

Margot Pottlitzer

THE TRANSFORMATION OF GERMAN JEWRY

Year Book XXIV of the Leo Baeck Institute

In his introduction to the very first Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute in 1956, Dr. S. Moses, the Institute's first chairman, outlined the motives for the publication and the aims it had set itself. "The era of German Jewry, so irretrievably past, could only be retraced and preserved for ourselves, our children and the Jewish world at large, if we, the generation that had set out from Germany, would take this cultural task upon ourselves. . . . In our midst, forces are still available who can present and analyse from their own affinity the manifold manifestations of German Jewry." These guidelines determined for many years the contents of the Year Book. As a result, a wealth of information was provided which would otherwise have been irretrievably lost and which will always remain valuable source material for future historians.

As time went on, alas, many of these first-hand witnesses of the last and most poignant epoch of German Jewish history have died, and a new generation of historians has had to take over and deal with the subject as one of pure historical scholarship. Now, nearly a quarter of a century later, the 1979 Year Book, the 24th to be published,* is almost entirely the work of that younger generation. It opens with tributes to four men who were instrumental in forming the Leo Baeck Institute and who have died recently: Professor Hans Liebeschutz, Dr. Max Kreutzberger, Dr. Hans Tramer, and Dr. Jochanan Ginat. Robert Weltsch remains the founder editor, and Arnold Paucker continues to call himself co-editor, though for quite a few years, he has done the actual editing, in accordance with the high standards set by Robert Weltsch who, in his retirement in Israel, has no longer been able to write the introduction which used so splendidly to point out the special relevance of each volume. In his own short preface, Arnold Paucker announces that in future volumes different writers will be asked to continue the tradition.

The present volume is devoted to a far-reaching investigation of "the Transformation of German Jewry". It is a scholarly cornucopia, and to do it justice would, alas, require far more space and specialist historians as reviewers. There have been a great many changes since that first volume was published. Most of the present contributors were born after the end of the First World War and were trained as professional historians in modern methods of historiography. They also had access to many sources in many countries, but particularly in Germany, which have only recently become accessible. Equally, there has been a tremendous upsurge in academic interest all over the world in the various phenomena of German Jewish history and in Jewish history in general.

*Year Book XXIV, 1979. *The Transformation of German Jewry*. Published for the Leo Baeck Institute by Secker & Warburg, London 1979. 472pp. Price £9.

and consequently a new kind of readership for the Year Book. The earlier volumes were mainly destined for and read by men and women who sought enlightenment on a sequence of events in which they had themselves been involved. Their number, too, is dwindling, and the contents of recent volumes have been written for and eagerly perused by scholars of various disciplines, by universities and libraries all over the world. It is greatly to Dr. Paucker's credit that he has been able to assemble for each Year Book teams of scholars, not all of them Jewish, with a deep awareness of the problems involved and of modern methods to deal with them.

For this reason alone, it is fitting that the present volume should start with a study of the problems of historiography, and in this context Werner E. Mosse's essay on "Judaism, Jews and Capitalism", based on a study of Max Weber, Werner Sombart, and their commentators and critics, is particularly relevant. He states that past explanations in terms of religion, race, class or ideology have lost much of their usefulness, and that a new methodology is needed. If, for instance, the German-Jewish economic elite is the study of an investigation, its proportional strength and its distribution through different branches of the economy should be established. He quotes data supplied in 1912 by Rudolf Martin, even if he does not consider them entirely reliable: In 1908, there were 162 Jews among 747 people in Prussia whose fortunes exceeded five million marks. Among the hundred wealthiest people, there were 12 Jews. He recommends to study the Jewish role in capitalist society by relinquishing the pre-war debate, and embark on a method which is beginning to be applied by modern scholars to study the structure, functions and motivations of Jewish economic elites. Laurence Schofer in another essay is in search of a method for the study of the History of European Jewry in the framework of the general history of European countries which he says, has hitherto been largely neglected by concentrating on intellectual history only.

Further sections in the book deal with Cultural Rapprochement, Emancipation and Assimilation, Autobiography and Genealogy, Germany and Palestine, and Jewish Nationalism, and contain a wealth of information both for the general reader and the specialist. Of special interest to our friends is Konrad Kwiet's study of the problems of Jewish Resistance History. There was a time, not so long ago, when, especially in Israel, young people failed to understand why there had been no active resistance to the Nazis by Jews in Germany. Kwiet, a young German historian born in 1941, reminds us that men like Ernst Simon and Herbert Freedman and many others with personal experience of the period, denied the existence of any active resistance and coined the term "spiritual resistance", i.e. a desire for self-assertion expressed in cultural

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The character of AJR activities has changed over the years with changing needs. While, as before, we safeguard the general interests of our community, much of the emphasis is now on work connected with Old Age Homes and a variety of social welfare work for the less fortunate ones among us. The continued success of our endeavour calls for the broadening of our membership base by enrolling those of our community who have so far failed to join.

To this end there are enclosed with this issue of AJR Information a letter and a brochure aimed at those who are not yet members. We enlist your support that these reach a friend or acquaintance of yours in the hope that your personal effort will lead to the enrolment of one or more new members.

The effectiveness of our work in the years to come is based upon the strength of our membership which is still maintained at over 3,800. Respectable though this total may seem at present, we face a natural reduction in membership unless we succeed with the recruiting drive on which, with your help, we now embark. Those of us who have studied our records are surprised at the number of friends and acquaintances whose names are not yet in our membership lists. Their absence from our ranks weakens the continued effectiveness of our work in the decade before us when we know that our services and our care will remain in great demand.

We are confident that with your active assistance we shall not fail. Additional copies of the letter are available on request and will be sent.

C. T. MARX.

and educational projects. Kwiet's article makes fascinating reading, though one may not agree with some of his conclusions. He claims that there were in fact some 2,000 Jews who, under the umbrella of left-wing organisations, provided active resistance. He sees a particular Jewish phenomenon in the Herbert Baum group.

As a contribution to the Mendelssohn year, Eva Engel deals, in the "Cultural Rapprochement" section, with Mendelssohn's widespread influence on German literature. He not only greatly influenced Lessing's style, thinking, and method, but he also wrote two important essays and 21 reviews for his friend Nicolai's periodicals and met most of the important young writers and poets, Wieland and Kleist among them.

In the section "Emancipation and Assimilation", there is a well-written essay by Julius Carlebach, "The Forgotten Connection—Women and Jews in the Conflict between Enlightenment and Romanticism." He again stresses that historical events should never be treated as uniquely re-

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Transformation of German Jewry

lating to Jews and to remember how often Jewish history had a catalytic effect on its environment. He sees it as no accident that the origins of Jewish emancipations and the beginnings of the movement for the emancipation of women manifested themselves at about the same time in the wake of the enlightenment, and that both movements were resisted not only from outside but equally from inside their own groups. The parallelism involved leads Carlebach to a number of interesting conclusions on the background of the society, not only in Germany, against which both movements fought and eventually succeeded.

It has not been possible to draw attention to more than a few of the interesting essays contained in the 1979 Year Book, but one section, not very aptly named "Autobiography and Genealogy" should again appeal to most of our readers. It continues the tradition of earlier Year Books by publishing three very different, but equally delightful collections of reminiscences. Peter Frankel discusses and publishes excerpts from the memoirs of B. L. Monasch of Krotoschin (1801-1876), a printer and publisher who *inter alia* brought out the first edition of the Jerusalem Talmud since 1609, and the *Monatsschrift für die Wissenschaft und Geschichte des Judentums*, edited by his son-in-law Heinrich Graetz. His diaries provide insight into the life and living standards of Jews in 19th century Prussian Poland.

Helmut Gernsheim, the eminent authority on photography and its history, has supplied some hitherto unknown material on the Gernsheims of Worms. Of Spanish Jewish origin, the first Gernsheim settled in Worms in the 16th century, and the last, a doctor, committed suicide in 1938 to escape Nazi persecution. The Gernsheims established Worms as the centre of the leather trade. The founder of the oldest leather firm in Germany, Michael Gernsheim (1715-92), was also the last "Judenbischof", i.e. the elected head of the Jewish community and responsible for its autonomous administration and jurisdiction. He held that office for 34 years.

Finally there is the second part of Dolf Michaelis's "The Ephraim family and their descendants". The first vice-chairman of the AJR in its formative years has done a vast amount of research into the history of the Ephraims after the beginning of the emancipation of the Jews in Prussia, and as required, put it into the context of the general history of the time. He says: "Some of them left the Jewish fold and intermarried, others have remained faithful to the religion of their fathers to this day". Amongst those who married into the Gentile nobility, were two sisters Sara and Marianne Mayer who became leading figures in the intellectual salons of Berlin and Vienna. Both of them met Goethe and became his friends for many years. Their extensive correspondence with him lasted from 1795 when they met in Karlsbad, to 1824.

Bertha Cohn's bibliography "Post-war Publications on German Jewry" (72pp. with a 22pp. special index) is once more a masterwork of intelligent arrangement and painstaking study. During the many years that she has done this work, Bertha Cohn has made the bibliography into an indispensable tool for researchers and has earned the gratitude of scholars in many lands. It is sad to record that this year's bibliography will be the last compiled by her, as reluctantly she has had to agree to enjoy some well-deserved leisure and leave the arduous work to a younger person. Any successor will find it difficult to live by her high standards. Her contribution to the success of the Year Books will not be forgotten.

NAZI CRIMINALS IN COURT

THE PARIS NAZIS

The hearing of evidence in the Cologne court case against the former SS members Kurt Lischka, Herbert Hagen and Ernst Heinrichsohn, accused of having been accessories to the murder of more than 70,000 Jews from France during their term of office in Paris, has been terminated. It has been a turbulent trial. All three accused maintained that they had not known that the Jews they had to collect for deportation were sent to extermination camps. They had assumed that the transports were either meant to reunite families, or to provide workers for special projects. Ernst Heinrichsohn, a former SS sergeant is still the Mayor of the Bavarian town of Bürgstadt, and both the Bürgstadt town council and the CSU party, to which he belongs, refused to sack him.

One witness for the defence was 68-year-old Anton Söllner who had been a guard in the French deportation camp Drancy. He said that he had never noticed children among the deportees. At this point Serge Klarsfeld, who with his German-born wife Beate had campaigned for the trial of the three accused for many years and who is a co-plaintiff in the case, disclosed that in 1954 Söllner had been sentenced to death in absentia in France for his share in the crimes.

The prosecution produced deportation lists dating from 1942 to 1944 which all bore Heinrichsohn's signature. They reveal that up to 1,500 Jews were crammed into cattle trains at each transport, and amongst them were families with up to nine children. The youngest child was just one month old. On the March 1944 list appears the name of Simone Jacob, the maiden-name of Madame Simone Veil, now president of the European Parliament. Heinrichsohn was unable to produce an explanation for his signature on these lists which he said he never read.

Herbert Hagen, 65, former SS Colonel, refused to comment on the charges against him, but said that he had been sure the deportees were to be sent to Palestine. Together with Adolf Eichmann he had paid a secret visit to that country in the late Thirties to investigate the possibilities. His boss, SS Brigadier Oberg, who had been like a father to him, had certainly not known anything about the extermination camps.

Two prosecution witnesses, the former head of the German security police in Holland and the head of the Jewish department in the Hague, who have already served long sentences for their crimes, said even Eichmann had tried to deceive them about the camps, but from the information available to them they had gradually come to the conclusion that there was no doubt about the fate of the deported Jews. Lischka was sentenced to 10 years, Hagen to 12 years and Heinrichsohn to six years imprisonment.

THE MAIDANEK TRIAL

The Düsseldorf trial against the former male and female officers and guards in the Maidanek concentration camp, which was started as the last major trial against SS murderers, has now sat for nearly 400 days, and the end is not yet in sight. 65-year-old woman architect Helene Kurcysz from Warsaw, who had survived cruel ill-treatment, had a severe nervous breakdown after recounting part of her experience. In the camp, she had to use her professional training for planning roads and the camp sewage system. Hermine Ryan, one of the defendants, had been known in the camp as the mare, because she had kicked her victims ruthlessly whenever possible. Another defendant, Hildegart Lächert, had been called "Bloody Brigida", because she liked to beat inmates until they were bleeding profusely. After Mrs. Kurcysz had been released for the day, Lächert simulated a heart-attack and was taken to hospital. The court then dismissed the Polish witness and the Berlin historian Professor Scheffler. A day later, Lächert was sent back from hospital. Subsequently, her counsel tried to prevent Professor Scheffler from appearing as an expert witness and demanded to see his statement in advance. The court refused to give way.

In the witness stand, Professor Scheffler said it was wrong to see in antisemitism an invention of Adolf Hitler's. It was equally untrue that the general population had served the Nazi system for reasons of intimidation. With a few notable exceptions, there had been no Christian solidarity with the Jews. Historians had not the right idea about the so-called "final solution". They tended to forget the important part played by ordinary police units who had assisted the SS in clearing the ghettos by killing Jews or sending them to the gas chambers. In Polish towns and villages, these units had done much of the shooting. In the Warsaw ghetto, for instance, old and sick people and children had been shot in the ghetto itself or in the nearby wood. It was impossible for the knowledge of these happenings to have been restricted to a small circle of people. The trial is expected to continue for several more months.

In Munich, the police confiscated all copies and the newsprint of a book "Maidanek in all Eternity", written by a former member of the Jewish community who had been expelled some time ago and published under a pseudonym. The book contains expressions of violent hatred against Zionists and tries to rehabilitate camp guards. The publisher was a woman who had been deemed unfit to plead some time ago.

LIFE SENTENCE FOR SS MURDERER

A Hamburg jury pronounced a life sentence on 69-year-old former SS commanding officer and police inspector Victor Arajs, for taking part in the murder of at least 13,000 Jews in Riga. When the ghetto was evacuated in 1941, he had ordered his commando troops to form a wall against which the Jews were driven into a number of mass graves which had been dug earlier. The court stressed the lack of feeling and pity with which he and other officers had watched the naked Jews descending into the graves to be shot. During the 199 days of his trials, he had simulated illness and sat in a wheelchair which he left immediately he was out of the court-room.

HITLER'S IMAGE

A salesman, who resembled Hitler and sold pictures of himself in SS uniform, was fined £260 and given a six-months suspended sentence for disseminating emblems of illegal organisations.

CEMETERY DESECRATIONS

Vandals smeared tombstones in the Freiburg Jewish cemetery with swastikas and overturned them. When this was reported in the press, many citizens wrote to the Jewish community to express their shame and disgust.

In Bad Hersfeld, a neo-Nazi "NSDAP Stormtroop" claimed responsibility for desecrating the Jewish cemetery and announced in an advertisement, decorated with swastikas, in a local paper that its aims were to bring the "Red Government" down, to throw out Jews and foreigners and to create a Fourth Reich.

UNFORGOTTEN HITLER

The Bad Nauheim municipal council refused to accept a resolution proposed by the Social Democratic members to remove the names of Hitler and of the Nazi Gauleiter of Hesse, Ferdinand Werner, from its roll of honour. In a recent booklet to celebrate Nauheim's 125 years as a city, both were listed as Freeman of Nauheim. The Lord Mayor Herbert Schäfer, himself a Social Democrat, said this was in order, because this was a historical description, and both men had existed in history.

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HOME NEWS

THATCHER MESSAGE TO ISRAEL

Twenty-one Conservative Friends of Israel have just returned from an eight-day tour during which they visited the Golan Heights, the Lebanese border, a number of kibbutzim and Arab settlements. At Ben-Gurion airport, they were greeted by Israel's president, Mr. Navon, the Prime Minister, Mr. Begin, and the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Teddy Kollek. They brought with them a good-will message from Mrs. Thatcher to the leaders of Israel. The group included its national vice-president, Baroness Hornsby-Smith, the MPs Mr. Maurice Macmillan and Mr. Michael Latham, and Sir Horace Cutler, Leader of the Greater London Council. The party was led by Mr. Michael Fidler, the national director of the CFI. When the party visited the Balfour Forest in Galilee, Mrs. Maurice Macmillan, Lord Balfour's great-niece, unveiled a memorial plaque, and each member of the group planted a tree.

THE IRISH AND THE PLO

A parliamentary delegation from the Irish Republic to Lebanon who were guests of the PLO, stated that they had received a categorical assurance from Yasir Arafat that there were no links between the PLO and the IRA. There has been some speculation that the new Irish government will soon give some form of recognition to the PLO. Charles Haughey, the new Prime Minister, has long been regarded as pro-Arab in his views. In the past, he has visited several Arab countries and, as Minister of Health under Jack Lynch, he was responsible for arranging places in Irish medical schools for Iraqi students. When Eurabia, the co-ordinating committee of Irish-Arab friendship societies recently opened an office in Dublin, the Foreign Minister, Brian Lenihan, said the Irish Government had been pro-Arab since 1977, and they probably had a deeper commitment to the Palestinian cause than any other Common Market country.

In a letter to Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, president of the Board of Deputies, asked for an investigation of the claim by an IRA defector in America, that the IRA had links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

NATIONAL FRONT IN HACKNEY

At a public enquiry at Hackney Town Hall many people objected fiercely to the National Front using a building in Shoreditch as its headquarters. Mr. Derrick Day for the NF said that Mr. Stephen Sedley, counsel for Hackney Council for Racial Equality, was a traitor to the English people on which he was trying to force a multi-racial society. He should go back to Israel. Mr. Christopher Whittaker, for the protesters, said the NF had for a long time been drawing lines round the Jews, the blacks, and the Pakistanis and saying "that they should be somewhere else and ultimately that they should be nowhere". Immigrants in the area were afraid of the NF. Mr. Arthur Super, a former Jewish mayor of Hackney, said he had had personal experience of the violence, hatred and anti-semitism preached and practised by the NF. During his year of office, he had offensive slogans daubed on his front door and had to seek police protection against the threats made to him by the Front.

LORD FISHER HONOURED

A Lord Fisher Memorial Scholarship Fund was inaugurated by Lord Fisher's former colleagues on the board of E. S. Schwab & Co., the banking company of which Lord Mancroft is chairman. Patrons of the fund, opened with a donation of £2,500, are the Chief Rabbi and Mr. James Callaghan.

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ISRAELI TRADE IMPROVING

Four years ago, the Israeli-United Kingdom Joint Trade Committee was formed, but it took until this year for the Department of Trade to join in its deliberations which were also attended by senior officials from all other Ministries in this country and in Israel concerned with trade, industry, agriculture and foreign affairs. They will now meet once a year in Jerusalem and London alternately. After the abolition of exchange controls, British investment in Israel and British exports to Israel have risen considerably in recent months, and Israel now ranks third after oil-rich Dubai and Saudi Arabia as a market for British goods among Britain's 24 trading partners in the Middle East.

At a press conference at the Israeli Embassy, Mr. Gideon Patt, the Israeli Minister for Industry, Commerce, and Tourism disclosed that he would soon go to Cairo to open negotiations for a trade agreement. There were great opportunities for triangular trade projects between Britain, Israel and Egypt.

THE WHITEHALL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

When the Minister of the Environment, Michael Heseltine was the principal guest at a Board of Deputies lunch, he said the planned memorial to the 11 million victims of the Nazi holocaust would probably be set up near Richmond Terrace in Whitehall, and discussions with architects had begun. He stressed, however, that there would be no government contribution to the upkeep of the memorial, because if such a memorial did not attract enough private support, it would not be worth erecting. It is hoped to raise enough money for the monument as well as for books and educational schemes connected with the holocaust.

JEWISH CHOIR'S S. AFRICAN TRIP

The United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg has invited the London Jewish Male Choir to sing in its synagogue and has offered an all-expenses-paid 2½ weeks' trip to its members. The Anti-Apartheid Movement has protested against the trip which it regards as a cultural contact with South Africa. Its secretary, Mr. Mike Terry said it was all the more surprising that a Jewish choir should want to go because "it was the leaders of the racist ruling National Party who were imprisoned during the last war for supporting the Nazis". He added that it was impossible to keep politics out of such a tour. Representatives of the choir stated their performances would be public and open to whites and non-whites, but very few blacks were expected to be interested in their repertoire which consists of Jewish ethnic, liturgical and Yiddish music.

JEWISH NEWS AGENCY CLOSES DOWN

The London bulletin of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency closed down after nearly 60 years of uninterrupted publication, because it is no longer financially viable. The total yearly budget of £45,000 showed a deficit of about £30,000. The Israeli and the New York branches of the Agency will continue to function. The closure will be greatly regretted by Jewish editors, journalists and other readers in this country. On several occasions, the bulletin carried complimentary references to "AJR Information".

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

New Plans for B'nai B'rith

Our member Werner Lash, a retired accountant, has been elected national president of B'nai B'rith of Great Britain for two years. He has held many other offices: for nine years, he has been warden of the Kingsbury Synagogue, chairman of a non-Jewish housing association for the blind, and president of the Beds and Herts Lodge, the Edgware Lodge, and the Leo Baeck Lodge. On assuming office, he expressed his belief that the Lodge should be "a catalyst of new ideas and a unifying force for the community." At present, there are 62 Lodges all over the country, and Mr. Lash plans an expansion of the movement, particularly in small towns.

"O" Level in Jewish History

The Oxford and Cambridge Examination Board have accepted an "O" level syllabus in Modern Jewish History. Some 40 Jewish and non-Jewish students are already studying the course at Harrow, Eton, and three major London schools and will sit their examination in June. The Hebrew University will hold summer workshops during the next two years to train teachers for the course which covers the main events in Jewish history during the last 100 years. The scheme was started by Mr. Robin Spiro, Lector in Hebrew at Oxford. Before his marriage to an Israeli girl, he took a law degree in Oxford and served in the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. In 1969, aged 38, he changed course and returned to Oxford to take postgraduate degrees. At the moment, he is writing a thesis on the impact of the Holocaust on modern Hebrew poetry. For the last year, he has been teaching modern Jewish history at his old school, Harrow, at University College School, and at the City of London School. Mr. Spiro and his wife established the Institute for the Study of Jewish History and Culture, which has donated sets of the Encyclopaedia Judaica to a number of the schools.

Jewish Forces Meeting

Jews serving in the Forces and stationed in Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Israel, the US and Britain attended the annual Jewish reunion and moral leadership course for Commonwealth, American and Israeli military personnel and their families at the Royal Air Force's chaplain's school in Hampshire, organised by the Rev. Weisman, senior Jewish chaplain to HM Forces.

Future of Ajax

At a meeting to commemorate the 1946 founding of the Wembley Ajax branch, the organisation's national chairman, Mr. Henry Morris, said that the 1980s might mark the end of Ajax in its present form, because the future trend would be away from ex-Servicemen towards the general field of service to all sections of the community.

Jewish Book Exhibition at British Museum

The British Library at the British Museum held a small exhibition, depicting the use of illustration in Hebrew printing from 1474 to 1700. The library has one of the finest collections of Hebrew books and manuscripts in the world, and the exhibition displayed 52 of them, eight printed before 1500. They come from a number of European places, the two most important being Venice and Amsterdam.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES Growing Antisemitism

There were more antisemitic incidents in the US in 1979 than at any other time since 1960. According to the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, there were 159 such incidents including 51 attacks on Jewish homes. There had been 810 incidents in 1960 and 170 in 1961, but since then the yearly average was 45. The League report also says that antisemitism is an integral part of the American Labor Party which maintains contacts with Iraq and the Soviet Union.

According to ABC TV, there are more than 200 European immigrants in the US who are alleged to have taken part in Nazi crimes. Seven of them are alleged to have been subsequently employed by the CIA.

Jewish Child adopted by Non-Jews

Judge Leonard Yoswein, of Brooklyn Supreme Court in New York, has ruled that there is no reason to delay the adoption of an 18-month-old Jewish handicapped child by a Protestant minister and his wife. A Jewish couple, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Resch, members of the Lubavitch movement, opposed the adoption, because they had also applied for custody of the child, though later than the Protestants. The child, a boy, is blind and severely handicapped. Mr. Dechter of the Jewish Civil Liberties Union said there were dozens of cases pending in New York adoption agencies in which Jewish children would be given to Christian parents, unless Jewish parents came forward in time. More than 100 such children had been placed in Christian homes last year.

Death of Rabbi Admiral

Rabbi Bertram W. Korn, the first rabbi to serve as an admiral in the US Navy Chaplaincy Corps, has died in Philadelphia and was buried with full naval honours in the National Cemetery in Arlington. During the last war, he was a naval chaplain, but in 1975 the Christian members of the Chaplaincy Corps voted for his promotion to rear-admiral.

The "Israeli Mafia"

In Los Angeles, 27-year-old Israeli Joseph Zakaria was arrested for murder. He and two accomplices, dubbed "the Israeli Mafia" by the US press, murdered an Israeli couple, Eli and Esther Ruven, and scattered their dismembered remains in dustbins. Victims and murderers were connected with a crime ring operating in the American West, whose activities included protection rackets, fire bombings, insurance frauds, drug-trafficking and killings. All those involved had come to the States as tourists from Israel, because Israelis applying for permanent residence have to produce a clearance certificate from the police.

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Jewish Studies in Demand

The New York-based "Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls" has attracted more than 1,200 students from the US, Canada, Israel and other countries, both Jewish and non-Jewish. It was set up five years ago by the American Jewish Committee and offers correspondence courses to adults who may enrol at any time during the year.

JEWISH PRIZE IN MEXICO

Mexico's central Jewish Committee and its periodical "Tribuna Israelita" have established a human rights award to mark their 35th anniversary. It is an annual prize, named after the great French-Jewish jurist and Nobel Prize winner René Cassin, to be awarded annually to a Mexican writer on human rights issues. Professor Cassin, who died in 1976, played a leading part in formulating the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

ARGENTINIAN COMMUNITY HONOURED

Ninety years ago, 824 Orthodox Jews from Russia arrived in Buenos Aires on board SS "Weser" and proceeded to the Santa Fé Province where they founded the first Jewish settlement "Moisesville", supported by Baron von Hirsch's ICA (Jewish Colonisation Association). They were soon followed by other settlers. The 90th anniversary of the event was widely celebrated in Argentina, not only by its 500,000 Jews, but also by members of the military government.

ISRAELI PILOTS KILLED IN MALAWI

Two Israeli test pilots, aged 41 and 44 years, crashed in the Arava aircraft which they were demonstrating before a large crowd. More than 60 of the Israeli-built planes have been sold to a number of countries, and Malawi was prepared to buy four.

"PEACE NOW MOVEMENT" VISITS EUROPE

A delegation of the Israel "Peace Now Movement", composed of Mrs. Tamir from the Hebrew University, and Mr. Vilan, a kibbutz youth leader, visited the Jewish communities in Brussels and Amsterdam and proceeded to Geneva, where they held a press conference. Mrs. Tamir said the Jews of the Diaspora were entitled to participate in decisions on the future of Israel and continued: "We want to prove to non-Jewish public opinion that many people in Israel oppose the annexation of Arab territories."

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IRAN

Jews amongst Hostages

There are three Jews among the Americans being held hostage in the Teheran American Embassy. One of them, Mr. Barry Rosen, the press attaché, who was due to finish his tour of duty in Iran on December 1, has been threatened that he will be put on trial.

Jewish Property Confiscated

Among 64 families whose property was seized by the Iran Revolutionary Council are ten Jewish ones. The property is estimated to be worth many millions of pounds. The victims are alleged to have been supporters of the Shah's regime. Mr. Aryeh, the young owner of the largest tile factory in Iran, was also accused of having maintained links with Zionism. His father represented the Jewish community in the Iranian Parliament for many years.

THE JEWS OF INDIA

The newly formed Council of Indian Jewry has stated that there are now no more than 6,000 Jews in India who are finding it very difficult to secure the services of ministers and mohelim. It has been decided to send young men to Israel and other countries to be trained for service in India.

ITALY

Jewish and Italian Scholars meet

For the first time, a mixed Italian-Israeli committee of scholars met in Rome to draft plans for a history of Jews in Italy. This was done as part of an Israeli-Italian cultural agreement.

No Collusion with PLO

During a trial of three Italian left-wing activists and a Jordanian accused of illegally importing and transporting war weapons for the PLO, the Italian Government issued a strong denial of PLO claims that it had been informed of the operation by the Italian Ambassador in Beirut after his meeting with PLO leaders. The weapons were ground-air missiles, brought to Ortona on a Lebanese freighter.

Jews kidnapped

Two members of wealthy Jewish families in Rome, 26-year-old Barbara Piatelli, daughter of a prominent designer and clothes manufacturer, and 30-year-old Carlo Teichner, also in the clothing business, were the first people kidnapped in 1980.

FRENCH SYNAGOGUES DESECRATED

In recent months, a number of synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in France have been desecrated. During a recent week-end, the small Sephardi synagogue at Creit near Paris was broken into. Furniture, some Torah scrolls and the Ark were damaged. The French Jewish community is discussing plans to rebuild the Drancy synagogue, destroyed by fire in September 1978. Drancy was one of the main centres for the deportation of Jews by the Nazis between 1942 and 1944.



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Leo Kahn

FROM ADENAUER TO SCHMIDT

Pen Portraits by Terence Prittie

It is not easy to cover 30 years of a nation's history adequately in a narrative of no more than 250 pages. The author must not confuse the general reader, at whom this book is aimed, with a mere ragbag of seemingly unrelated facts and events, nor should he try to fob him off with facile generalisations. Terence Prittie* skilfully avoids these pitfalls. His tale has substance as well as a clearly discernible structure. To achieve this, he had first to reduce the over-large subject-matter to manageable proportions without, however, being arbitrary in his choice of omissions.

As the title of the book indicates, national history is here presented in the form of short biographies of the five successive chancellors, Adenauer, Erhard, Kiesinger, Brandt and Schmidt. The author can thus concentrate on the political areas which were—in Schmidt's case are—the chief official concern of these heads of government, namely foreign and economic affairs, and the stabilisation of parliamentary democracy. Other matters of domestic policy are only touched upon, and as a rule, only so far as they are closely linked to the principal areas mentioned. By placing his emphasis as he does, Mr. Prittie is able to tell a story of remarkable success. After four years of utter degradation and desolation in the wake of defeat, it has not taken the new Germany long to become an equal and respected partner in the society of free nations, a leading member of the European communities; and it has achieved a durable reconciliation with France, the "hereditary foe". Its economy has gone from strength to strength, holding up comparatively well even at the present time of world-wide recession. As to parliamentary democracy, a system once widely believed to be incompatible with the German

national character, it seems, so far at least, to be quite safe and functioning satisfactorily. The acid test is perhaps whether at a critical period the two strongest rival parties can shelve the struggle for power and co-operate, without either party being ruined in the process. This was accomplished under Kiesinger's government; when the "big coalition" had clearly outlived its usefulness, the proper pattern—a government strong enough to govern, faced by an opposition strong enough to oppose—was duly restored.

A story of success, though certainly not unqualified success. The desired degree of European integration has not been achieved; West Germany's relations with the Eastern Bloc, including, in particular, the German Democratic Republic, remain an unsolved problem; the imperfections of the Western Alliance leave the country's defences highly vulnerable. The over-eager pursuit of prosperity has created its own dangers, and in its concluding chapter the book deals briefly with the moral and psychological aspects, familiar to all readers of this journal, which cause concern.

The biographical approach to the writing of history does not necessarily imply a belief in the so-called romantic theory, according to which the will and ability of leaders are pre-eminent among the forces which determine the course of history itself. Mr. Prittie does not go to that extreme in his appraisal of the role which the individual plays in great national and world affairs, as the following quotation, to which others could be added, seems to indicate:

"What are the secrets of the "Economic Miracle"? . . . The real secrets of German success were different: they were an immense will to work, a remarkable degree of industrial peace, and Erhard's decision to give the people of the Federal Republic their head, along with every possible incentive."

In this particular case, at any rate, the biographical method is appropriate, because the

personal histories fit easily into what we loosely call the logic of events; for with one partial exception the Federal Chancellors portrayed in the book, unlike as they are in mentality, ability, and style of leadership, have this in common: they are realists inasmuch as they govern in accordance with the maxim that politics is the art of the possible; the exception being Erhard, who was indeed a free-enterprise doctrinaire. But though his rigidity in this respect, at a time when developments called for a more flexible attitude, caused his own downfall and injured his party, it had no lasting effect on the progress of the German economy.

It would not be surprising if the majority of readers found the chapters on the Adenauer régime the most compelling. The 15 years or so from the founding of the Federal Republic were the crucial period. When the aged Adenauer, reluctantly and belatedly, surrendered the reins of government to his successor, the foundations of the new Germany were well and truly laid. And Konrad Adenauer himself was a fascinating person: a born autocrat, but a firm believer in the virtue of democratic government; a sincere Catholic, with more than a touch of uncharitable cynicism towards his fellow-men. In all political affairs he displayed vision as well as shrewdness. Prittie calls him "the greatest, probably the only great German statesman since Bismarck".

This must not be taken as an adverse criticism of later chapters. But as the story gradually progresses from the area of "contemporary history" to that of "current affairs", it inevitably loses something of the confidence and balance of judgment which only hindsight can provide. Still, there are also obvious advantages in continuing the story as far into the present as possible.

Any account of happenings in Germany will cause emotional responses, and the question whether the work is objective is bound to be raised. Well, the writing of general history, as opposed to monographs on restricted topics, is never objective. The historian has to choose the perspective under which he wants to view his subject. From an infinite number of facts he must select the small fraction which he is able to include in his story. And he cannot help pronouncing, or at least implying, many value judgments, which are subjective by definition.

What really matters is that Mr. Prittie develops his theme in a fair and intelligent manner. He makes his basic position quite plain: he is a liberal, a good European, and Germanophil. The book is dedicated to "those who have worked for a better understanding between the German and British peoples". His feelings toward the five chancellors range from sympathy and respect to admiration. He has, with some reservations, confidence in the new generation of Germans. Nobody need share all or any of his sentiments; but the facts which he does adduce are correct, his arguments are never less than reasonable and often persuasive, and on any major point he is careful to indicate also those lines of thought which would lead to conclusions different from his own.

Historiography being an art, literary craftsmanship is of the very essence, and Mr. Prittie is a very good writer indeed. His lucid and elegant style carries the reader pleasurably along. He knows how to make effective use of the apt quotation and the telling anecdote, and he has the knack of explaining a complex situation in easily intelligible terms. His description, for instance, of Adenauer's involved dealings with de Gaulle is a little masterpiece.

The word "velvet" in the title of the book is not only misleading, but just does not make any sense at all, despite the author's explanatory note. A carping comment, perhaps, but it would be a pity if a rather silly title were to deter some people from reading a book, which is both informative and worthy of serious discussion.

*Terence Prittie, *The Velvet-Chancellors—a History of Post War Germany*, Frederick Muller Limited, London, 286pp., £8.95.



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THE ISRAELI SCENE

MORE LINKS WITH EGYPT

For the first time since 1948, Israeli newspapers sold briskly in Egypt last month, whilst Egyptian newspapers were sent to Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza strip.

A Hovercraft connexion between Ashdod and Port Said is to be opened shortly. There are to be two scheduled weekly El Al flights between Tel Aviv and Cairo for the next few weeks. The flight takes one hour 20 minutes.

President Sadat gave an interview to the Mapam Hebrew language paper "Al Hamishmar" in which he said: "Although Prime Minister Begin is what you Israelis call an Ashkenazi, he is an Oriental at heart." He added that Mr. Begin was right in referring to Jews and Arabs as "cousins." Mr. Begin was an outstanding statesman who pursues an honest policy and keeps all his commitments.

A Peace exhibition was held on the Nile island Gezira showing 84 murals, 107 paintings and 100 drawings by the American couple Jerry and Bogumila Koss and their two gifted children, aged 15 and 16. Since Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem, his peace efforts and his friendship with Begin have been their sole inspiration. President Sadat opened the show which fills three pavilions and is the largest art exhibition ever seen in Africa and the Middle East.

BEGIN CALLED "TRAITOR"

When the Prime Minister, Mr. Begin, made his first visit to the West Bank in order to attend the dedication of a yeshiva in Kiryat Arba near Hebron, he was shouted down with cries of "Traitor" by members of Kach, the militant nationalist movement, founded by Rabbi Meir Kahane. When he could not make himself heard, he and his advisers were led out by a backdoor, with soldiers holding back the demonstrators. Earlier he had listened to a call by Rabbi Goren, the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi to ensure that Hebron "once again became a Jewish city", and had replied: "The Land of Israel was always ours and will remain ours. I will work for this until the end of my days." This, too, was greeted by shouting and heckling. Sir Isaac Wolfson was presented with a plaque for his contribution to the yeshiva which will house several hundred students whilst they are doing their national service.

ARAB HUMILIATED

An Israeli security forces interrogator has been reduced to rank and transferred to another post, because during an interrogation he humiliated a West Bank Arab by calling him a "poodle" and forcing him to crawl on all fours. He also made the man, a non-smoker, smoke five cigarettes at once. The inquiry was opened when a lawyer complained to the Prime Minister's adviser on minority affairs. Two other interrogators have recently been rebuked for infringing the rules.

CLUB 1943

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

- 3 Maerz. Elisabeth Bergner.
- 10 Maerz. Fred Uhlman, RBA, AGA, FRSA: "The Making of an Englishman".
- 17 Maerz. Prof. Dr. H. Kalmus: "Biologie in Entwicklungslaendern".
- 24 Maerz. Gerald Holm: "The Life and Music of Karl Michael Bellman. A Genius of Swedish Rococo" (with musical illustrations).
- 31 Maerz. Kein Vortrag.
- 7 April. Kein Vortrag.
- 14 April. Hans Seelig: "Switzerland and its Writers. Carl Spitteler and his Followers".
- 21 April. Dr. Kurt Pflueger: "Das East End von London".
- 28 April. Dr. E. Kessel-Ruhemann und F. Ruhemann lesen aus den Werken von Felix Langer.
- 5 Mai. Kein Vortrag.

TURBULENT AGUDA CONVENTION

Five hundred and thirty delegates and 2,000 observers from all over the Jewish world attended the sixth Aguda Israel world assembly (the fifth was held in 1964) in Jerusalem's large convention centre, led by the Aguda's Council of Torah Sages. Some 6,000 people crammed into the hall, and mounted police had to keep out many more Agudists who had not received invitations. The president of Israel, Mr. Navon, was not invited, because the organisers said they did not want the eminent rabbis among the delegates to stand when Mr. Navon entered the hall. Women were not admitted either and complained vociferously. Subsequently, President Navon refused to receive a delegation from the conference. Mr. Begin, who had been invited, declined to attend. Rabbi Abramowitz, a Deputy Knesset Speaker and head of the world Aguda committee, said the meeting, "the Parliament of the Torah", had as its main task the devising of ways to combat assimilation and intermarriage. US Rabbi Lubinsky stated that the Aguda wanted to stop infiltration of the Conservative and Reform Movements into Israel. An Israeli, Rabbi Abramowitz, and an American, Rabbi Morris Sherer, the first clean-shaven rabbi to hold office, were elected co-chairmen of the world movement. The assembly took a rigid line against autopsies and abortion and called on Orthodox Jews to renounce lavishness which provoked rivalry and competition at a time of economic retrenchment. It urged every religious family to "adopt" a non-religious family and influence its members towards a stricter observation of Jewish laws. The Council of Sages refused to come to a decision on whether it would be permissible under rabbinic law to give up parts of the West Bank for the sake of peace.

JERUSALEM CITIZENS HONOURED

The list of personalities, who were recently awarded the Freedom of the City of Jerusalem, includes Mrs. Amalie ("Mally") Winter. Before Mrs. Winter, the widow of the late Rabbi Dr. David Winter, went to Israel, she sold her boarding house in Netherhall Gardens, which was then converted into Otto Schiff House. The award was bestowed on Mrs. Winter in recognition of her extraordinary merits in the creation of baby homes and kindergartens under the auspices of the Mizrahi. The Freedom of the City was also awarded to Dr. Werner Jacob Nissel, an active Zionist since 1918, who takes a leading part in the work of the Magen David Adom.

KHOMEINI FOLLOWERS IN ISRAEL?

During municipal elections in two large villages in Galilee, the extremist Moslem religious party did not take part in the Kafr Kanna poll, but nevertheless received ten per cent of the votes. In Gaza, a large Moslem crowd attacked "Left wing" and "immoral institutions" and damaged a cinema, a casino, restaurants serving alcoholic drinks, and the office of the Red Crescent, the camouflaged base of Left-wing elements. They shouted slogans similar to those of the Iran supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini.

SONG FESTIVAL WITHOUT ISRAEL

Israel Radio and TV have decided not to send competitors to the Holland Eurovision Song Festival, the date of which clashes with Israel's Day of Mourning for those killed in battle. It is to be held in Holland, because Israel, the winner of the last contest, had given up the right to host the 1980 one for financial reasons.

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KAMPUCHEAN CHILDREN SAVED

Dr. Yaakov Adler, the emergency services director at the Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem, has returned home after leading Israel's first medical team to help Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. He was accompanied by six doctors from the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and two Tel Aviv hospitals as well as six other medical volunteers. A second team has been sent out, and a third has already been formed. Dr. Adler and his helpers worked in a 120-bed ward in the camp hospital of the Sakeo camp and treated more than 2,000 patients, most of them children who had hardly eaten for weeks. Dr. Adler said he had been prompted by memories of his youth when many of his friends died in concentration camps because the world stood idly by.

He has been asked by Mrs. Esther Haberfeld who also works at the Shaare Zedek hospital and has four children of her own, to help her find an orphan from Kampuchea to adopt. She herself spent much of her childhood in Bergen-Belsen, because the non-Jews to whom her parents had sent her to protect her, had been too afraid to keep her with them, and she wants to save at least one other child from a similar experience.

A GIRL WHO DOES NOT EXIST

In 1976, an Israeli couple, Ami and Ada Gaber, adopted a nameless, emaciated orphan girl who arrived in Israel from Thailand in a boatload of Vietnamese refugees. She grew up with the Gaber's two children, in Raanana, near Tel Aviv, and is now a healthy four-year-old whose only language is Hebrew. However, the Israeli rabbinical authorities have refused to ratify the adoption, because no child of another faith may be officially adopted in Israel. Only when she is 12, can Daniella, as the Gabers called her, apply for conversion to Judaism. Her adoptive parents do not receive a child allowance for her and will have to pay for her kindergarten education. A leading Labour member of the Knesset, Mrs. Haika Grossmann, has taken up the case and moved an amendment to the adoption law, but there is no hope of early action. There are a few more Vietnamese and Kampuchean children in the same predicament.

MORE FEES FOR NURSERY SCHOOLS

After a wave of protests, the Ministry of Education has promised to reconsider its decision to allow increases in private nursery and kindergarten fees. The old fee of about £16.50 per month was already too much for many working parents, and the proposed increase to about £24 led to a storm of protest. Families where both parents work usually send their children to nursery schools at the age of two-and-a-half. At five, the children are admitted free at the compulsory pre-school kindergarten.

GERTRUD LUCKNER HOME IN NAHARYA

A home for Christian victims of the Nuernberg laws was consecrated in Naharya. It is named after Dr. Gertrud Luckner (Freiburg), who had assisted persecutees under the Nazis and was imprisoned in Ravensbrueck. After the war, she was one of the first German visitors to Israel. Dr. Luckner took a leading part in raising the necessary funds for the erection of the Home, which will be maintained by a special foundation, two thirds of which will be contributed by the Bonn Government and one third by Roman Catholic institutions.

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TURNING POINTS IN

JEWISH HISTORY

Tuesday, March 18—Dr. J. Magonet:

"Exodus—Sinai—Moses"

Thursday, April 10—Dr. Michael Weitzmann:

"Destruction of the First Temple"

Tuesday, April 29—Mr. Hyam Maccoby:

"Destruction of the Second Temple"

There will be three further lectures on May 13,

June 5 and June 24.

The lectures commence at 8.15 p.m.

COMMENT ON "THE KAISER'S JEWS"

In "Jüdisches Leben in Deutschland—Selbstzeugnisse zur Sozialgeschichte im Kaiserreich". Monika Richarz presents an important compilation of memoirs covering all social levels and written by Jews who lived in the reign of Kaiser Wilhelm II. The collection, together with Miss Richarz' thoughtful introduction, provides valuable material for future historians. It gives an insight into the lives of German Jews, their longing for integration into the world about them and their reactions to the rejection which confronted them, ranging from indifference to an attempt to overlook their cold reception or to escape from it.

Egon Larsen's review in the issue of October 1979 includes value judgements based on events after the Kaiser's abdication and on the traumatic experience of Nazi rule. The Central Verein was not founded merely because of "the necessity of resistance against the growing danger of anti-Semitism". Rather, it represented an important departure from prevailing attitudes. While the Berlin Jewish community wished to petition the Kaiser for his protection against anti-Semitism, Dr. Raphael Loewenfeld, who inspired the founding of the CV, rebelled against the concept of "Schutzjude", issuing his pamphlet "Schutzjude oder Staatsbürger". His demand was for self-defence in the full light of publicity, denoting a new Jewish consciousness, a new Jewish pride.

As to Ernst Herzfeld's memoirs, he was not at all "amazed" at "the *Herrenvolk* attitude of the German Jews towards the 'inferior' local Polish population" of his native Posen. The Jews of that area, as Ernst Herzfeld makes abundantly clear, considered themselves an integral part of the German community, sharing their prejudices and, in general, their nationalistic tendencies, under which even forcible Germanisation of Posen's Polish population was considered justifiable. When Mally Dienemann writes "We children were firmly convinced that German culture was head and shoulders above Polish culture", she is not describing a specifically German Jewish view, but an atmosphere in which children shared the general prejudices, attitudes and political opinions of the ruling German minority—whether in Posen or in West Prussia. It is not surprising that both reminiscences, dealing with events of 40 or 50 years ago, display a certain detachment, but this does not mean that the Jews in the Eastern provinces can reasonably be seen outside the context of the country of which they believed themselves to be an integral part. It was not the Jews who developed a "*Herrenvolk* attitude" towards the Poles: it was the Germans; but the Jews rightly or wrongly felt part of German society. Ernst Herzfeld wrote "Wir fühlten uns wohl, ohne uns dessen bewusst zu sein, so sehr als ein Bestandteil der an Bildung und Kultur überlegenen deutschen Gemeinschaft, dass es uns nicht in den Sinn kam, uns mit unseren polnischen Mitbürgern eingehender zu befassen".

When discussing the illustrations, Egon Larsen says that German Zionists at the outbreak of World War I were "surprisingly eager patriots"; he assumes that a Zionist must by definition be the very opposite of a German patriot. This is, however, not in accordance with German Zionist history. For example, in 1913, when the CV passed a well-known anti-Zionist resolution, an official body of the Zionistische Vereinigung für Deutschland stated categorically: "The national Jewish conviction . . . cannot prevent the German Zionists from taking an active part in German political and cultural life. This participation, which exceeds the formal compliance with the duties of a German citizen, is based on our historically founded position in Germany and our conception of the moral significance of the State". Again, the *Jüdische Rundschau* of 21 May 1914

contained an article by a young Zionist intellectual who wrote: "We German Zionists have grown up with Goethe and Schiller, with Lessing and Herder, with Kant and Fichte. We enjoy German culture, wander through German lands, serve in the German army. Therefore we have the right and the duty, with the necessary tact, to contribute to the German future". We cannot be surprised that these young men patriotically rushed to the colours in 1914. The aim of Monika Richarz is to help us understand the Jews of Imperial Germany.

Mr. Larsen is shocked by a photograph of the Zionist student association Maccabaea and expresses his horror at "the depth to which many Jewish students sank in their urge to emulate the nationalistic, chauvinistic German youth of the Kaiser's establishment". It would be going too far to elaborate in detail on the history of Jewish student life in German universities. A turning point in the annals of German Jewry came at the end of last century when Jewish students, against the advice of their elders, openly stood up for the honour of the Jewish name, ready to meet the German students, the most violent anti-Semites, on their own ground. The members of the KC (Kartell-Convent deutscher Studenten juedischen Glaubens) combined German patriotism with the fight for Jewish honour, adhering strictly to the student rituals of duelling, dress and drinking.

As a Zionist, I may now smile at Maccabaea and the KC, yet I see each of them as educational in the development of a new Jewish pride, in the deepening of Jewish consciousness, while Egon Larsen is evidently more involved in German history after World War I. In the light of this knowledge, as though with a contemporary eye, he applies his evaluations to the time of the Kaiser, to events and persons, organisations, German universities and Jewish reactions to student life. This explains his conclusions that "the whole idea of establishing Jewish duelling students' associations, copying that 'Teutonic' speciality, strikes one now, in retrospect, as a regrettable aberration". However, in my opinion, this should be judged against the background of the German Jewish academic phenomenon.

HANS CAPELL (Ramat Chen)

PRIZE FOR BERLIN CELLISTS

The Israeli State Prize for Music for the best interpretation of a contemporary Israeli composition was awarded to the twelve cello players of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra for their playing of twelve solo pieces for violin and cello by the Israeli composer Noam Sheriff during the 1978 Israeli Music Festival in Jerusalem.

DR. ARTHUR SIMON

It is learned with regret that Dr. Arthur Simon, the well-known Berlin Gynaecologist, died in New York at the age of nearly 103. Dr. Simon conducted a very successful practice, both private and as a "Kassenarzt" in the Grolmanstrasse, Berlin-Charlottenburg, and was also a Consultant to two hospitals. His competence as a physician and his skill as a surgeon allied to the qualities of friendliness, sympathetic understanding, a pleasant bedside manner and sense of dry humour made him a very popular figure in his profession. In 1936, he and his wife emigrated to the United States where, at the age of 59, he studied and qualified as a Doctor at New York University. He then established himself again in practice until, in his middle-eighties, he was compelled to retire.

He continued until nearly his death to take an active interest in life and politics, travelling and reading. On the occasion of his 100th birthday, he not only received the customary telegram from President Carter but was also greatly honoured by the German Embassy. F.E.F.

Arno Reinfrank

HERR MOSES IN EAST BERLIN

As stocks are running low, you will be extremely lucky to get hold of a copy of the book under review which appeared in Verlag Der Morgen, publishing house of the Liberal Democratic Party of the German Democratic Republic.* The author, Heinz Knobloch, is a journalist who has been on the staff of East Berlin's weekly *Wochenpost* for many years. More than a mere biography of Moses Mendelssohn, the book offers new insights into history as well as present realities. Each of the 475 pages is headed by a caption and all the facts are painstakingly well researched in the best of journalistic tradition. Vivid, bright and critical, the book is probing into patterns of oppression that have been with us for more than 250 years. By interspersing the odd anecdote, even a joke, and by breaking the flow of narrative with commentaries, either the author's or those of historical personalities, the reader's attention is captivated. Knobloch's main trick is to present himself as a naive but curious fact hunter.

A long line of factual details and far from naive observations is presented to us, astonishing parallels between past and present are drawn, and pointed as well as rhetorical questions are formulated that do not stop even in front of the accepted authorities. Had Marx really read Mendelssohn's works, when he called him derogatorily a "Seichbeutel"? Could it be true that Frederic II, the King of Prussia, was in fact more liberal toward the German intellectuals than today's state officials? Could the director of East Berlin's "Berufsschule" really afford to brush aside any interest in the history of his building, which happens to be the former "Jüdische Knabenschule", Grosse Hamburger Strasse?

These samples may give an indication of the uniqueness of this biographical compendium. Lengthy reports on the reception of Mendelssohn's works are included, and so much background information is brought in that the story forms a panoramic view of the plight of the Jews and everybody else in Germany and Europe. Lessing already spoke of Prussia as "das sklavischste Land Europas", and the patterns established then still provide a hostile environment to social democracy, civil liberties and freedom of information in Knobloch's socialist part of Germany.

Those who may walk across a Berlin lawn he thus warns: "Misstraut den Grünanlagen", for much lies buried beneath the grass. Those who propagate one-sided information are satirized in an enlightening manner as in the story about his search for a copy of the Bible. Official East Berlin bookshops were only able to offer him—the Koran, fresh from the press. Finally a Church-run store could provide him with a choice of Bibles, but alas, no Talmud copy was to be found to help him in his study.

The seriousness of the author's observations is now and again transformed into sadly amusing reflections of Mendelssohnian irony. We are minutely instructed on how to read Mendelssohn's praise of the Prussian King, yet we are left without a hint as to the interpretation of present vows of allegiance to the State.

By packing his pages with a multitude of historical facts and data on old Berlin's Jewish community, Knobloch certainly fills a gap, especially for the young East German Gentile reader, and above all he tries to stimulate people to think for themselves and act accordingly. The message of the book reiterates that of Mendelssohn: the need of "Menschenfreundschaft" and the continuing re-affirmation of the dignity of Man.

*Heinz Knobloch: *Herr Moses in Berlin—Auf den Spuren eines Menschenfreundes*. Berlin: Buchverlag Der Morgen, 1979. 475 pages. DDR 14,60 M.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE FUTURE OF SOVIET JEWRY

Professor Michael Zand of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem said that, according to the latest official figures, there were some 130,000 Georgian, Bokharan and similar Jews in Russia. They had retained their religious identification. They represented only 6 per cent of the Soviet Jews, but 37 per cent of the emigrants between 1971 and 1979. 97 per cent of them had gone to Israel. There were another 270,000 Jews in the Baltic republics, the Western Ukraine, Byelorussia, Bessarabia, and Bukovina, representing another 13 per cent who provided 46 per cent of emigrants, with 90 per cent going to Israel. There had been 1,663,000 Ashkenazi Jews within the pre-1939 Soviet borders, representing 81 per cent of all Soviet Jews. They provided 17 per cent of the emigrants with 50 per cent going to Israel.

At the laying of the foundation-stone for the synagogue of the association of Soviet Georgian emigrants, their chairman, Mr. Bar-Lavie, appealed to Israelis to stop the denigration of his group and recognise their services to Israel. They had produced rabbis, authors, engineers and others who had greatly contributed to the State. Georgian Jews have a poor image in Israel, because some have been involved in criminal activities.

"TURNING POINTS IN JEWISH HISTORY"

We should like to draw our readers' attention to the Lecture Course of the Theodor Herzl Society, details about which are announced on page 6 of this issue. In view of the interesting subject presented by expert speakers it is hoped that many AJR members and their friends will attend the lectures.

SALARY CUTS FOR EL AL STAFF

Pilots, navigators, and flight engineers of Israel's national airline El Al have agreed to pay taxes on their salaries which were hitherto paid by the company. This amounts to cuts of up to 40 per cent in their income, but they can make up for much of this by working longer hours.

A REFUGEE SPY FOR RUSSIA EXPOSED

According to an article in the "Sunday Times", Moscow's most important spy in Britain was a refugee woman, Ruth Kuczynski, daughter of an eminent economist from Berlin, Professor Rene Kuczynski, who arrived in Britain as a refugee in 1935. She had joined the German Young Communist League at the age of 19 and worked as a spy in China, where she was recruited for Soviet intelligence, in Poland, and in Switzerland, before coming to Britain and marrying a young Englishman, Len Brewer, who served in the RAF and the Coldstream Guards. When her husband was on service abroad, she lived in a cottage in Oxford with her small children and transmitted valuable material to Russia. Her father was a friend of Sir Stafford Cripps, her brother Juergen, also an economist who later worked for the US Strategic Bombing Command, wrote reports for her on wartime economy and military planning strategy. Russia broke contact with her when, in 1946, Alexander Foote whom she had known since her days in Switzerland, defected to the West. She was investigated by MI5, but convinced them that she no longer worked for Moscow. In 1948, she obtained permission from the Russians to move to East Berlin where she now lives, aged 72.

WALLENBERG REMEMBERED IN SWEDEN

More than 900 Swedish Jews crowded into Stockholm's Great Synagogue to pay homage to Raoul Wallenberg who saved the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews at the end of the last war and was abducted by the Russians thirty-five years ago. Nobody knows what happened to him, and during the ceremony, which was attended by the Bishop of Stockholm, Mrs. Langergreen, Wallenberg's half-sister, said she was leading an international campaign to force the Russians to shed new light on the affair. Members of the diplomatic corps, including representatives of France, Argentina and Israel, were also present. A Raoul Wallenberg scholarship at the Weizmann Institute in Israel was launched.

LORD WEIDENFELD AT JEWISH BOOK WEEK

This year's Jewish Book Week from March 10-13 at Adolph Tuck Hall, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1, will be opened by a lecture by Lord Weidenfeld on Monday, March 10, at 8.30. Dr. G. J. Webber will be in the Chair, and the AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations.

The further programme includes a Hebrew Evening on Tuesday at 8.30. On Wednesday at 8 p.m. Jon Kimche will speak on British Policy towards the Jews 1940-1948 under the heading "Was Britain so guilty?" and on Thursday at 8 p.m. William Fishman will give an address on "Zangwill's East End and its Relevance Today."

As in previous years, there will also be an Exhibition and Sale of Judaica and Hebraica in the Meeting Hall. A leaflet carrying further details of the Jewish Book Week programme may be obtained from the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London NW3 6JY.

MRS. CHARLOTTE DRESEL

It is learned with deep regret that Mrs. Charlotte Dresel, the wife of our President Mr. Alfred S. Dresel, died on February 15 at the age of 85. She always took a deep interest in her husband's work and, as long as her health permitted, accompanied him on all official functions of the AJR. We extend our sincerest sympathy to our friend, Mr. Dresel, in the loss sustained by him after a happy marriage of over 60 years, and to his children and grandchildren.

LEGACIES

Sir Otto Kahn-Freund left £115,989 net. He left £2,000 each to Amnesty International and the Defence Aid Fund and £1,000 each to Oxfam, Fabian Society, Association of Jewish Refugees, Friends of the Hebrew University, British Library of Political and Economic Science, and the Bodleian Law Library, Oxford.

Mrs. Rosa Wheeler, who was a resident of Leo Baeck House, left a legacy of £1,141—to the AJR Charitable Trust.

Miss Nora Goddard left £3,500 to the AJR.

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A FLAWED LEGACY

New Trotsky Biography

Trotsky's career has everything a biographer could wish for. Here is an international revolutionary who first astonished and alarmed the world as Foreign Commissar and War Commissar of the infant Soviet state, and then, within a few short years, was eased from power, forced into exile, and the once-feared Commissar could find no secure refuge, until in 1940 he eventually succumbed to the assassin hired by his deadly rival, Stalin. Not only does Trotsky's personal fate arouse wonder—he also had brilliant gifts as historian, orator, journalist, polemicist and pamphleteer so that he accompanied his extraordinary career with a stream of literature. There are no secrets in Trotsky's life and the material is so abundant and the crises so well documented that it is all but impossible not to make his biography a gripping tale.

Dr. Wistrich does not essay any new interpretation of Trotsky's career but his biography is an unusually skilful synthesis of existing knowledge.* Moreover, Wistrich is especially successful in seeing Trotsky's fate within the revolutionary setting; for example, he has a number of perceptive comments into the situation in 1923-24 when Lenin's failing health and early death marked the beginning of Trotsky's fall from power. Trotsky had lost his initially intimate, free and easy identification with the masses. He was unpopular for his advocacy of the militarisation of labour and his reputation as a stern disciplinarian. If Trotsky's impatience with his intellectual inferiors and his imperceptible isolation through Stalin's intrigues be added—then it is clear that this very time, when Lenin's growing incapacity seemed to open the way for Trotsky's ascent to even greater power, was in reality the moment of his slow decline from power.

But his subsequent exile gave Trotsky the enforced leisure to display his qualities as historian. To his *History of the Russian Revolution*, Dr. Wistrich devotes some of his most acute insights. There is no doubting that this is a historical masterpiece—but is it not also flawed, Wistrich asks, by the predictable pattern that runs through it? "The triumphant proletariat under the leadership of Lenin and the Bolshevik Party is presented as the executor of a pre-determined plan, the conscious instrument of the objective laws of history. There is no room for doubt, hesitancy or self-questioning."

On the grounds that it presents "a lived experience", Wistrich prefers Trotsky's earlier work, 1905. This, he says, combines both triumph and defeat in a more persuasive form than the *History*. Be that as it may, it is good to find a biographer of Trotsky who understands that he was as im-

portant a literary as an historical figure. The point is further underlined by the attention that Wistrich gives to Trotsky's literary theories, his interest in Freudian psychoanalysis and his sympathy for what was universal and timeless in art.

Trotsky's understanding of Fascism was limited by reason of his Marxist outlook so that he saw it mainly as the last-ditch effort of a moribund capitalism. On the other hand, he also understood, as did few others at the time, the threat to the Jews and was able to revise his earlier views on the inevitability of assimilation. This is what he told a group of Jewish journalists in 1937: "During my youth I rather leaned towards the prognosis that the Jews of different countries would be assimilated and that the Jewish question would thus disappear in a quasi-automatic fashion. The historical development of the last quarter of a century has not confirmed this perspective. Decaying capitalism has everywhere swung over to an exacerbated nationalism, one part of which is anti-semitism. The Jewish question has loomed largest in the most highly developed capitalist country of Europe, in Germany". Two years later Trotsky was even more emphatic: "It is possible to imagine without difficulty what awaits the Jews at the mere outbreak of the future world war. But even without war the next development of world reaction signifies with certainty the physical extermination of the Jews".

But for all Wistrich's appreciation of Trotsky's perception, Wistrich is far from a hero-worshipper. In a final summary, significantly entitled "The Flawed Legacy", he shows that Trotsky's critique of the Soviet bureaucracy remained fixed at the super-structural level and ignored the emergence of a new type of class-society. Again, the industrial proletariat has not proved itself the messianic class of world-history. As for the under-developed world, nationalism and the state have taken on dimensions that Trotsky never envisaged. All in all, this is a perceptive, cool and balanced view of one of the most outstanding political leaders of the 20th century.

HEINE MONUMENTS

Is the tragic struggle for a Heine monument in his native city of Düsseldorf at last drawing to a "successful conclusion"—as a farce?

It is intended to erect a "Heine Monument" in Düsseldorf according to designs by the sculptor Bert Gerresheim—a "physiognomical puzzle landscape" aimed at showing Heine's portrait in fragments of his face. Thus Gerresheim wants to prove the "fragility in Heine's work"; according to the "Düsseldorfer Nachrichten" he wants to present—with the possibilities of expression of our times—a "documentation of the impossibility of a monument". A Heine Monument to prove that after all those great men from Hofprediger Stöcker and Kaiser Bill to Julius Streicher were right in opposing a Heine Monument?

It appears that the project is being financed by a West German Bank, the Kunden-Kreditbank in Munich and that this strange monument will be erected in time for the 125th anniversary of Heine's death in February 1981, on Düsseldorf's Schwanenmarkt.

At the same time no one other than Hitler's Court sculptor Arno Breker has dug out his old design for a Heine monument which had been hidden in a cellar since 1931. Breker's design has been offered to the City of Düsseldorf by the local vernacular association "Düsseldorfer Jonges", but in a unanimous declaration all parties of the City Council have rejected this offer stating that a man

"like Arno Breker who was so intimately connected with the artistic messages of the Nazi period is not suitable to create a representative monument for Heinrich Heine". Nevertheless a few Breker enthusiasts in Düsseldorf have formed a "Heinrich Heine Monument Society" with the aim of erecting Breker's Heine statue on private property!

At the same time a serious and dignified effort to honour Heine is taking place in Hamburg where the very active Heinrich Heine-Gesellschaft plans to re-erect the old Heine Monument by Hugo Lederer destroyed by the Nazis of which a replica had survived the Nazi years in England. The project has found the support of Hamburg's senator for Culture, Professor Tarnowski, and of leading Hamburg newspapers, like "Die Welt" and "Hamburger Abendblatt". It is hoped that a place for the re-erected monument will be found in the centre of the city.

F. HELLENDALL

EXHIBITIONS IN GERMANY

The Jewish community of Regensburg which was first set up just 1,000 years ago, has celebrated the event with an exhibition in the Jewish communal centre "1,000 years of Jewish Life in Regensburg". It was organised with the help of Dr. Andreas Angersdorfer, chairman of the Society of Christians and Jews, and contains documents, ritual objects and books which have survived Nazi persecution. In the middle-ages, Regensburg was the centre of a famous Talmud school and had a number of well-known doctors and pharmacists who were highly regarded by the Christian population.

A particularly successful exhibition was shown in the Dominican Monastery of Wallbergen near Brühl (Rhineland). Its subject was "Jews in the Middle Ages" and attracted so many visitors from the whole of the Federal Republic that it had to be kept open for three months more than originally planned by the sponsors, the Cologne Council of Christians and Jews and Pater Dr. Eckert, the prior of the monastery. The exhibition gives many examples, collected all over Europe, of mutual influences in many fields, but also of the reflection of growing anti-Jewish attitudes in Christian paintings of the period.

In Bochum, Ruhr, an exhibition has been opened of 150 drawings by inmates of Auschwitz which have been made available by the Polish Auschwitz Memorial Archives. They will later be shown in other West German towns.

TUCHOLSKY REMEMBERED

To mark the 90th anniversary of the birth of Kurt Tucholsky, two schools in the Berlin Tiergarten district arranged special functions; furthermore, a Matinée was held in Academy of Arts (also located in the Tiergarten district), at which Marianne Hoppe, Gisela May, Carl Raddatz appeared. The anniversary was also commemorated by the "Buergerinitiative" founded for the preservation of Tucholsky's house of birth in the Luebecker Str., Berlin-Moabit; it is intended to use the building as a memorial, with library, exhibits and reading rooms.

E.G.L.

"OTTO BRAUN HALL"

On January 30, a memorable date, the Great Lecture Hall of the State Library "Preussischer Kulturbesitz" (Berlin) was given the name "Otto-Braun-Saal". At the opening ceremony, the plaque was unveiled by Professor Dr. Herbert Weichmann.

E.G.L.

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*Robert Wistrich: *Trotsky—Fate of a Revolutionary*. Robson Books 1979. £7.50. 235pp.

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BIRTHDAYS

MRS. EVA MICHAELIS 75

Mrs. Eva Michaelis-Stern, wife of the first vice-chairman of the AJR, celebrated her 75th birthday in Jerusalem. Dr. Israel Katz, Minister of Labour and Social Betterment, announced in the press that she had been awarded a medal for her central role in rescuing Youth Aliyah children, of whom he was one, during World War II, and for her work for the mentally handicapped in Israel. The parents organisation of the Irene Gaster Hostel of Magen opened a special "Eva Michaelis Birthday Fund" for this home for mentally handicapped adults.

She was born in Breslau the daughter of the pioneer child psychologist William Stern, who published his research on the development of his own children in his standard work "Psychologie der frühen Kindheit". In 1916 the family moved to Hamburg. When Eva grew up, Robert Weltsch remembered in his birthday speech, she soon became a pioneer for the Aliyah movement, and in 1933, with the aid of a few devoted helpers she built up a big organisation which saved thousands of young boys and girls in the years to come. She raised money for the movement inside and outside Germany and eventually moved to Jerusalem where she got married. At the request of Henrietta Szold she went to London to build up Youth Aliyah and visited Poland and Czechoslovakia to arrange for the Aliyah of young people from there.

During the war she continued with her work from London and managed again to save thousands of children.

After her return to Jerusalem at the end of the war, she eventually retired from Youth Aliyah work and was busy in many fields of social and communal work among which her work for handicapped people and her care for the mentally retarded was most important. She helped to found a sheltered workshop and continues to look after adult retarded whose parents are too old and ill to look after them. We join Robert Weltsch in wishing her many more years of family happiness and of strength to continue her work which brings relief to so many.

M.P.

PROFESSOR CURT WORMANN 80

Professor Curt Wormann, Director of the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem from 1947 until 1968, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. In addition to his pioneer work as head of the most important Library of Israel and as founder of the Graduate School of Library and Archive Studies at the Hebrew University Professor Wormann was also active in promoting the cultural absorption of the Jews from Germany during the first years after their arrival. He is also an active member of the Israeli Board of the Leo Baeck Institute.

HERMANN KESTEN 80

The author Hermann Kesten celebrated his 80th birthday on January 28. Born in Nuernberg, he was "Lektor" of the Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag from 1927 to 1933 and of the Allert de Lange publishers in Amsterdam until 1940. He escaped to the US in 1940 and now lives partly in New York, partly in Rome. He is the author of many novels, biographies, essays and poems and has edited the works of numerous writers. He became a member of the Presidium of the German PEN Centre in 1968 and was elected its Hon. President in 1976.

E.G.L.

GRETE MOSHEIM 75

The actress Grete Mosheim who can look back on a life-time of stage successes in Berlin and during her 19 years of emigration, in the US, recently celebrated her 75th birthday. Since her return from the US, she has played leading parts in Berlin performances of plays by O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Samuel Beckett. Her latest hit was the American play "Gin-Romme" which has a cast of only two and kept her on the stage for the whole two-hour performance.

AWARD TO "ZENTRALRAT" CHAIRMAN

Mr. Werner Nachmann, Chairman of the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany, was awarded the Grand Cross of Merit with Star, one of the highest distinctions of the German Federal Republic.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

The A.J.R. CLUB conveys heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Luise Nathanson on the 85th birthday and to Mrs. Martha Lewis and Mrs. Loli Walter on their 80th birthdays and wishes them all good health and happiness in the years to come.

MATHIASON:—Hans M. Mathiason of 35 Oxhey Road, Oxhey (Herts) will be 75 years old on March 17.

SOKOLOWSKI:—Mrs. Lydia Sokolowski of 15 Eton Hall, Eton College Road, London, N.W.3. will celebrate her 80th birthday on April 10.

WARBURG:—Mrs. Lotte Warburg of 258 Kenmure Street, Glasgow, G41, celebrated her 91st birthday on February 5, 1980. She has been a long standing member of AJR which extends its best wishes to her. At present Elmtree Nursing Home, 371 Albert Drive, Glasgow, G41.

WOLF:—Mr. J. E. Wolf of 60 Deanscroft Ave., London, N.W.9, celebrated his 75th birthday on February 25.

Wedding Anniversary

GUTTFIELD:—Marie H. and Frank Guttfeld, former Antiquaria bookseller in Berlin, now Holmer Green/Bucks will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on March 27.

In Memoriam

SINAI:—In cherished memory of a dearly loved wife Rose who passed away Nisan 4 (March 17, 1964). Never forgotten by her still grieving husband, children and grandchildren.

Deaths

GRUENEBERG:—Berthold Grueneberg, beloved husband of Herta, darling father of Gloria, passed away on January 27, aged 72. Deeply mourned and missed forever by his family. 3 Pittsfield, Cricklade, nr. Swindon, Wilts. SN6 6AA.

HARRIS:—Hugh Harris died suddenly on January 30. Deeply mourned by his wife Edith, daughter Barbara, son-in-law Salvador, grandson Daniel and all the family and friends.

PLAUT:—Mrs. Thea Plaut, aged 80, passed away peacefully on February 5. Deeply mourned by her family, relatives and many friends in this country and overseas.

RAAB:—David Raab (formerly of Vienna, later of Bury, Lancs. and Reading, Berks.) died on November 9, 1979, three months before his 96th birthday, mourned by his wife and the entire family and by the many friends he made in his long life. Despite illness and failing eye sight, he was ever cheerful and very proud to recite the Hebrew prayers from memory on Friday nights at Heinrich Stahl House.

SAMET:—Dr. med. Bernard (Benno) Samet, of 187 Burgess Road, Bassett, Southampton, formerly of Vienna, died on January 14 in his 83rd year. Sadly missed by his wife Vilma and family. His patients included Sigmund Freud, who was also treated by him after having found refuge in this country.

SCHLESINGER:—Mrs. Wally Schlesinger of 6 Heathway Court, N.W.3, passed away suddenly on January 8 whilst on holiday in Bournemouth. Deeply missed by her family and many friends.

SEIDEL:—William (Bill) of 177 Holders Hill Road, London, N.W.7, passed away on January 21, deeply mourned and sadly missed by his devoted wife Sara, daughter Sylvia, son-in-law Ronald, granddaughter Shane and his relatives and many friends.

SIEBURG:—Dr. Felix Sieburg, formerly Berlin, died on February 3 in Osmond House in his 96th year. Sadly missed by his many friends and his sister-in-law.

STREAT:—Martha Street passed away on February 1 after a tragic illness. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her beloved husband Max and family.

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WIDOW, middle 60s, would like to meet an independent person—continental background, friendship and travel interests. N.W.8 area. Box 797.

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LIVELY JEWISH continental lady, good appearance, end fifty, own home, wide interests, would like to meet educated, sincere gentleman. Please write, giving telephone number. Box 798.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

ROSE:—Does anyone know the whereabouts of Ruth (née Rose)—mother's name Regina—who emigrated to Australia in 1957. Believed to have married and now living in London. Mrs. Henrietta Gould (née Koch), 83 Wensley Road, Leeds LS7 2LS, would like to hear from her.

SCHWARZWALD:—Mrs. Konrad Schwarzwald (née Jutta Scharfstein) last known address Golders Green, London, believed to have been born in Austria; husband believed to be research chemist. Any readers who can give information please ring 452 1412.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Vienna dances—and has done so since the famous Congress—so the story goes. Within the framework of an exhibition "Dances of Vienna", the Viennese Theatre Museum proves with emphasis that dancing as an art can successfully rival any other form of art, theatre, opera, operetta or poster presentation. Ballet teaching in Vienna began early this century with the schools of Gertrud Bodenwieser and the Laxenburg Institute of Rosalia Chladek. A special room of the exhibition has been set aside to remember the school of the sisters Wiesenthal, whose founder Grete Wiesenthal (1885-1970) contributed considerably to Austria's reputation as sponsor of artistic and creative dancing.

Tit-Bits. The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in the London Mall presents the original version of the Fritz Lang film "M" throughout this month.

Birthdays. Bernhard Minetti, German character actor, member of the Berlin Schillertheater, is 75 years old. Ernst Schroeder, the impressive German

actor and director (who has officially retired) is 65; the Schauspielhaus Zuerich reports the 60th birthday of its outstanding member Maria Becker, daughter of the late Maria Fein who was among the élite of Max Reinhardt's ensemble. Fred Hennings, Austrian author and actor, member of the "Burg" since 1923, now retired, is 85 years old; his widely acknowledged work "Die Wiener Ringstrasse" is considered a book of historical value.

Obituary. The death of Lil Dagover in Munich at the age of 82 means the end of a long acting career which started in 1919 ("Harakiri"), made a sensation in 1922 with "Kabinett des Dr. Cagliari" (both silent films) and then continued for over five decades. On stage, under Reinhardt's direction, she was "Schoenheit" in Hofmannsthal's "Grosses Welttheater" in 1930. Dagover, whose name is derived from her husband's name (Fritz Daghofer), was an actress of great beauty and in recent years the "grand old lady" of German films.

S.B.

JOSEF HERMAN IN HAMPSTEAD

The Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, N.W.3, is to be congratulated for having been able to persuade Josef Herman to hold a retrospective exhibition of his work from 1938 to the present day. The exhibition closes on March 2. The last major show of Herman's work in London was as long ago as 1956 at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, although an important retrospective exhibition was held in Glasgow in 1975.

Herman is one of Britain's leading painters and has an international reputation. In the series of paintings on display it is interesting to see the development of his art, especially his studies of workers, not necessarily people at work. As he himself has said he has tried to show "the embodiment of labour as a human rather than a merely industrial force". His more recent paintings show that his habitual dark colours are slowly being replaced by bright hues. One wonders where this will lead him.

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Letters to the Editor

THE HAAVARA AGREEMENT

Sir—In his article "The Lies of Paul Rassiner" (your November 1979 issue) Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld writes on the Haavara Agreement: "... it was a modified clearing arrangement designed to benefit the German economy and the Palestine Jews...". This statement is misleading. The purpose of the agreement was not to benefit the German economy nor the Palestine Jews. The preamble of the agreement, confirmed on August 25, 1933, clearly defines the main purpose, namely "die Foerderung der Abwanderung deutscher Juden nach Palaestina...". This remained valid throughout the existence of the Haavara Agreement until it came to an end in 1939. The technique of this transfer agreement was clearly foreseen in May 1933 by Chaim Arlosoroff, at the time head of the political department of the Jewish Agency. His findings were published in the Juedische Rundschau, stating "dass die Probleme des Vermoegenstransfer nur geloest werden koennen durch ein Abkommen mit der deutschen Regierung, das die deutsche Waehrungslage und die Zwangsbewirtschaftung beruecksichtigt—d.h. durch Export deutscher Waren nach Palaestina".

The agreement was attacked from two sides—on one side by Palestine Jewry protesting against the breach of the boycott against German goods, and on the other side by parts of the NSDAP who protested against export of German goods without receipt of the equivalent in foreign currency so badly needed in Germany. Yet until the end, the agreement was carried out in order to achieve its main aim—the emigration of German Jews, which was at that time the policy of the German government. 51,700 Jews left Germany for Palestine from 1933 till 1939, some of them with parts of their capital, some without means as workers or youngsters through Youth Aliya. This

was the result of the Haavara agreement. For full details on the negotiations leading to the agreement and its technique I refer to the book published by the Leo Baeck Institute "Haavara Transfer nach Palaestina" by Werner Feilchenfeld, Dolf Michaelis and Ludwig Pinner, 1972.

DOLF MICHAELIS

Shlomo Molcho Str. 6
Jerusalem

MATERIAL ON PERSECUTION

Sir,—Yad Vashem, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel, is engaged in search of material related to the Holocaust and other measures of Nazi persecution, which may still be held in private hands. These include, among other things, Art Works, carried out under conditions of the Holocaust or relating to that subject. Photographs and Documents (from 1933 onwards), and Eye Witness Testimonies relating to the liberation of concentration camps. As most of your readers are refugees from Nazi oppression, we are sure our appeal will have special relevance to them.

Yad Vashem, POB 3477,
Jerusalem.

(Mrs.) Y. KESHET,
Foreign Relations Section.

STUDY ON NURSES' TRAINING

Sir,—May I appeal to your readers for help to assist me in my researches on the Jewish aspects of training and working conditions of nurses in Germany from the turn of the century until 1939. I would like to trace anything or anybody able to help me with information or suggestions.

(Mrs.) MARION FERGUSON, MA, SRN,
Lecturer, Dept. of Advanced Nursing Studies,
Welsh National School of Medicine,
Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XN.

LAFITTE'S BOOK ON INTERNMENT

Sir,—Many students in Austria are interested in research on the fate of refugees in Great Britain. A very instructive book was written by F. Lafitte on the Internment of Aliens (Penguin Books 1940) but is unfortunately unavailable. We should be grateful if one of your readers could help us to obtain a copy.

DOKUMENTATIONSARCHIV DES
OESTERREICHISCHEN WIDERSTANDES.
Altes Rathaus, Wipplinger Str 8,
A1010 Vienna.

FRANKFURT'S GLORIOUS PAST

The third Annual Rabbi Dr. Georg Salzberger Memorial Lecture under the auspices of the Belsize Square Synagogue was delivered by Dr. Erwin Seligmann on the subject "Mainstreams of Religious Life in the Frankfurt Jewish Community and their lasting Effect on present day Judaism". It was a most fitting choice both with regard to the speaker and to the subject. Dr. Seligmann's father, Dr. Caesar Seligmann, as well as Dr. Salzberger were rabbis in Frankfurt for several decades. The speaker traced back the history of the community which, for many centuries, had outstanding spiritual leaders. Among them were Rabbi Marcus Horowitz, the orthodox representative of the main community, and Samson Raphael Hirsch, leader of the "Austrittsgemeinde". He also recalled the foundation of the Philanthropin in 1804 and the Freie Juedische Lehrhaus under Franz Rosenzweig after the First World War. The activities of the orthodox and the progressive wings of the community were equally flourishing. The concise lecture, full of essential material, was a masterpiece of scholarly work. In his vote of thanks, Rabbi J. J. Kokotek referred to the specific position of the Belsize Square Synagogue, which combines loyalty to the past of German Jewry with organic integration into the present and responsibility for the future.

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