

VOLUNTARY HELPERS

An Important Appeal

For its social and welfare services AJR members have traditionally provided a core of voluntary workers. It is a tradition we must uphold, not only for the sake of tradition, nor just to maintain our varied services, but to enable us to improve and augment them at a time of rapidly increasing demand for help.

We need helpers or regular visitors to the Homes to befriend or even adopt residents, especially those who lack relatives or friends to talk to. They like to feel they have contacts with the outside world and often need someone to confide in.

We need helpers to take residents shopping and to accompany them on outings, which with the recently acquired minibus, have become very popular. They provide the opportunity of getting out and seeing things not otherwise accessible. Residents could take better advantage of this service, but we lack sufficient permanent staff to go with them.

We need helpers to take our elderly to hospital appointments or for therapeutic treatments. A trip in an ambulance calling early in the morning and returning late in the afternoon, with long periods of waiting about in between, makes for an unhappy experience, while the company of a friendly escort can even turn a medical necessity into an agreeable diversion.

We need helpers to visit elderly refugees who live on their own, where the very fact of a visit brightens the day. The joy and benefit conferred are quite out of proportion to the extent of the effort put in.

We need helpers with our popular and highly successful meals-on-wheels service. Here, and for other services to our people, drivers with a car of their own would be especially welcome.

The common thread running through all these opportunities to help is to provide the comfort of company and to give that warm feeling of being wanted. Loneliness, breeding apathy and depression, can badly and unnecessarily erode health.

These and many others are the tasks which, with your active help we must continue to perform and which cannot be entirely left to our professional staff. Indeed, helping out during their rest or holiday periods is yet another task calling for volunteers.

This appeal is for your time. Even two hours per week or fortnight, if regularly given, will go a long way to provide enjoyment and support for an elderly refugee who may have no friend or relative to break the monotony of the day.

We need helpers of most ages, male or female, and we can arrange to fit you in in a way that will give you the satisfaction of doing something really worthwhile and still meet

your convenience as far as time is concerned.

The recruitment of voluntary helpers is centered at our offices at 8 Fairfax Mansions, Fairfax Road, London NW3 6JY. (Telephone: 01-624 9096). I myself have undertaken to act as volunteer recruiting officer and shall be at our office every Friday between 10.00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. when you are welcome to come and see me and discuss personally how best you can help. You can, of course, telephone at any time to offer your help, when our staff will be very happy to make the necessary arrangements.

We have a long tradition of communal self-help to maintain and rely on you not to fail in the support of our people. Please come forward and register—NOW.

RUTH ANDERMAN.

OUR PRESIDENT

Alfred S. Dresel, 90



One of the very pleasant features of *AJR Information*, owing perhaps more to the early habits of those responsible for our journal than to what is usual in similar publications in this country, is the regular birthday column. Not in every issue, but certainly frequently, the reader will here meet old friends and, coupled with appropriate good wishes, a record of their contribution to the benefit and welfare of our community, or of their part on a wider national or even international stage in as wide a variety of human activities as any group of people can boast.

Round number birthdays are, of course, what the editor takes notice of; not so frequently of fifties and sixties, but seventies and eighties abound, bringing back memories, an afterglow of public achievements and private interests in commerce or industry, in a profession or science, in the world of art or social or charitable work.

Even worthier of notice are ninetieth birthdays, especially when, uniquely, as in the present case, the *jubilant* is our President.

By human standards 90 years are indeed a long time, and when Alfred Siegfried Dresel was born in Berlin on 3 January 1891, the world was a vastly different place from what we see today. Bismarck had been dismissed just a few months earlier, an event which may well be said to have opened the way to German policies leading to two world wars and the destruction of Jewish life in Germany. None of this was imaginable at the high noon of German imperialism, and Alfred Dresel received a normal boy's education at a *gymnasium*, followed by law studies at Berlin and Freiburg, which he completed after having seen war service for a short time. He then gained some experience in industry and in 1922 joined the legal department of the well known and old established Berlin firm of merchant bankers, Mendelssohn & Co. Here he rose to be the chief executive and had created for himself a respected place in Berlin banking and commercial circles, when it all came to an end, and he emigrated to England in November 1938. As for so many others there followed years of under-employment, briefly interrupted by internment, until he was able after the war to apply his legal knowledge and wide experience to helping many refugees with their restitution and compensation claims.

His concern was not only for individual cases, but, as a member of the Council of Jews from Germany, and later the Jewish Trust Corporation and its Allocation Committee, he played a full and constructive part in the Jewish and refugee organizations created to conduct the negotiations for the purpose of what has been aptly described as "reclaiming the loot".

Alfred Dresel became a member of the Board of the AJR when it was founded in 1941 and of the Executive Committee a few years later. He succeeded to the chairmanship of the Association shortly before the death of Hans Reichmann in 1963, having been vice-chairman during the previous nine years. During the late 1950's and 1960's the recovery and application of funds from Germany formed the major part of the work of the AJR. They permitted the refugee community to provide greatly improved services for the care and welfare of its ageing members. However, to obtain funds is one thing, to apply them to good purpose is quite another. It was natural for Alfred Dresel to engage himself wholeheartedly in the organization necessary to establish the old age homes for Nazi victims. For many years he was chairman of the Management Committee responsible for the day to day running of the homes, of which he acquired an intimate knowledge. Eleanor Rathbone House, the flatlet home opened in Highgate in 1969, is probably the home owing most to his indefatigable work. Without his vision and relentless determination to see it realised in the face of many problems, it is unlikely that this home, owned jointly by the AJR and CBF World Jewish Relief, would have come into being.

Alfred Dresel is a man of great kindness and wisdom which over many years he has applied to

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OUR PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

the benefit of the refugee community. He guided the Association's affairs with a vigour and assiduity remarkable in a man then already over 70. Meetings were conducted with firmness and an old fashioned courtesy that never failed to secure decisions through consensus, however hard the prior arguments. When he gave up the chairmanship in 1974 he was soon after appointed President of the Association, but continues to peruse the minutes of the Executive Committee with much interest, never hesitating to make known his comments on the proceedings.

Happily married with two daughters and a son he celebrated his diamond wedding anniversary in September 1979, but lost his wife soon after. Despite his 90 years the adjective "old" has no application to him. It is our hope and fervent wish that he may long continue in good health and enjoy his lifelong interests in music and arts.

C. T. MARX

POLITICAL ALL CHANGE

The attitudes of all Britain's main political parties towards the Middle East appear to be in a stage of flux. Following the Presidential elections in the United States, signals are coming from the Foreign Office which indicate a strong modification of the British government's efforts within the EEC to press for recognition of the PLO. Lord Carrington indicated in an interview with Joseph Fitchett of the *International Herald Tribune* that he does not expect any significant European movement on the issue at the next Common Market summit as previously planned. British officials according to the report are "making a gesture designed to get Europe off on the right foot with the Reagan administration . . . have decided to oppose any major European initiative on the Arab-Israel problem for the next few months." On the opposition benches a close watch is being kept on the possible tendencies of the new parliamentary party leader, Mr. Michael Foot. He is listed as a patron of the Middle East Committee of the Labour Party. His brother, Lord Caradon, is a strong advocate of the Arab cause, as was his late brother, Sir Dingle Foot, and his nephew, Mr. Paul Foot. During the campaign for the leadership, one of his principal standard-bearers was leading Labour Zionist, Mr. Ian Mikardo, MP, who assured concerned supporters that Foot's election would not presage a change of Middle East policy. With his declared intention of unifying the Party Mr. Foot is not likely to take any precipitate steps at an early stage, although it is doubtful whether he will show such strong partisanship for Israel as his two immediate predecessors, Sir Harold Wilson and Mr. James Callaghan. The Liberal Party is also facing a fight for the Party's soul. The leader, Mr. David Steel, has recently returned from a fact-finding tour of the Middle East, accompanied by three of his parliamentary colleagues. The officially approved account of the visit is deeply critical of Israel government policies, particularly in the administered territories, and takes a very sympathetic view of PLO aspirations. Five of Mr. Steel's colleagues in the House of Commons found it necessary to dissociate themselves from the report. These included the Liberal Whip, Mr. Alan J. Beith, MP, Mr. Clement Freud, MP, Mr. David Penhaligon, MP, Mr. Cyril Smith, MP, and Mr. Geraint Howells, MP, leader of the Welsh Liberal Party, who led a separate tour to Israel organised by the Liberal Friends of Israel Association, which is due to issue its own report with totally opposed conclusions to those of Mr. Steel's group.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

Egon Larsen

RESISTANCE IN NAZI GERMANY

Throughout the pre-war and war years, the western world and we refugees in particular were straining our eyes and ears to discover any hopeful signs of resistance among the German people against the Nazi dictatorship. There was very little that filtered through the rigid censorship, except individual acts of bravery and humanity. The 20th of July, 1944, seemed to indicate that there really was a conspiracy against Hitler and his gang, but it failed, and the courageous plotters ended their lives on butchers' hooks and before the firing squads. One had the feeling that these officers might have succeeded in getting hold of the Wehrmacht in 1939, but 1944 was too late, and some of them may have been inspired to their action not so much because of their disgust for the Nazi establishment but because they saw that the war was already lost, and they hoped to get more favourable armistice terms for a Germany without Hitler. They were also expecting that their action would trigger off some kind of a popular rising; this, too, was a forlorn hope.

Still, a great many books and other publications have appeared in West and East Germany about individual groups of resistance fighters, yet an objective, comprehensive survey of the whole subject had been missing. But in 1968, the Dutch historian Ger van Roon published such a work, *Het Duitse verzet tegen Hitler*, which he subsequently revised, enlarged and completed for a German-language edition. This has now been published under the title *Widerstand im Dritten Reich: Ein Ueberblick* (C. H. Beck, Munich).

"This is a book written for a general public," says van Roon in his preface. "It has been compiled from the viewpoint of an 'uninvolved' foreign historian whose country was occupied during the second World War. It deals with a minority of the German people. It aims at submitting to old and young readers a summary of what we now know about the German resistance." That aim has been largely achieved, although the style of the book is perhaps not all that popular—every now and then there are little numbers in the text, referring to notes at the back of the book where one finds chapter and verse as the source of statements and quotes. But the information one gets from the main text is excellent; the facts, names, and accounts of what happened are thoroughly researched and faithfully rendered.

Diverse Groups

Van Roon puts his evidence under headings such as resistance among the humanitarians, the young generation, the Communists, the Social Democrats, the Niemöller group, the Catholics, the military, the Goerdeler group, the *Kreisauer Kreis* (so called after the estate of Count Helmuth James v. Moltke), the 20th-of-July group. At first sight the mass of evidence which the author presents seems impressive, and the reader may wonder why the Nazi establishment had so little trouble with all these resistance movements. But a closer look shows that they consisted only of small groups of people, most of them with different aims. The tragic fact is that there was no popular unified resistance, and so the Hitler gang was able to hang on to power with the help of obedient soldiers and a frightened mass of citizens until the Russians were in the *Wilhelmstrasse*. Perhaps what van Roon says about the lack of sabotage in Hitler Germany is also true for anti-authoritarian resistance in general: it is not "a typical feature of the German character".

Take, for instance, the group around Carl

Goerdeler (remember his name as that of the *Reichssparkommissar* in the Weimar Republic?) That group of upper-class people had members who favoured a "nationalist authoritarian state without Hitler", and Goerdeler himself was a monarchist suggesting the recall of some Hohenzollern and Wittelsbach princes to take over after the end of the Third Reich—for which the group had no viable plans. So Goerdeler and a few other members of his group joined the officers' conspiracy since there they hoped to find militant men. Why they failed on that 20th of July is the subject of a detailed chapter in van Roon's book.

He also deals, of course, with the *Weisse Rose*, that really heroic group of students and academics who aimed at arousing the conscience of Germany's young generation. It failed to be aroused, and most of the group members were executed. One resistance movement, however, which seems to have escaped van Roon's knowledge was the *Freiheitsaktion Bayern*, led by the Munich lawyer Dr. Gerngross, which fought its way into the local radio station, from where it appealed during the last days of the war to the soldiers to lay down their arms to avoid further futile bloodshed.

Rescue of Jews

But van Roon devotes much space to a special form of resistance to which many hundreds, perhaps thousands of us owe their lives: the rescue of Jews by Germans for humanitarian reasons. There was the *Onkel-Emil-Gruppe* in Berlin which helped Jews to escape or to submerge, providing faked documents, ration books, hideouts. Colonel Wilhelm Staehle hid several Jews in his Berlin flat, the lawyer Hans Lukaschek provided them with papers; Helmuth von Moltke organized the escape of a number of Jews who were threatened with deportation, and so did the *07-Gruppe* in Bavaria and the *Europäische Union* in Berlin. Although, according to van Roon, "there were only rare protests against all that horror" from church organizations, individual churchmen helped the Jews courageously, for instance Pastor Grüber with a circle of helpers in Berlin, the Quakers, and the Dahlem group of women—Gertrud Staeven, Helene Jacobs, Melania Steinmetz as well as Gertrud Luckner in Freiburg who, acting on behalf of some Catholic bishops, hid endangered Jews in a monastery until they could be brought across the Swiss frontier. An outstanding humanitarian militant was Count Galen, the Bishop of Münster, who protested openly in his sermons against the persecution of the Jews. Hans von Dohnanyi, a senior officer, helped many Jews—he was, according to van Roon, encouraged and protected by his superior, Admiral Canaris, who was himself executed in the last days of the war. Dohnanyi managed to get 15 Berlin Jews with their families into Switzerland as "counter-espionage agents". A similar disguise, organized by a group that called itself "*Aktion Aquilar*", helped "several hundreds" of Jews to emigrate via Spain to South America. And the doomed group of the *Weisse Rose* distributed among the students leaflets which said: by the destruction of the Jews the German nation had charged itself with everlasting guilt.

All these brave and noble people contributed perhaps the only positive results to the fight inside Germany against Hitler by saving Jewish lives. But, says van Roon, German resistance as a whole had no hope of succeeding because "it was never identical with the attitude of the majority of the German population".

HOME NEWS

AJR ROUND-UP

ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE RENEWS ACTIVITY

The Anti-Nazi League has announced a fresh campaign to oppose the activities of the National Front, the British Movement and other fascist and neo-Nazi groups. It claims that there is a new wave of violence and propaganda by extreme right-wing groups against black, Asian and Jewish targets in Britain. It has plans to combat right-wing propaganda in schools and on the football terraces, to organise a "youth against the Nazis" conference and a European rally against fascism. The extreme right was also focusing attention on the unemployed with an appeal for "British jobs for British workers" and had become openly anti-semitic. Spokesman for the movement, Mr. Peter Hain, the anti-apartheid activist, denied that the Anti-Nazi League was a front for the Socialist Workers' Party. In its previous campaigns the League was criticised for its left-wing orientation and the pro-Palestinian and anti-Zionist stance of many of its activists.

Clash with Fascists

A force of some 3,000 police officers prevented violent clashes between members of the Anti-Nazi League and members of the British Movement, when the latter organised a march through the Paddington area, recently. Skirmishes between small pockets of League supporters and their opponents led to 73 arrests being made.

Most of the 500 British Movement demonstrators were teenage skinheads. They gave the Nazi salute and chanted "Sieg Heil" and "Adolf Hitler, we'll support you evermore". For readers of this journal, these slogans revive memories of the years before they came to this country. Though in this particular case, the number of demonstrators was comparatively limited and included many outsiders of society, we cannot just dismiss as irrelevant the neo-Nazi activities, of which this demonstration was only one example. In the light of past experiences we feel that the privileges of democracy should not be granted to enemies of democracy, tolerance and minorities.

AJEX PARADE SUCCESS

An estimated 7,000 ex-servicemen and women took part in the annual parade to the Cenotaph organised by the Association of Jewish Ex-servicemen and Women in memory of the Jewish dead in two world wars, the Holocaust and Israel's wars. It was reviewed by Countess Mountbatten. The need to combat political violence and terrorism was the dominant theme of speeches made at the rally which followed the open public ceremonies. Mr. Irvin Steinberg, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States pledged: "Your problems are our problems and you will not stand alone. As ex-servicemen we have gained the right to speak out as one voice. And never again will there be a repeat of the 1930s." Lord Soames, former Governor of Zimbabwe, said he could not emphasise enough the importance of allowing the police to deal with the violence of terrorists and extremists. Ajex national chairman, Mr. Henry Morris stated that their annual act of homage to the fallen was a signal that "we never bow to the forces of evil that seek to impose their will by acts of terror and the murder of innocent civilians. . . . We must not weaken our resolve to combat tyranny, whether from the extreme Right or the extreme Left. We must continue to oppose discrimination which is motivated by the prejudiced belief in racial superiority. The bitter lessons of Jewish history have taught us that when you divide mankind in this way there can only be one end."

HOLOCAUST—POW MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The 10th annual service in memory of those who died in prisoner-of-war and concentration camps was held recently at the site of the Prisoner's Memorial in Gladstone Park, London. Prayers were recited by an Anglican minister, a Roman Catholic priest and the Rev. F. Broza of the South Hampstead Synagogue. The event was jointly organised by the North-West area council of Ajex and the Royal British Legion.

NEO-NAZI CENOTAPH MARCH CANCELLED

A neo-Nazi march and wreath-laying ceremony planned for Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph was called off by the organisers after considerable public protests led by the Royal British Legion and the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women. The arrangers of the proposed event were the right-wing League of St. George and its European offshoot the European Remembrance and Reconciliation Association. The ultimate insult was the intention to include a contingent from the VMO (Flemish Military Order) which includes former Belgian SS Division members in its ranks.

IMPORTED VIGILANTES OPPOSED

Despite protests from within the Anglo-Jewish community and the disapproval of the Israel Government, the self-styled Israeli World Congress for the Defence of Jews in Distress claims that it will persist in its intention of sending a squad of "commandoes" to Britain to help protect the Jewish community against attacks by neo-Nazi groups. An Israel government statement said: "Israel is utterly opposed to any initiative over the plan announced by Knesset member Flatto-Sharon for action against anti-Jewish elements abroad. Such an initiative would be illegal and would not be tolerated by the Government of Israel." Dr. Jacob Gewirtz, Director of the Defence Department of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, stated: "Their presence is unsolicited, unwarranted and repugnant to the Jewish community. We have complete confidence in the security forces here and nothing happening in Britain at the moment warrants such an hysterical reaction."

HEATH OPPOSES VENICE DECLARATION

Ex-Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Heath, MP, has criticised the EEC's Venice declaration for its failure to demand that the Palestine Liberation Organisation recognised Israel's permanent right to exist and for its failure to provide credible assurances to Israel about transitional arrangements for her security under any workable settlement. He told a luncheon of the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce in Manchester that "any country which aspires to play a role in settling the Arab-Israeli dispute must understand that every major or territorial or political concession made by Israel to the Palestinians must be accompanied, or preceded, by concrete measures designed to reinforce Israel's security."

MIND UNHINGED BY NAZI LEGACY

Mrs. Wanda Chantler, 57, who survived five years in a Nazi experimental camp, was committed to be detained indefinitely in Broadmoor for the manslaughter of a businessman and his wife. Russian-born Mrs. Chantler of Powys, Wales, pleaded guilty and her counsel stated that her experiences of being a prisoner of Hitler's SS and being held in a camp where scientists had experimented on people in a bid to create perfect human beings had unhinged her mind, a view that the Court accepted.

NAZI REGALIA SHOPS

Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Southend have complained to the Borough Council about a High Street shop in a prime position devoted entirely to the sale of Nazi uniforms, flags, swastikas, armbands and other regalia.

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THANK YOU BRITAIN FUND LECTURES

"Did Churchill have a political philosophy?" was the subject of Martin Gilbert's "Thank You Britain Fund" lectures at the British Academy. They were of outstanding interest. However, it appears that many members of the audience, especially from among our own circle of friends, found it difficult to attend all three lectures. If the Academy feels that there have to be three lectures, it might perhaps be better to spread them over three weeks—both for those working and those in retirement, it is extremely difficult to keep three afternoons a week free for such an event.

Mr. Gilbert is one of our leading younger historians and Churchill's official biographer and editor of his literary estate. He has published several other biographies, a History of the Jewish People, and a number of history atlases, among them an Atlas of the Holocaust. In his talks, he quoted copiously from material hitherto only known to serious students of history, including Churchill's letters to his mother and his wife and articles and speeches from many years. This amply proved that Churchill did indeed have a political philosophy, and that it was a surprisingly consistent and progressive philosophy, notwithstanding changing party allegiance. Throughout his life, he retained a liberal outlook, defending the rights of ordinary human beings, and in office, from his earliest days, initiated a social programme which has formed the basis for all subsequent social legislation. At a very early date, he recognised the dangers of National Socialism—long before most of his fellow-countrymen—and whilst he abhorred the inhumanity of war which he had repeatedly experienced at close quarters, he concluded that there was no greater danger than submitting to the forces of evil for fear of war.

Mr. Gilbert has promised to let us have an extract from his lectures for publication in *AJR Information*. We are very grateful for this, as we feel that much of what he revealed will help our group of people who, have witnessed the political events that sprang from Churchill's unwavering political philosophy, to gain a new understanding of these events. M.P.

CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS

As usual, there were Chanukah celebrations in all four Homes. They were greatly enjoyed by the residents, the committee members and invited guests. The function at Heinrich Stahl House was enhanced by musical recitals, beautifully rendered by the Rev. Louis Berkman, Cantor of Belsize Square Synagogue; he was accompanied by Michael Freyhan.

The large attendance of the AJR Club's celebration testified anew to the strong community feelings of the numerous club members under the guidance of their indomitable chairman, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby. The audience greatly enjoyed a performance of serious and humorous records, selected and commented on by Suse and Arnold Horwell.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS PARTY

Helpers and beneficiaries of the "Meals-on-Wheels" Service established or renewed contacts with each other at a successful party, held on 30 November at Hannah Karminski House.

£10,000 FOR BAECK FOUNDATION

The sum of £10,000 was raised towards the launching of the Leo Baeck Foundation at a recent reception held by the North Western Reform Synagogue group of the Friends of the Hebrew University. Mr. Simcha Dinitz, vice-president of the University was the guest of honour and Sir Sigmund and Lady Sternberg hosts for the event.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES Justice Department re-examines Murder Acquittals

The acquittal of four Ku Klux Klansmen and two self-proclaimed Nazis accused of murdering five members of the Communist Workers Party by an all-white jury in North Carolina is being studied by the United States Justice Department's civil rights division to see whether fresh prosecutions are possible. There are precedents for such action that may be applicable to this case, where just over a year ago five men died from gun-shot wounds when the Nazis and Klansmen drove a vehicle into a "Death to the Klan" rally. The prosecutor's case was mainly based on video-recordings of the events, which showed some of the defendants getting guns from the car's trunk and one of them firing into the crowd.

Protestant Support for PLO

American Jewish organisations are concerned at a call by the National Council of Churches, an umbrella organisation of 32 US Protestant denominations, that Israel should recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as "the only organised voice of the Palestinian people and the only body able to negotiate a settlement on their behalf." The resolution of the Council's governing board represents a complete policy shift and also fails to condemn PLO terrorism. The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council described the document as a "major disservice to peace" and the American Jewish Committee as endorsing the concept of a PLO state on Israel's borders, which would create another potential danger in the Middle East.

Holocaust Memorial Dedicated

Jewish groups in Baltimore have dedicated a \$30,000 sculpture in the centre of the city to the 6,000,000 Jewish martyrs of Nazism as a permanent reminder of the Holocaust. It is the culmination of a 12-year-old campaign spearheaded by Mr. Alvin Fisher who was shocked at the lack of belief of teenage Jews in the martyrdom of their brethren in Europe.

Right to Demonstrate Dilemma

During 1977/78 the American Civil Liberties Union was deeply troubled over the threat of a Nazi group to demonstrate in a heavily Jewish Chicago suburb. While opposed to the movement's ideology they were concerned to preserve the freedom to demonstrate. Their dilemma is to be the subject of a new TV-movie, "Skokie", that is to star 79-year-old Lee Strasberg, artistic director of the famous Actors Studios, in the role of a wealthy contributor to the organisation who threatens to withdraw his support if they do so. In the actual, as opposed to the fictional event, the ACLU decided that supporting the freedom of Nazis to demonstrate was a contradiction in terms.

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BELGIUM

Pamphlet Publisher Charged

A member of the French-speaking SS Wallon legion that fought with the Nazis during the second world war, Jean-Robert Debaut has been charged in Brussels with the publication of a pamphlet by a founder of the Legion, Leon Degrelle, now in exile in Spain. The pamphlet appeared in May 1979 as an "Open Letter to the Pope concerning Auschwitz" and asserted that the gas chambers and the death camps never existed.

Hess Release Opposed

Ernest Glinne, Belgian leader of the Socialist Group at the European Parliament, is opposing a right-wing motion supported by British Conservatives urging the release of Rudolf Hess from Spandau jail. In a statement on the proposal he argued that Hess's release would damage East-West relations and "give support to the resurgence of fascism in Europe. Herr Hess had better stay in jail until he dies or is taken to hospital for health reasons."

FRANCE

Anti-Terrorist Methods Criticised

At a recent conference on terrorism under the auspices of the Council of Europe, French methods of dealing with the problem came under serious attack from British, West German and Spanish experts. The official rapporteur, Professor Paul Wilkinson stated that "Paris has become the centre of international terrorism in Europe" because it was a "traditionally cosmopolitan city which houses political exiles, and also because the French authorities lack energy in the pursuit and condemnation of international terrorism."

The President is not Amused

Rabbi Michael Williams of the Paris rue Copernic Synagogue recently the subject of a terror-bomb attack has expressed disbelief that the President of France, Giscard d'Estaing, is behind a move for his dismissal as head of the congregation because of his alleged criticisms of French government policy. It is thought that reports of speeches he made on a tour of the United States and Canada may have been misunderstood by French consular officials, particularly his observations that many French Jews may leave the country because they fear a wave of persecution, the inability of many in France to accept Jews as loyal citizens of the Republic and the anti-Israel policy pursued by all French governments since 1967. Rabbi Williams is 36, London-born, and married to the daughter of a prominent member of the French Jewish community. He came straight to his appointment after graduating from Leo Baeck College, London. With the Presidential elections due in 1981, any action against Rabbi Williams could have a considerable effect upon the 700,000-strong Jewish community.

ITALY

Genocide Advocacy Prosecuted

The first sentences for supporting the promotion of Genocide in Italy have been passed by a Milan Court following legal action by the Union of Italian Jewish Communities and the Milan Jewish Community against 11 youths who were charged with "defence of genocide." The case arose from a demonstration against the Israeli Maccabi basketball team at the Varese Stadium in March, 1979. When the Israeli players came on the pitch, a group of youths in the crowd suddenly displayed white-and-blue crosses and hurled them at the athletes. Posters proclaiming "Sieg Heil" and "Jews to the Ovens" were paraded and slogans chanted, including "Hitler taught us that to kill Jews is no crime." The public prosecutor described their actions, which were led by the local secretary of the neo-fascist "Youth Front", Paolo Cossu, as a "macabre and planned action of a political and propaganda character; not simply a fascist manifestation, but an exaltation of genocide." All the accused, who were aged between 18 and 23, were given stiff sentences. The longest, three years and four months, was passed on Cossu.

THE WALLENBERG CASE

Swedish officials attending the European Security Conference in Madrid propose to re-open with the Russians the case of Raoul Wallenberg, the junior diplomat who helped Jews during World War II, but who disappeared in Budapest after the Soviets entered Hungary and has been reported to have been seen alive in a USSR prison-camp. The Wallenberg Association of Stockholm is gathering documentation for a tribunal to prove that this is so and a United States Senate Commission, together with the British Wallenberg Parliamentary Committee, is planning to propose him for the next Nobel Peace Prize. A film about Wallenberg's rescue work was shown on TV last month.

GREEKS REMEMBER 1940

Greek Jews joined their fellow countrymen in commemorating the 40th anniversary of fascist Italy's invasion in 1940, which led ultimately to the Nazi occupation of Greece and the virtual destruction of the country's Jews. During synagogue services and at mass meetings Jewish participation in Greece's struggle was recalled. Of the 79,000 members of the community 13,000 served in the Greek army; 513 were killed in action and 3,743 wounded. The first Greek officer to be killed in combat was Colonel Mordecai Frizis, a Jew from Chalkis, who died leading his troops against Italian forces. During the Nazi occupation, 63,000 Jews were deported to the death camps. The Greek Jewish community of 1980 which recited Kaddish for its dead now numbers less than 5,000.

HOLLAND

Anne Frank Foundation to fight forgery charge

The Anne Frank Foundation intends to sue the pseudonymous author of the anti-Jewish pamphlet "Did Six Million Really Die?", over its allegations that her famous Diary was a forgery. The writer of the 28-page pamphlet is believed to be Richard Verrall, a member of the National Front directorate. The Foundation is awaiting the outcome of an appeal under consideration by the Supreme Court in Karlsruhe, where Heinz Roth, a neo-Nazi writer and author from Odenhausen is disputing his conviction on similar charges in 1978, before instituting proceedings. Meanwhile it is active in correcting a mistaken report in *Der Spiegel* about some minor corrections to the original manuscript, involving the insertion of a mere 15 words in green ink, "to clarify the meaning of some phrases and correct grammatical errors." The first edition of British author David Irving's "Hitler's War," which tried to prove that the Fuehrer did not give direct orders for the Holocaust, also described the Diary as a forgery. The reference was removed from subsequent editions by Ullstein, its West German publishers, who also paid compensation for the libel.



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THE RUBINSTEIN SAGA

Arthur Rubinstein claims a strong aversion against speaking in public. But he does not deny his gifts as a conversationalist and raconteur, and it was his brilliance in this field which motivated his friends when they encouraged him to publish his autobiography. The second volume (*My Many Years; Jonathan Cape 1980; £9.95*) has now come out, covering over 60 years, from the end of the 1914-18 war to the present time. Unlike the first volume it had to be dictated, because of his partial blindness.

Among the book's more than 600 pages there is not a single page which could be described as dull. The 93-year-old maestro continues to emphasise that he is the happiest man he knows. Personal tribulations are not missing in this saga but they are accepted as necessary contrasts.

The bulk of the tale is about his professional activities and, to an equal degree, his social life. Before his happy marriage to a Polish girl he had numerous "affairs". The chatty nonagenarian makes no attempt to gloss over these earlier "permissive" adventures, using no discretion about names. While this may strike not a few readers as rather controversial, it is partly balanced by a strong dose of self-criticism which extends to his professional work. Basically, he asserts that his earlier efforts lacked perfection, and he gives an interesting account of his gradually growing sense of artistic responsibility and of the hard work that made him achieve the impeccable technique which was eventually to match the quality of his musical conception. Not surprisingly, his critical approach is also applied to his fellow-pianists and to other musicians, including composers. He even admits occasional bouts of jealousy, but on the whole, his judgment is generous and, where it seems open to argument, an artist of his calibre is entitled to express it.

He was on friendly terms with many of this century's leading composers. Not a few were in-

debted to him for his active support and honoured him by writing especially for him. Perhaps the most outstanding example is Stravinsky's piano transcription of movements from *Petrouchka*.

It is significant that his interests are not confined to music. He is an avid reader of great literature and a keen student of all the arts. This general affinity with all aspects of culture is reflected in his personal relations with Thomas Mann, Picasso and other outstanding personalities of his time.

He also moves with ease in the upper strata of society, including Royalty (there are delightful encounters with the Prince of Wales, the later Edward VIII). He enjoys the luxuries of life—after the hardships of his early years; he welcomes them as the antidote for the strains imposed by the tight schedules and various vicissitudes of his concert tours which have included every Continent. He relates many exasperating experiences but, unlike many of his colleagues, he has always enjoyed his professional travels.

It is only natural that there should be some references to world events during this long period. These are the simple reactions of a fairly non-political mind. (There are a few inaccuracies as regards the sequence of events.)

Arthur Rubinstein possesses a strong sense of self-identification: foremost as a Jew, but this is coupled with a remarkable loyalty to his native Poland. And this is by no means a one-sided love: he is very much accepted by Polish society, and in every country he is assured of a warm welcome by the Polish ambassador. Last, not least, he, once the great womaniser, is happily married to a Polish girl.

He is surely mistaken when he ascribes the growth of Polish antisemitism in the 1930s merely to Nazi influence. Still, after the war, he is profoundly shocked when the Polish flag is missing at a solemn UNO occasion, and he reacts by

opening his recital with the Polish national anthem.

Yet his fundamental and unshaken affinity is with the Jewish people. Though not an observant Jew he never falters in identifying himself with his people, and he knows of no compromise with its enemies. Having once been received in audience by Mussolini he angrily returns his Italian decoration when the dictator issues his antisemitic laws. Likewise, he breaks off all contact with a self-confessed Nazi like Gieseking.

His first visit to Palestine dates back to the 1920s, fitted in en route from Egypt to Greece. No concert had been planned, but when he was recognised his admirers quickly arranged one in an empty hanger at Lod. There were no seats, but a thousand people attended!

Rubinstein's comments on the Holocaust—which few of his family in Poland survived—and on the post-war events in Palestine are as straightforward as is to be expected. At the time of the *Exodus* affair he decided to cancel his London concerts, in spite of pleas by leading Anglo-Jewish personalities, and he only gave way on condition that the takings be used "for the Jewish victims" who had been sent back to Germany. The three Royal Albert Hall concerts were sold out, and all were attended by Marina, Duchess of Kent. . . . He had proved that a "diplomatic" attitude (*Leisetreterei!*) is not always indispensable!

Needless to say he maintained intensive links with the State of Israel. He met its leaders and made numerous concert appearances. And even after he had to give up his career he went to Israel "to breathe the air of the sacred place of my ancestors."

Having grown critical of piano competitions he nevertheless yielded to persuasion—by Golda Meir, above all—and gave his name to the competition which is held in Israel. The first was linked with the State's 25th anniversary celebrations but had to be postponed for a year because of the Yom Kippur war.

The warmth of his Jewish feelings is one of the most sympathetic traits in the personality of this great musician. To match it, there is the wisdom of his *Weltfroemigkeit*: "I was born with a very precious gift: to be able to see the world in which I live always with new eyes. Life was and remains a fairy tale for me: I thank providence daily for being allowed to be part of it."

UNDERGROUND EDITOR ARRESTED

Leading Jewish activist Dr. Viktor Brailovsky, editor of the underground journal *Jews in the USSR* was arrested by the KGB during the period of Jewish protest fasting. Dr. Brailovsky was not himself fasting but had held a press conference in his apartment to announce the action to Western newsmen. Last April he organised an unofficial scientific symposium in his flat for Jews like himself who had been refused visas to emigrate but were also not permitted to work in the Soviet Union. Three days before it opened the KGB arrested him and held him for five hours under intense interrogation and then released him with a warning not to allow the Seminar to take place. A number of American scientists gave warning at the time that he was liable to be arrested as the authorities had not dropped charges against him of defaming the Soviet State. Members of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry held a press conference in Madrid, to denounce the arrest which they described as "a callous act which was contemptuous of the European Security Meeting."

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Fritz Friedlander

EMIL LUDWIG CENTENARY

"I had no commission, I had no publisher". So said Emil Ludwig about the biography of Goethe which won him world fame when it was issued in 1920 by Cotta, Goethe's own publishers. Ludwig's exemplars, his preface tells us, were Plutarch and Georg Brandes and his primary aim was to throw light on a human personality: approaching his subject, not with the analytical tools of a scholar, but with the creative intuition of a poet and an artist.

Born in Breslau on 25 January 1881, the son of Professor Hermann Cohn (a leading oculist), Emil Ludwig grew up in an assimilated environment and was baptised in 1902. He first studied law, but changed to journalism, becoming the London correspondent of the "Berliner Tageblatt".

Foreshadowing his later fame as a virtuoso of biography was Ludwig's "Bismarck—ein psychologischer Versuch", published in 1912 and accompanied by a dramatic trilogy on the Prussian statesman. In the following year, with the violently polemic "Wagner oder die Entzauberten", he challenged the status of Richard Wagner. However, it was in connection with his book on Goethe that he proudly claimed to have produced a new form of German biography.

Encouraged by his success, Ludwig wrote book after book, on the lives of Napoleon (1925), Bismarck and Wilhelm II (both published in 1926), Michelangelo, Lincoln, Schliemann, Jesus of Nazareth, Cleopatra, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Simon Bolivar, Beethoven and Stalin. Besides this, too, were the translations of his works in all the major languages.

Ernst Lissauer, in his review of "Napoleon", called the book Ludwig's masterpiece, and in Australia R. S. Whittington considered it to be among the foremost biographies, praising the author for putting so much of his own being into the book. Like "Beethoven—Story of a Conqueror", "Bismarck—Story of a Fighter" is inspired by hero-worship, yet remarkable for its dramatic sweep and psychological insights.

Although Ludwig admitted that he felt no particular interest in the man himself, "Wilhelm II" caused a sensation—because of its subject. The ex-Kaiser indignantly declared that his biographer had emptied whole buckets of dirt over his head: in fact, the book did not do justice to Wilhelm's undoubted good qualities.

In 1929, the writer extended his scope with "July 14", a breathtaking account of the origins of the First World War. He continued his survey of contemporary history with "Hindenburg und die Sage von der deutschen Republik" (1935), showing the fatal weaknesses of the Weimar Republic. Later, "The Murder of Davos" (1937) on David Frankfurter's killing of the Nazi agent Wilhelm Gustloff, discusses the motives and moral implications of political assassination. His talent as an essayist was revealed by "Genie und Charakter" (1925) and in 1936 he portrayed the Nile as the lifeblood of Egypt.

As a world-famous author, Ludwig was drawn into the stream of fashion and public life, described in his autobiography "Gastgeschenke des Lebens" (1931). Pierre Mendès-France was his host, he met Charlie Chaplin, who gave him the impression of a refined Oscar Wilde, Masaryk and Mussolini gave him interviews; his conversations with the two statesmen made a fascinating book. Less successful was the outcome of his visit to Sigmund Freud in February 1925. "Dr. Freud—an Analysis and a Warning", published in 1947, is an unfortunate venture of criticism.

There were other clouds in Emil Ludwig's sky.

Professional historians branded his work as shallow, inexact and sensational. Joseph P. Lash, in his biography of Eleanor Roosevelt, tells us that she found Ludwig's book on her husband interesting, because it revealed a European view, but it was, she thought, inaccurate (Franklin Roosevelt, however, was delighted with the biography). On a lower plane altogether, there were vicious journalistic attacks on Ludwig in Germany. Nevertheless, the bulk of his readers were faithful enough to keep his name on the best-seller lists.

Shocked by the assassination of Walther Rathenau in 1922, Emil Ludwig re-entered the Jewish community with the words "This cold-blooded murder of a great Jew, and my friend, made such an appalling impression upon me that I decided to show before all Germany that I too am a Jew". Fortunately, he acquired Swiss citizenship in 1932, so saving his life. In 1940, he went to the United States and stayed there for a time, but returned to Switzerland, where he died at Moscia near Ascona on 17 September 1948. His best work still lives on in the "Gesammelte Werke", published in 1945/46, keeping green the remembered talents of a brilliant writer.

FAREWELL TO DR. FRITZ FRIEDLANDER

It is the sad privilege of *AJR Information* that the last work of Fritz Friedlander is published in this issue. On 6 November 1980, few days after he had posted the manuscript with the punctuality, by which he always excelled in his publicistic work, he suddenly died after a heart attack.

Born in Berlin on 17 May 1901, Fritz Friedlander had his roots in Germany. Yet he bravely faced the vicissitudes of emigration. After having endured the horrors of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp during the November 1938 pog-

roms, he and his wife found refuge in Shanghai, from where they went to Melbourne after the war.

In Germany, Fritz Friedlander was a teacher by profession and, after his dismissal from public service in 1933 taught at Jewish schools. The achievements and problems of Jewish school education under the Nazis were described by him in an essay published in the 1958 Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute.

Yet first and foremost he was an historian. A student of Friedrich Meinecke, he wrote a biography of Gabriel Riesser, one of the leading champions for the emancipation of the German Jews. The book (published in 1925) was based on his doctoral thesis and has been a standard work ever since. The specific position of Jews in Germany was also the subject of his second book "Heine and Goethe" (1932).

After his emigration, he was Associate Editor of the Shanghai Jewish Chronicle and later, up to the end, a regular contributor to the Australian Jewish News (Melbourne). The esteem in which he was held by his colleagues is reflected in three most cordial tributes to him, which appeared a few days after his death. They referred to his wide range of knowledge, his meticulous working method and his extreme modesty.

This journal, too, can pride itself in having benefited from Fritz Friedlander's co-operation for many years. With unfailing conscientiousness he would write to us several months before the anniversary of an important personality was due and ask whether we would be prepared to accept an article by him on the subject. Needless to say that the answer was always in the affirmative. His contributions also included essays and book-reviews.

The Jews from Germany have lost an outstanding scholar and a reliable chronicler and critical analyst of their and their ancestors' destiny. Many of them knew him from the pre-war days in Germany. They will always remember him with affection and feel united in their sense of loss with his wife, Irma.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK.

TWO SCIENTISTS REMEMBERED

This month, a year has passed since the outstanding scientist, Hans Laser, Emeritus Professor in Experimental Pathology in the University of Heidelberg, died in Cambridge at the age of 80. Born in Königsberg, he worked in Germany at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut fuer Biologie in Berlin-Dahlem and later at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut fuer Medizinische Forschung in Heidelberg. He came to England in 1934, "one of a now diminished number of distinguished scientific refugees", as *The Times* wrote in its obituary. In this country Professor Laser worked for 34 years at the Molteno Institute, where his research interests included studies of lytic mechanisms in malaria. It was the study of malaria to which he devoted the rest of his life. He was active in the laboratory also after his retirement and, as *The Times* wrote, will be remembered by those who knew him "for his burning and passionate devotion to experimental work at the laboratory bench." Professor Laser was a member of the AJR for many years.

Another scientist, who came to this country as a refugee and who died several months ago was Dr. Wolja Saraga, also a long standing member of the AJR. He was chosen as the recipient of the 1979 Darlington Award of the Circuits and Systems Society in recognition of a paper on a special physical problem of telephone systems. Tragically, the news of the award never reached him, because it arrived a few days after his death. He gave lecture courses at various colleges and in 1972 joined the Imperial College as a Research Fellow.

"EDITH STEIN SCHOOL"

The Roman Catholic School for further Education and Educationalists in Berlin-Moabit has been named "Edith Stein School" in memory of Edith Stein (1891-1942) who was murdered in Auschwitz. She came from a Breslau Jewish family and was a deeply religious convert to Roman Catholicism. In 1933 she joined the Carmelite Order in Cologne. E.G.L.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

GERMAN TOWNS AND THEIR JEWS

Frankfurt

A new friendship agreement was recently signed between Frankfurt and Tel Aviv. 45 Frankfurt citizens used the occasion to pay a 10-day visit to Tel Aviv. They were greeted with red carnations on arrival and received numerous invitations by private families to foster mutual understanding. They toured Israel extensively and asked specifically to be allowed to take a wreath to the Yad Vashem as a gesture of repentance and reconciliation.

In an article in the Jewish press, Lord Mayor Dr. Walter Wallmann said that after the war there had been ever-increasing cooperation between the Jewish community and the municipal authorities with the aim of overcoming the terrible past and to rescue the tradition of pre-Nazi years. The city had assumed responsibility for the 13th century Battonstrasse cemetery which in its historical continuity was unique in the world. The city was also proud to contribute large amounts to the research into the history of the Frankfurt Jews, to the Youth Centre and to a number of social and educational projects. So far some 150,000 DM had been spent on them. A Jewish film week in summer 1980 had proved a great success, especially the Yiddish films which had never before been shown in Germany. In future, weeks of Jewish culture are to be organised every year. One third of the DM 22 million needed for the new Jewish Community Centre will be paid by the city which also plans to open a Jewish museum in the old Rothschild Palais. The article concludes by saying that neither the Germans nor the Jews could forget what Jews had suffered at the hands of the Germans, but he asked the Jewish community to accept the spirit of mutual understanding and common responsibility.

A special feature of Jewish life in Frankfurt is the "Henry and Emma Budge Old Age Home", opened in July 1968. The founders stipulated that half of the inmates should be Jews, the other half non-Jews. In effect this applies to the one- and two-room flatlets where people can bring their own furniture, but there are only some 20 per cent Jews in the sick-bays with their 163 beds. The home is jointly administered by the Jewish community, the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation, and the city authorities. The Budge family were bankers who emigrated to the US in the last century and returned to Frankfurt in 1903. In 1920, on Henry Budge's 80th birthday, he donated 1 million marks to be equally divided between Christian and Jewish people in need. As a co-founder of Frankfurt University, he donated another 500,000 marks. He died in 1928.

Essen

The permanent exhibition on Resistance and Persecution under the Nazis (referred to in our previous issue) was opened in the old synagogue on 9 November. During the opening ceremony, the Lord Mayor Horst Katzor said that this document centre in the heart of Essen was to perpetuate the memory of terrible times, of guilt and indescribable crimes, but also of courage and human dignity. He added that the older generation should join today's young people in researching the past and admit to their guilt and error. Mr. Gustav Streich as a representative of persecuted Social Democrats pointed out that the centre was opened 42 years after the burning of the synagogues, as after 1945 people had tried to forget the Nazi crimes because of their own guilt and shame. Even the persecuted had needed time to get over their nightmares and to look back on their sufferings. He hoped that young people would visit the centre, not to find heroism, but to realise that nothing like the things it showed should ever be allowed to recur. Werner Nachmann, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany agreed and added that Jewish children and young people as well should be taught the lessons of the past.

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT VISITS BAECK INSTITUTE

During his visit to the United States, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt spent an hour of a busy day at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, which has a library of 60,000 volumes and hundreds of thousands of documents and objects. In his welcoming speech, Rabbi Dr. Max Gruenewald, President of the LBI, said the last 250 years of German Jews were "rich in personalities, rich in ideas but also in tensions, an epoch that holds in many respects the key to modern Jewish history." In his response, the Chancellor stated that the research and collections of the Institute "should not be only a matter for historians but also for the new generation, which can benefit from the past but faces difficulty in conceiving of all that happened."

ELEVEN RIGHTEOUS GENTILES HONOURED

In a moving ceremony in Bonn, the Israeli Ambassador Yohanan Meroz honoured 11 men and women, some of them posthumously, who risked their own lives to save Jews from Nazi persecution. They were presented with the medals and scrolls of honour of the Jerusalem Yad Vashem. Hedwig and Otto Hafner who, apart from helping many others, had hidden a Jewish woman for over a year, had already received the German Order of Merit and the French Cross of the Legion of Honour. Otto Hafner was arrested in 1940 and spent five years in Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. The late Georg Hammer and his daughter Gertrud saved the Herzberg family from Mannheim, a mother with two children, by hiding them on the day before deportations started. Eva and Johannes de Lattre who were posthumously honoured, took in three Jewish couples after the 1938 November pogroms. When they were denounced by neighbours, Johannes took all six to Holland on his motor-cycle. He and his wife were subsequently treated as "politically objectionable" and encountered great difficulties. Frau Else Rouge hid a Jewish couple from November 1943 to the end of the war. The late Dr. Rudolf Bertram treated a number of Jewish women and hid them in his hospital. He helped others by providing them with hiding places, food and clothing.

94 PEOPLES COURT JUDGES SURVIVE

Berlin's Senator for Justice, Meyer, told journalists that there were still 94 judges of the infamous Nazi Peoples Courts living in the Federal Republic. 19 of them had been lay justices. Of a total of 570 judges, 267 are known to have died, and the fate of another 138 is unknown. So far none of the survivors has been prosecuted.

FORTY YEARS AFTER GURS

The 40th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews from Baden and Wuerttemberg to Gurs was remembered in public memorial meetings in Karlsruhe, Mannheim, Heidelberg and Freiburg. The Nazi leaders remarked at the time, that the non-Jewish inhabitants had hardly taken any notice of the deportation of 6,000 Jews. In Heidelberg, Dr. Müller, president of the district, addressed more than 1,000 citizens and said: "I was 19 when I went to the front in 1939, and I cannot remember that I thought much about what happened to our Jewish fellow citizens." He knew that there had been people who were ashamed when they saw their former neighbours and friends wearing the yellow star and passing them in the streets, but it had not registered with him.

Werner Nachmann, president of the Central Committee of Jews in Germany, said during a meeting in his native Karlsruhe that the Land of Baden had always been proud of its liberal traditions. Its Grand Duke was a close friend of Theodor Herzl's, but he hesitated to support him because he was afraid that his subjects in Baden would interpret such support as a sign of anti-semitism on his part. How then, Nachmann asked, was it possible that the citizens turned their heads and slept on whilst their Jewish neighbours were forcibly deported? Jews and Christians should get together to find an answer to his question.

In Heidelberg, a plaque for the poet Alfred Mombert (1872-1942) was unveiled before a vast audience of mainly young people. Mombert was deported to Gurs. Later friends helped him to find refuge in Switzerland, but he succumbed to his sufferings soon afterwards.

The Solidarité organisation of refugees in France, the French sister organisation of the AJR, has commemorated the Gurs anniversary by the publication of a book in French, German and English "The Deportation of German and Austrian Jews from France 1942-1944." It lists in alphabetical order the names of 6,258 German and 1,748 Austrian Jews deported from France and gives the date of deportation and details about the transports. Copies (85—French fr.) may be obtained from: La Solidarité, 14 Rue St. Lazare, 75009 Paris.

NO COVER-UP FOR NAZI CRIMES

During a memorial meeting on the 42nd anniversary of the November pogroms, Mr. Ernst Benda, president of the Federal Constitutional Court, said that the murders during the October Festival in Munich, the Paris synagogue bombing and other recent crimes had proved that neo-Nazi tendencies were manifesting themselves everywhere. It was getting increasingly difficult to keep young people from repeating the mistakes and the crimes of the past, and it was therefore essential not to allow Nazi crimes to be denied in publications by incorrigible former or neo-Nazis. The media and school publishers should do more to make the teaching of the history of the recent past easier for all concerned with education.

YEHUDI MENUHIN HONOURED

The Berlin Senate awarded the Ernst-Reuter Medal 1980 to violinist Yehudi Menuhin during a concert of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in which he played Bach and Haydn violin solos. Lord Mayor Dietrich Stobbe thanked him for the support he had always given to Berlin where he first appeared in 1929, and expressed the city's gratitude for the fact that in 1946 he had been the first Jewish artist to visit Germany and to play to a German audience. This was, said Mr. Stobbe "because he had once known the other Germany and had not given it up for lost and because he recognised that Germany had awoken to search its conscience and make amends for the unspeakable horrors of the immediate past". In the scroll accompanying the medal, it is stated that Menuhin "had fearlessly and incessantly worked for an understanding between the German and the Jewish people." E.G.L.

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JEWISH LIFE IN AUSTRIA

Dr. Rudolf Kirschschräger, president of the Austrian Republic, was present when the new Jewish Community Centre in Vienna's Seitenstetengasse was inaugurated. Many guests from abroad, representatives of the Vienna Churches and of the city administration attended the ceremony. The Centre is a magnificent achievement by Vienna's post-war community and was generously subsidised by City and State. It is adjacent to the old neo-classical Stadtempel, the only synagogue spared by the Nazis during the November pogroms 1938 and protected as a unique historical monument of great beauty. The new Centre has a large festival hall, a lecture room and a club room. It also includes a Jewish primary school, a school of further education and a kosher restaurant.

Before the war, Vienna had a Jewish population of some 180,000 of whom 60,000 were deported. Many others died or emigrated, and a comparatively large number survived in mixed marriages.

Men and women who had returned from concentration camps started the new community in 1945. One of its first presidents was Dr. David Schapira, who had survived Theresienstadt. He had been an officer in the Austrian Army in the First World War and lost his eyesight as the result of war injuries. His successor was Wilhelm Krell whose wife and child had been killed in Auschwitz. He remained its director for 25 years and was succeeded by Karl Lazar. Dr. Akiba Eisenberg has been rabbi of the community for 32 years. Another leader of the community was Dr. Emil Maurer who after being sent to Dachau and Buchenwald in 1938, managed to escape to Britain from where he returned soon after the war. In September 1963 the renovated Stadtempel was re-opened in the presence of members of the Austrian Government. In 1965 a House of

Youth was opened in Krummbaumgasse. Several substantial houses which were given back to the community by way of restitution were rebuilt as comfortable modern sheltered flats. In 1967, the ceremonial hall in the central cemetery was rebuilt with beautiful stained glass windows, depicting the sufferings of the Nazi victims, by Heinrich Sussmann. In 1970/71 an old age home and a special home for geriatric patients as well as a community office were built. The community is proud of the fact that the old-age home has sufficient nursing facilities to enable people who fall ill, to remain in the homes. The geriatric home is built on the site of a former Jewish girls' home in Döbling.

Present-day Vienna Jews feel strong ties with Israel. In the six-day war, they borrowed 10 million schillings (about £200,000) on the security of all their property and sent them to Israel, to be followed by another million at the time of the Yom Kippur War. They also sent the greater part of their library and a number of Torah scrolls.

Eight Jewish youth leaders from Britain, the US, and Israel, representing inter alia the World Jewish Congress and the B'nai B'rith Lodge, were received by Chancellor Kreisky at the end of their 10-day study tour of the Austrian-Jewish community with particular reference to the needs of young people. They had been invited by the Austrian Education Ministry and the Jewish Welcome Service. Mr. Michael May, the British representative, also represented the Board of Deputies. Dr. Kreisky told them that "whether one likes it or not, the Palestinians are represented by the PLO and the Middle East problem could not be resolved without the resolution of their problem." He agreed that there was a great deal of terrorism in the PLO, but "all national

liberation movements are in the beginning dominated by terrorism."

The President of Austria, however, Dr. Kirchschräger told them that political leaders must guarantee that such terrible happenings as the Holocaust will never be repeated and added that he had abstained from all contacts with the PLO and its representatives and was continuing to do so.

At the site of the Mauthausen concentration camp the delegation paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust.

During a civic reception in the historic City Hall, the Mayor of Vienna presented the guests with the medal of the city.

During a three-day meeting of the executive committee of the Council of Christians and Jews to mark the 25th anniversary of the "Austrian Action against Antisemitism" organisation, the famous Catholic philosopher Dr. Friedrich Heer called on the Vatican to adopt a more positive attitude towards Israel. Professor Erika Weinzierl, head of Vienna University's Institute of Contemporary History was elected president of the "Austrian Action against Antisemitism." Some years ago, one of her Catholic students wrote a History of Austrian-Jewish Refugees in Britain as his doctoral thesis under her guidance.

THREE-DAY RACISM CONFERENCE

Delegates from Italy's 22 Jewish communities took part in a three-day conference of the Italian Jewish Youth Federation in Florence to discuss action against the "new wave of antisemitic manifestations in Europe." A majority favoured "a political resolution on antisemitism" which denounced "international tolerance for antisemitic movements" and the tacit connivance of (Italian) State organisations towards them. It called upon the Italian Jewish leadership to organise adequate preventive surveillance in support of the police and security forces, but opposed the formation of self-styled vigilante organisations, either international or local.

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MISCELLANY

SIMONE VEIL CONDEMNS RACISM

Madame Simone Veil, a survivor of Auschwitz and Belsen concentration camps and now President of the European Parliament, has given her personal endorsement to the view that "anti-semitism cannot be separated from the fight against racism. The European Parliament has always protested against racism in all forms. This has to be one of its constant aims." The fight had to be pursued "in a way that goes beyond the limited aspects of human rights and takes in the whole democratic meaning and fibres of our community." Mme. Veil stated that there was some speculation as to whether neo-Nazis were being used by terrorists or the neo-Nazis were using them. What was certain was that after the war in many countries in Western Europe Right-wing groups "didn't dare to emerge. Perhaps now they have lost some of their shame."

DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH FOR PERES

Shimon Peres, Israel's Labour Party leader had a diplomatic triumph at a four-day conference of the Socialist International in Madrid with the adoption of a "majority" resolution that omitted any reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation in order to help his party win the forthcoming Israel General Election. The resolution which was introduced by Willy Brandt, the Socialist International's President, and drafted by members of the Israeli delegation, together with Dr. Butros Ghali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister and Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, declared that it considered "the Israeli Labour Alignment led by Mr. Peres the only viable factor for peace for and with Israel" and called for Middle East peace based on the Camp David agreements. Under pressure from their Marxist wings the Spanish and Italian delegations would not endorse the resolution.

TEACHERS AGAINST RACISM

The Israel Teachers' Union was host to a conference of more than 200 teachers from 35 countries to "combat racism, antisemitism and violations of human rights". Joint action was proposed in conjunction with teachers' unions in the USA, West Germany, France and Holland. East European countries boycotted the meeting and Egyptian teachers declined an invitation to take part in the Jerusalem meeting.

100,000 GERMANS VISIT ISRAEL

The Israeli Minister for Tourism has stated that during the first eight months of 1980 more than 100,000 West Germans visited Israel, and that before the end of the year another 65,000 were expected. This means that, compared to 1979, their number has doubled.

JEWES IN LEBANON

It is estimated that there are only 200 Jews left in Lebanon, with many of them in dire financial straits, according to the chairman of the World Organisation of Jews from Arab Countries, Mr. Mordecai Ben-Porath. Until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1975 several thousand had lived in Beirut but had fled to the hilly areas around the city where only a handful now remained. During the five past years, 30 Jews were known to have been killed in the fighting. The Syrian authorities allowed a shochet to visit Lebanon from Damascus periodically. The remaining Jews were now suffering for economic rather than political or religious reasons. They could leave if they wanted to, but preferred to stay.

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ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER IN BONN

Mr. Itzhak Shamir, Israel's Foreign Minister, paid a visit to Bonn. He was the first Herut leader to pay an official visit to Germany. His declared aim was to blunt Western Europe's Middle East initiative. From Germany, he proceeded to Norway for talks with the government.

100 BUNGALOWS FOR ISRAEL

A German investment group plans to provide about £4,500,000 for a "leisure village" in the Israeli town of Maalot. 100 bungalows are to be built and sold to people all over the world who are expected to use them for their annual holidays and let them for the remainder of the year. The village will have a number of sports stadia, clubs, restaurants, theatres and cinemas and will employ some 150 people.

SS ACQUITTAL

A jury of Aschaffenburg acquitted two former members of the Auschwitz SS administration, accused of murder in nine and 12 cases respectively. The foreman of the jury explained that they had reached their verdict because no incriminating documents had been produced and the memory of former camp inmates was not considered reliable after so many years. The public prosecutor had demanded life sentences for both men. After listening to the description of their work in the camp by the accused, a member of the prosecuting team said if they were to be believed, the camps would have been "recuperation homes for sick Jews". Both accused received damages for unfair detention.

JULIUS BAB CENTENARY

11 December 1980 was the 100th birthday anniversary of Julius Bab and it is only fitting that we remember this eminent writer, lecturer and theatre critic, who made such an impact on the cultural scene in Germany until 1933.

The "Freie Volksbuehne" in Berlin took this occasion to mount an exhibition in August 1980, at the opening of which Professor Huder stressed the epoch-making role played by Julius Bab in the history of the theatre.

Bab was also a noted author of more than 80 volumes on theatrical subjects. Perhaps the best known among them in Germany of the 'twenties were the historical works on G. B. Shaw, Walt Whitman and Eugene O'Neill, a biography of Goethe, translations of Shakespeare and studies of famous actors such as Bassermann, Matkowsky and others. A collection of these was published as late as 1954 under the title "Kraenze dem Mimen" by the Deutsche Buchgemeinschaft, Berlin-Darmstadt.

As a public speaker Bab was spellbinding, a passionate advocate for the arts and a servant of great causes, such as the "Volksbuehnenbewegung" (of which he was a co-founder) and the "Humboldt-Hochschule".

He also worked for Jewish causes as an active Board member of the "Central-Verein", contributor to the "C.-V.-Zeitung" and lecturer at the "Freie Juedische Volkshochschule". In 1933, he became one of the founders of the "Juedische Kulturbund" in Berlin, whose artistic director he was until 1938.

He spent the last years of his life in the United States, where he died in 1955.

ERICA REID

H. OSCAR JOSEPH, OBE—80

The 80th birthday of Oscar Joseph on 9 January presents our community, and in particular *AJR Information* and its readers, with the welcome opportunity to couple our congratulations and good wishes with a sincere expression of gratitude and appreciation for a lifetime of work and endeavour devoted so generously to the cause of Jewish refugees and especially to refugees from Nazi aggression.

When, early in 1938, Otto Schiff, at the head of the Jewish Refugees Committee, realised that he needed to share more of the work of which so much had until then rested on his shoulders, he turned to Oscar Joseph, then one of the principal partners in the firm of Leopold Joseph and Sons, the merchant bankers, whose offices in the City happened to be in the same building.

Otto Schiff soon realised that he had found in Oscar Joseph a partner of exceptional ability and character, whose devotion to the cause grew with the magnitude of the task. His wide experience in the city made him a natural choice to head the Refugees Committee's Business Department, which did so much to assist refugees to start new business ventures in Britain, of which many have become established household names.

In 1945, Oscar Joseph joined the Council of the Central British Fund to become Joint Treasurer in 1947 and Chairman in 1957, a position which he relinquished in 1971 without, however, reducing his interest and day-to-day involvement on behalf of the growing number of Jewish refugee communities in other parts of the world who look to the CBF and the Jewish Refugees Committee for help and advice.

From the time that Oscar Joseph joined Otto Schiff, his involvement in Jewish and, in particular, in refugee affairs has proved never-ending, and his wise and determined leadership continues to be sought and respected. The establishment of the Jewish Trust Corporation for the administration of property of heirless Jewish victims of Nazism owes much to his vision and support.

As Chairman of the Allocations Committee of CBF World Jewish Relief, and as a member of its Management Committee under whose care the Homes for Aged Refugees are administered, Oscar Joseph continues to provide a determined but, at the same time, a truly personal and benevolent leadership. Always ready to consider the problem of the individual, he finds time to listen and then to give his advice with clarity and purpose.

We wish him many years of continued good health and hope that those of us who have worked with him in the past may continue to benefit from his wise counsel and leadership which, interlaced with his special sense of humour, makes our task often so much easier.

L. SPIRO.

DR. LEOPOLD LUCAS PRIZE

This year's Dr. Leopold Lucas Prize was awarded to the Romanian scholar Professor Dr. Staniloae by the Protestant theological faculty of the University of Tuebingen. The prize amounting to some £5,000, was donated by Mr. Franz W. Lucas, London, in memory of his late father, former rabbi of Glogau, and prior to his deportation teacher at the Berlin Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums.

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OBITUARIES

Dr. h.c. LINA HALPER

The death of Lina Halper at the age of 96 prompts me to write a few words as a tribute to her memory. At Easter 1936 I came to London for a week from Berlin with 10 Marks in my pocket to explore the possibilities of working in a solicitor's office. Mrs. Israel Zangwill, in whose house at Angmering I was to spend another week as her guest, had arranged for me to stay with Mrs. Halper in London. She was the widow of Dr. Benzion Halper who had lectured at Philadelphia University and after his death she had returned to London with her two sons. She occupied a flat over the surgery of her brother Dr. Sacks off Commercial Road in the East End. There I was allowed to sleep on a sofa in her living room and make all my appointments by telephone—a valuable offer in a doctor's house.

Many years later, it must have been at the end of the war, after I had settled in England I found Mrs. Halper again through friends who were members of the Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She greeted me like a long lost prodigal daughter, proceeding at once to make me, too, a member. At that time her life centred already round her works for the Friends and her untiring efforts to collect funds endured almost to the last year of her life. She introduced me to her committee as the "poor little refugee girl who had made good" and I had to attend their meetings as the only outsider. Her energy was boundless, she was the "boss" of the Friends' office in St. John's Wood and she organised lectures and, last not least, the yearly Dinner Dance which raised ample funds.

A plaque in honour of her efforts can be found in the Campus of the Jerusalem University and a students' hostel was named after her. She was also made an honorary Doctor of the Jerusalem University. What amazed me most, however, was the fact that on her bedside table she kept a volume of Goethe's correspondence with Schiller from which she read me her favourite passages.

RITA LEHMANN.

FRITZ LEVINSON

Fritz Levinson, who died in Tel Aviv at the age of 74, was active in the Zionist movement in Germany from his early youth, especially in the Blau-Weiss and the Maccabi. He went to Israel in 1936, where he was successfully involved in the country's export efforts as the publisher of several trade journals. At the same time, he always took an active part in the work of the organisation of Jews from Central Europe and of the Maccabi Atid Sports Club. He was among the first Israelis to establish political and commercial relations with post-war Germany and became a Board member of the Israel-German Chamber of Commerce and a vice-president of the Israel-German Society.

WILLEM BOE

Oslo-born Mr. Willem Boe, who has died aged 63, was a righteous Gentile who risked his life to save Jewish lives when the Nazis occupied Norway. He was active in the resistance, smuggling Jews into Sweden and was later sent to a concentration camp by the Nazis. After the liberation, he became secretary-general of the Norwegian Refugee Council and made the welfare of Jewish refugees his prime concern. He also assisted Jews to immigrate into Palestine under British Rule.

PIERRE VILLON

Pierre Villon, a leader of the French Resistance and a former member of the National Assembly, has died at the age of 79. Born in German-annexed Alsace as Roger Ginsburger and trained as an architect, he joined the Communist Party in 1933, becoming an official in the propaganda section of the central committee shortly afterwards. After the fall of France in 1940 he was imprisoned by the Vichy Government, but escaped in 1942 to become the head of the Military Action Committee of the National Resistance Council in occupied France. A staunch Stalinist he served in the French parliament from 1944 until his retirement in 1977. He was a chevalier of the Légion d'honneur and held several awards for his work in the Resistance.

JOSE LIEBERMANN

José Liebermann, an outstanding scientist, has died in Buenos Aires, aged 83. He specialised in parasitology and made a considerable contribution to the fight against locust plagues. He held professorships at various Argentine colleges and with the National Institute of Agrarian Technology. His prolific writings covered not only scientific topics, but Jewish communal history as well. These included "Los Judios la Argentina" and "Tierra Sonada" (Dream Land), the story of the Jewish colonisation in Entre Rios, where he was born.

DR. TIBOR ROSENBAUM

Dr. Tibor (Pinhas) Rosenbaum, the Swiss financier, has died at the age of 57 and was buried in Jerusalem. Ordained as a Rabbi in his native Hungary when still very young, his career was interrupted by the Holocaust, in which he lost both his parents and six brothers and sisters. During the war years he was among the leaders of Budapest Zionist groups organising resistance against the Nazis. At great personal risk and with considerable personal bravery he helped to secure the release of Jews imprisoned by the Gestapo. He reached Geneva as a refugee and participated in the organisation of Aliya Bet, working for the Swiss Jewish Agency. His career in banking was heavily related to the problems of developing countries. In 1958 he established the International Credit Bank, through which he became one of the early investors in Israeli industry. During his career he served as a Treasurer to the World Jewish Congress, was chairman of the World Zionist Organisation's Finance Committee and sat on the Executive Boards of the Mizrahi movement and the Bar-Ilan University.

SIR SAMUEL SALMON

Sir Samuel Salmon, former chairman and president of J. Lyons & Co., the famous catering firm, has died aged 80. Like his late father, Sir Isidore Salmon, MP, he took an active interest in London's local government in the Conservative interest and received his knighthood in 1960 for political and public services. His communal interests were mainly with the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and the Anglo-Jewish Association, on whose Council he served and of which he was a former treasurer.

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

Furst:— Dr. Desider Furst, 7654 Royal Lane, Dallas, Texas 75230, U.S.A., formerly of Manchester and Vienna, celebrated his 80th birthday on 22 November 1980.

Kossman:— Mr. Henry Kossman, 22 Dawson Road, London NW2, formerly Cologne, will celebrate his 70th birthday on 2 February. He is an interested member of the AJR which joins his relatives and friends in extending to him its sincerest congratulations.

Seidler:— Mr. David Seidler, 5 Yorath Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff (formerly Vienna and Brno) celebrated his 87th birthday on 21 December.

Wedding Anniversary

Seidler:— Mr. and Mrs. David Seidler, 5 Yorath Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff (formerly Vienna and Brno) celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 2 January.

Deaths

Cohn:— Erna Cohn, of 30 The Grove, Finchley, N3, beloved mother and grandmother, passed away on 6th December.

Brooke:— My beloved husband, Herbert (Heinz) Brooke, passed away on 29 November 1980, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his wife, Lucie, relatives and friends.

Isaak:— Elias Jacob Isaak, formerly Leipzig, died on 6 November. Beloved husband of Selma, father of Genia and Usi Ellern and grandfather of Tamar and Daphna. Deeply mourned by his many relatives and friends in this country, Israel, U.S.A. and Canada. 6 Oman Court, Oman Avenue, NW2.

Meyer:— Dr. Walter Bernard Meyer, Harrogate (formerly Wiesbaden) died on December 16. Sadly missed by his wife Vera, his sister-in-law Eva and many relations, friends and patients.

Moser:— Helen Moser died on 17 November at Shoreham. Deeply mourned by her daughters Edith, and Peggy, Paul and grandsons.

Susskind:— Mr. Albert Susskind of London, NW6, formerly Frankfurt a. Main, died on 23 November peacefully at home, aged 80.

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Hubert:— Dr. (Miss) Marjorie Hubert—last known address, Providence, Henfield Common, Henfield, Sussex.

Personal Enquiries

Friedmann:— Grete Friedmann (maiden name), born 1914 in Vienna, address in 1932 Kalvarienberg 38/1/9, Vienna 17, came to England in 1938, re-emigrated to the US. Her address is wanted in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of school leaving by Rudolfine Lindl, nee Schimkowitz, Gottslebengasse 3/1/3, 1120 Vienna.

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HONOURS AND AWARDS

TWO BOOK AWARDS

The winners of this year's Jewish Chronicle/H. H. Wingate Literary Awards were announced recently. Lord Nicholas Bethell won the £1,000 Non-Fiction Award for his study "The Palestine Triangle" (Andre Deutsch, £7.95), a lucid account of the bitter struggles between the British, the Jews and the Arabs in Palestine between 1935 and 1948. The Fiction Award, also for £1,000, went to Avraham B. Yehoshua for his collection of three stories about Israel at war, "Early in the Summer of 1970" (Heinemann £5.50). The Awards, administered by the National Book League, aim to stimulate an interest in and awareness of Jewish themes in works of fiction and non-fiction. They are not confined to Jewish authors.

AWARD FOR SIR NIKOLAUS PEVSNER

On the occasion of the conference in Luebeck of the "Deutsche Nationalkomitee fuer Denkmalschutz", Sir Nikolaus Pevsner (London) was awarded the Karl Friedrich Schinkel Ring. Sir Nikolaus (born in Leipzig in 1902) was lecturer of History of Art in Goettingen from 1929-1933. In this country he is particularly well known for his systematic research of remarkable works of architecture in all regions of England, published successively in almost 50 volumes under the heading "The Buildings of England". E.G.L.

MRS. PETA SPEYER HONOURED

At a dinner of the British Friends of the Hebrew University at the Lancaster Gate Hotel, attended by more than 200 guests, Mrs. Peta Speyer, widow of our late board member Emil J. Speyer, was presented with a scroll which documented that in recognition of her very generous gifts to the University, her name had been inscribed on its Wall of Life. It was handed to her by the guest of honour, actress Elizabeth Taylor. She was also thanked by Mr. Simcha Dinitz, vice-president of the University and a former Israeli Ambassador to the United States.

MEDICAL FELLOWSHIPS

Drs. Kenneth and Ellen Shiffman (Liverpool) were elected Fellows of the Royal College of General Practitioners. Dr. Ellen Shiffman is the daughter of the late Mrs. Else Rosenthal, who was matron of Otto Hirsch House (Kew) from its inception in 1958 until 1969. In announcing the elections, the "General Practitioner" published an article under the heading "Good Fellows in a bad part of town", referring to the difficulties the couple had to endure in the "Vandal area" of the city. During the past 25 years, the Shiffmans have repeatedly thought of moving, writes the paper, but always found themselves "too attached to the patients." The practice is located in a 100 per

cent Catholic area. Dr. Kenneth Shiffman told the "General Practitioner" that once he was asked by an anxious patient whether he was "a Protestant Jew or a Catholic Jew". He answered: "Oh, a Catholic Jew", and that put the patient's mind at rest completely. It simply had not occurred to her, Dr. Shiffman said, that you could be something other than a Catholic or Protestant.

THE BERNHEIM PETITION

In last month's article "David and Goliath" the author, Dr. J. W. Bruegel, wrote that the initiator of the petition to the League of Nations, Franz Bernheim (born 1899), fled from Gleiwitz to Poland in 1933, but that his later fate was unknown. After publication of this article, Dr. Bruegel was informed that Franz Bernheim had stayed in Prague until 1937. He then emigrated to the United States and settled in New York City, working for various firms until his retirement when he was past 70. He still lives in New York and his recollection of dates and places is said to be undimmed by age.

SWEDEN'S STUDENT RADIO

Stockholm's Jewish Student Club is now operating a weekly half-hour radio programme. The adults of the community turned down a suggestion for such a project a year ago.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

50 years ago—Operetta. Composer of the year 1931 was undoubtedly *Paul Abraham* whose "Victoria und ihr Husar" had dominated the operetta stage in the previous year, and who came to the fore once more with "Blume von Hawaii". It provided the popular song-hits "Traumschoene Perle der Suedsee", "Divanpüppchen" and "My Golden Baby". Abraham's life ended in tragedy: exiled and uprooted he suffered a complete mental breakdown and died in 1960.

50 years ago—the "Talkie." When films were silent no longer, the word "Tonfilm" was invented and quick progress in developing the new medium followed. "Ufa" and "Sascha", "Lux" and "Allianz" were in prolific competition: "Ein Tango fuer Dich" and "Madame sucht Anschluss" (Willy Forst), "Ariane" with Elisabeth Bergner, "Liebeskommando" starring Dolly Haas, "Bomben auf Monte Carlo" and "Der Kongress tanzt" with Lilian Harvey and Willy Fritsch are some of the titles, all shown in 1931.

Vienna. The "Theater in der Josefstadt" arranged a matinee for the "Friends of the University of Tel Aviv" in Austria; texts by Berthold Viertel, Schnitzler, Joseph Roth and Theodor Herzl were spoken by Hilde Krahl, Vilma Degischer, Adrienne Gessner, Elfriede Ott and many others.

Tit-Bits. "Mountaineering keeps you fit" says *Luis Trenker*, 88, who keeps climbing even at his age, and has plenty of advice for the young in a recent article in the magazine "Quick".—A revival of the film "Ein Lied geht um die Welt" recently shown in Vienna, reminded of the wonderful voice of tenor *Joseph Schmidt* who showed great promise and died so young.—A Peter Stein-production of the whole "Oresteia" by Aischylos, at the Berlin "Schaubuehne am Halleschen Ufer" lasted for 10½ hours.

Birthdays. Viennese actress *Jane Tilden*, who remains popular because of her charm and lively personality, is 70; *Leon Poliakov*, Leningrad-born, author of the standard work "The History of Antisemitism", celebrated his 70th birthday in Paris. S.B.

BECKMANN AT THE WHITECHAPEL

Max Beckmann was born in Leipzig in 1884 and died in New York in 1950. In 1933 he was dismissed from his professorship at the Städelsche Kunstschule in Frankfurt, to which he had been appointed in 1925, and left Germany in 1937, never to return. A number of his paintings were awarded the "accolade" of being included in the exhibition of Entartete Kunst (Degenerate Art) organised by the Nazis in Munich in 1937.

Undoubtedly Beckmann is one of the great masters of German art, indeed one of the greatest European painters of modern times. In recent years there have been several opportunities to see his work in England, but the present exhibition (13 November 1980-11 January 1981) at the Whitechapel Art Gallery brings together for the first time nine out of the 10 important triptychs painted during his lifetime. It is useless to attempt to ascribe a precise meaning to these dramatic works. Beckmann himself was not prepared to elaborate. In essence, they use a symbolism based on mythological figures to describe his own expression of reality. They convey a sense of time—past, present and future—and show the state of human beings as seen through the artist's eyes, controlled and manipulated by events over which he has no power.

The triptychs are painted in hot and sizzling

colours, sometimes full of light, sometimes smoky. They are full of assurance and power, as if the artist knew precisely what he intended to convey, even if he will not say. They are crowded with allegorical figures dressed in the costumes of the circus, carnival and burlesque. The explanation and appreciation must lie with each viewer, but they are an experience that must not be missed.

Alice Schwab.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AN "OLD HEINE WORSHIPPER"

Sir.—Mr. Michael Foot, the newly appointed Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, recently described himself as an "old Heine Worshipper". Some years ago he supported the campaign for naming Düsseldorf University after Heinrich Heine with the words: "You would think that civilised people the world over would leap at the idea of using the name of Heinrich Heine if they were entitled to do so, and I find the reaction extraordinary." Perhaps we might also recall the last words of Michael Foot's memorial speech for his dear friend Vicky, the cartoonist:

"The proper epitaph for Vicky is that which Heinrich Heine, fellow Jew and kindred spirit, whom Vicky greatly honoured, asked to be accorded when he died.

"I doubt that I deserve the laurel wreath, for poetry has always been merely an instrument with me, a sort of divine plaything. If you would honour me, lay a sword rather than a wreath upon my coffin, for I was, first of all, a soldier in the war for the liberation of humanity".

Vicky and Heine, divinely gifted, lovers of peace, haters of tyranny, belonged to the same army."

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