy Princess" and "Countess Maritza", and disappeared, possibly only because of the glut of works appearing during that season when in Britain Noel Coward's most acclaimed musical "Bitter Sweet" presented a worthy counterpart to Continental operetta. It ran to nearly 700 performances, and its top hit tune "I'll see you again" became an international evergreen.

**The Kurt Tucholsky Biography** "Biography of a good German" is a book by Gerhard Zwerenz, published by Bertelsmann, Munich. Zwerenz, an author who escaped from Eastern Germany, leaves little doubt how to value a "good German". He describes Tucholsky, the pacifist and antimilitarist whose life belonged to the theatre only to a minor degree although he worked for cabaret, and is—together with Walter Hasenclever—co-author of "Christoph Columbus". His work for Weltbühne (1918-1932), and, above all, his sarcastic criticisms made him a much-discussed, not necessarily universally beloved personality.

S.B.

### AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY Dr. ISAAC LEVY

Under the heading "Now I can tell" the Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy, OBE, who was the guest speaker at this year's AJR General Meeting, has written his biography covering the war years, 1941-1944, when he served as the Senior Jewish Chaplain to HM Forces in the Middle East. The book (£4.00 incl. postage) is issued privately in a limited edition by the Friends of Israel Educational Trust. Copies, signed by the author, with remittance payable to FOI Consultants Ltd. may be ordered from: Ms. Joyce Grossmark, 7 Courtley Gardens, London, N.W.11.

### TIME AND MOVEMENT

A climb up the steep stairs to the present exhibition at Annely Juda Fine Art, 11 Tottenham Mews, W.1, is well worth the effort if only to see works by Lazlo Moholy-Nagy and Piet Mondrian. These are the giants of this outstanding display, but there are also good works by Georges Vantongerloo, Theo van Doesburg, Friedrich Vordemberge-Gildewart and others who were associated with the De Stijl movement. As is usual with Annely Juda, the catalogue is both informative and superbly produced.

Our old friend Herry Mathews who recently had an exhibition in Harrow, is now going to have a One Man Show from September 21 to October 19 in Berlin at the Heimatmuseum Schöneberg.

A *Catalogue Raisonné* of the etchings of Erich Wolfsfeld has been published and is on sale at the Belgrave Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, London, S.W.1, Tel.: 01-235 0066 (£9.00 hardback, £6.00 paperback). This is the first comprehensive catalogue of the work of an important German-Jewish artist who settled in England. It is a first-class, scholarly publication.

Alice Schwab.

### FRIDOLIN FRIEDMANN REMEMBERED

Friends and relatives of the educationist Dr. Fridolin Friedmann, who died in London in October 1976 at the age of 79, have contributed to a 40-page illustrated symposium published in his memory. Dr. Friedmann held various teaching positions, among them at the Landschulheim Caputh and the Oberschule of the Berlin Jewish Community and in this country Carmel College. After the end of the war, he also took charge of reception centres for children who had survived the Nazi concentration camps. His erudition and, above all, his strong and amiable personality are reflected in the contributions to the booklet, copies of which (£1.00 plus postage) may be obtained from the editor, Mr. George Mandel, The Old Stores, Combe, Oxford OX7 2NG.

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