

C. C. Aronsfeld

THE NEO-NAZI SUBVERSION IN BRITAIN

It was perhaps unfortunate for Nigel Fielding's book, *The National Front* (London, 1981) to appear just at a time when the subject had fallen to pieces. For there is now no longer one National Front (NF), there are two, the old and the "new", and that part of the remnant which did not fancy either settled for a National Front Constitutional Movement if they did not emerge as an almost bourgeois-sounding British Democratic Party. Between them, the four at present do not amount to a great deal, if anything less than the original which came to be remarkable for nothing so much as the number of deposits it lost.

The NF is not perhaps as the publishers generously claim "one of the most controversial parties in Britain today", but—there is no telling—it may yet be: greater improbabilities have happened. The book at all events has confined itself strictly to the past (1973-1976), and much can be learnt and should be remembered from the record compiled by the learned lecturer in sociology.

However scholarship does not always imply sound judgment, and something does seem wrong if it "cannot categorically state that the whole NF is antisemitic". In his desire "not to present the NF as a Nazi or fascist group", the author is naively impressed by the "numerous members who see their party as a modern movement enshrining traditional British values". They probably are not all Jew-haters or alien-baiters, any more than the fools who once voted for Hitler. Time was when Germans were still free to decide and they were warned. They might have joined the Nazis for reasons very different from anti-semitism; the fact was (as a German-Jewish paper put it 50 years ago) they "cared little that on the milestones of that road is inscribed a programme which frivolously denies to 600,000 Germans the right to exist".

There may now well be much the same indifference to the callousness dressed up as patriotism, and no more is expected by the demagogue. Mr Fielding would seem to have lent too much of an ear to his chief informant, the former head of the NF Student Association. He might have heeded the experience (which he himself quotes) of an American student engaged in similar research—"the very slight probability of gaining new information by interview was not worth the expenditure of time".

The printed evidence is quite enough and the only excuse in searching beyond it might be in refusing to consider it credible. It is all there, the old lies and the new whitewash; even Mr. Fielding cannot help noticing "disturbing parallels with the *völkisch* ideology", in fact "the similarity to Nazism is clear". The "Jewish question" too is "a matter of increasing importance for the NF", and of course both Jews and coloureds are regarded alike as sub-human.

In this respect the several splinters form a united Front. In others the original leader and perhaps the most promising, John Tyndall, now head of the New National Front, has declared the split "for the time being apparently irreconcilable", and his main spite is discharged on the "sexual perversions" of his former bosom friend Martin Webster, the old Front's Minister of Propaganda, who, now directing the rump, has retained about half of the total membership of 4,000; the rest is evenly divided among the other three.

Having been frustrated in their campaign, they may now turn to greater violence. Even in the past, Fielding noted an increasing "brutal attitude towards opposing groups". But here they may well be overtaken by more radical characters crawling out of the rotting body of the NF, notably the 3,000 of the British Movement ("for Race and Nation") led by 38-year-old ex-milkman Michael McLaughlin, a disciple of Colin Jordan who declared as far back as 20 years ago that "Hitler was right".

It is a sombre thought that while up to now the current on the "far Right" appears to have been from the extreme towards a measure of moderation, now the direction is reversed. The NF is seen as ineffectual, and since votes won't do the trick it is hoped that perhaps violence will. Oddly enough, Hitler played the game the other way round, at least after his *putsch*, but parallels of history are not parallels of mathematics.

Psychological Conditions

The psychological conditions of course must seem favourable. Unemployment now may in some ways not be as disastrous as it once was but it certainly can make for bitterness, especially among young people when they seek their role in life, their "identity" and their scope for action. Having achieved at least the distinctive appearance of skinheads, they will then vent their energies wherever it may seem convenient. The vandals have been with us for quite some time, and from the dead objects violence has moved on to living targets, the ancient scapegoats, the strangers, the immigrants, the Jews.

The British Movement is showing the way. "The coloureds", says McLaughlin, "are the colonisers of the country; our people are the resistance". There is glory for you. They will bring about "the white man's revolution" in which their "real enemies", they candidly explain, are the politicians who encourage immigration. So the active terrorism which they contemplate in the event of Government action would be directed against "establishment targets and synagogues". It has already started with organised assaults on both Jews and blacks. A letter bomb was sent to the Jewish Labour MP Frank Allaun

"FRIENDS OF THE AJR"

An Urgent Appeal from the
Membership Committee

Dear Member,

Our Membership Drive is continuing steadily. So far about 260 new members have been enrolled. Recruiting must continue if we are to replace the natural losses inevitable in our elderly community. At the same time we are now embarking on a further drive in which we are addressing ourselves particularly to the younger generation and to all those who, for one reason or another, did not wish to join as ordinary members. To attract their support to our cause, we have created "Friends of the AJR", a new category of membership.

The rights and aims of the "Friends" will be the same as those of the other members of AJR. We feel that this new type of membership will appeal to the children, relatives and friends of refugees. For this purpose we have designed the enclosed recruiting leaflet in the hope that you and every member of the AJR will enrol at least one new "Friend".

The Old Age Homes and the Social Services are required for at least another 10-15 years. The important task of their maintenance can only be secured if sufficient people of our background remain interested. We also need to enrol the younger people to keep up the work of visiting the lonely and sick and those in the Old Age Homes and Flatlets. We need people who will serve on the House Committees of the Old Age Homes and volunteers for the various social services.

Please do not let us and yourself down. Enrol at least one "Friend" and thereby ensure the future of the AJR and that of our work.

Thank you most sincerely,
LORE STEIN

and officers of the Anti-Nazi League were similarly attacked. Mosques as well as synagogues have been daubed with swastikas, in fact desecrations of places of worship and of cemeteries are becoming ominously widespread. Further action is being prepared, possibly as yet on a small scale, by storing arms, an offence for which several individuals were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. McLaughlin himself was convicted on charges of inciting racial hatred.

His faction has much in common with the activists of Column 88 whose strength is less well known than their fanaticism. They also hail from Jordan's National Socialist Movement which they accused of having betrayed the true Nazi creed by diluting its philosophy. They like to think of themselves as a clandestine paramilitary and intelligence arm of a united Nazi force. Their

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THE NEO-NAZI SUBVERSION

name is derived from the eighth letter of the alphabet (H), so 88 would stand for Heil Hitler.

Both they and the British Movement maintain links with European, especially German friends and are usually represented at the international neo-Nazi rally held each summer at Diksmuide under the auspices of the Organisation of Flemish Militants (VMO). The British contingent for this occasion is organised by the League of St George which, under the direction of one Keith Thompson, serves as a kind of clearing office for neo-Nazis all over the world. The seven-year-old League, with a membership of roughly 300, appears to be something like a pseudo-cultural and social club offering a platform to such "patriots" as the German Nazi Manfred Roeder, the Ku Klux Klan "Wizard" David Duke and the US "Reverend" Dr. James Warner who, as publisher of a monthly *Christian Vanguard*, arranged for a complete English translation of the *Stürmer's* special "Ritual Murder" issue of May 1934.

The League runs a book-peddling agency called Sunwheel Distributors which handles such titles as *Mein Kampf* ("translation approved by the author"); *Twilight over England*, by William Joyce ("Lord Haw-Haw"), Dr. Goebbels' English broadcaster who was hanged for treason, and *The Hoax of the 20th Century*, by the history-faking American Arthur Butz, denying the Holocaust. Also regular publicity is given to "Viking Documentary Recordings" with "The Sound of Hitler's Germany" such as "stirring marches, battlesongs, rallies, speeches", etc.

Appeal to the young

Much of the Nazis' propaganda is directed at the young and for this purpose a particularly repulsive specimen has been produced in the shape of a "comic" called *The Stormer* which purports to be printed and published by two Dublin-based bodies, the National Socialist Irish Workers' Party and the National Socialist Party of the United Kingdom, both of which are (according to the police) mainly fronts for extremists from Britain with international Nazi connections. The *Stormer's* "comic strips" would have been a credit to Streicher's paper. At least 150,000 copies were printed in Spain, and many of them have been distributed near schools, also at discos, pubs, youth clubs and football grounds.

Similar material in evidence at these places were leaflets by the as yet insignificant National Socialist Party calling for a revolution to fight "Jew-run" schools, the Viking Youth magazine *Young Folk* which, recruiting children from the age of 6, boldly proclaims "Death to the enemies of Führer and Fatherland", and the monthly newsletter of the Young National Front, *Bulldog*, which is to be prosecuted under the Race Relations Act for publishing material that is "threatening, abusive or insulting". The Football Association decided to probe the situation and found there was nothing it could do, at least so long as no sufficient complaints had been received from individual clubs. While some clubs, in their match programmes, have expressed strong disapproval of political activities in or around their grounds, the majority may well come to agree with the manager of Arsenal FC that any action was likely to make matters worse.

Meanwhile, on a different level, the antisemitic subversion feeds on the distortions practised by the "revisionist historians" who deny that any Jews were ever exterminated or that there even was

any intention to exterminate them. Hitler is whitewashed as one who never knew what was going on, and so far as Britain is concerned, it was after all not he who declared war; as for Russia, well, who was right? And so the Big Lie of *Mein Kampf* comes full circle.

The Government has begun to show a practical interest in the situation. In response to urgent representations from the Joint Committee against Racism, an umbrella organisation for the three political parties, the churches and the Jewish and Asian communities, the Home Office has agreed on an immediate study of racist organisations in Britain and it will discuss with police chiefs the practicality of setting up units to monitor and investigate racist attacks.

What precisely will be done must of course depend on the circumstances. Complications may well arise as a result of a Middle East policy which Jews (and others) would consider ill-conceived. It has happened before. Thirty-odd years ago Ernest Bevin's unenlightened efforts to appease the clearly bigger battalions of the Arabs were resolutely opposed by British Jewry (not by them alone either), and admittedly it was an embarrassing time. However, the challenge had to be faced, it was overcome and it will not now be shirked.

Something like a sheet-lightning was seen in Scotland where the city of Dundee decided to embrace the cause of the PLO by way of twinning with the West Bank town of Nablus. The motive was a fond hope of attracting large investment from the Gulf States but the foreseeable effect of the City Hall openly flying the PLO flag was a rash of anti-Jewish feeling revealed not only in Nazi daubings and the prompt appearance of *The Stormer* but also in what a Conservative Scottish MP called "antisemitic rantings" on the Dundee City Council which had "shamed the whole of Scotland".

On behalf of the Labour-controlled Council it was argued that the desecration of the synagogue was due to "social and urban deprivation rather than antisemitism" but there was considerable force in the point made by the President of the Board of Deputies that if this had to do with the recession, then "the era of the scapegoat is now upon us". Mr. Greville Janner went so far as to regard the episode as "of vast importance", "a watershed", though in fact a poll commissioned by the *Scottish Sunday Mail* showed that most citizens of Dundee do not agree with their Council and the leader of the local Jewish community received "considerable encouragement" from his fellow-citizens. The Scottish Secretary of State delivered himself of a characteristic understatement when he remarked that Dundee had "really not done itself much good".

The Nazis naturally will continue to exploit opportunities like these created by a mistaken Middle East policy, while their target remains not so much Jews or immigrants but the roots of democratic government. It is this subversion, the openly avowed revolutionary design that has to be guarded against. No laws need to be passed by Parliament. They have been available ever since the Public Order Act of 1936, and no more than resolution is required to enforce them. The Government has taken the firm view that "those who say there is some excuse for criminal activities make a very great mistake". Nazis are strong men only so long as they come up against no resistance or can hope to make fools of sufficiently large numbers. Few lessons in history stand out more clearly than this.

DISTURBED GERMAN-ISRAEL RELATIONS

In a recent TV interview in Bonn, Chancellor Schmidt said: "The Israelis must one day realise that the Palestinians have the right to decide their own fate and who should represent them." On the other hand, he stressed that the Palestinians "must one day recognise that the Israelis, like every other people in the world, also have the right to live within secure and recognised borders as a State". The speech led to a violent reaction by Prime Minister Begin, in which he stressed Germany's debt to the Jewish people arising from the Holocaust and expressed the view that, by their policy, the Germans might become instrumental in bringing about a second Holocaust, which would complete the job which Hitler had not finished. He also reproached the Chancellor for "arrogance and impudence" and maintained that, as a soldier during the war, he "had served in the armies that encircled the cities until the work was finished by the Nazi 'Einsatzgruppen'".

None of us can forget what the Nazis have done to our people and all of us realise that material compensation cannot bring our near ones back to life. On the other hand, the last decades were marked by many gestures of good will, not only in German Governmental circles, but also among the general population. They manifested themselves both by the support of Israeli cultural and scientific ventures and by the establishment of numerous personal relationships between Germans and Israelis. Without wishing to minimise the political danger which the State has to face at present, outbursts like that of Prime Minister Begin are bound to antagonise politicians and people of good will in Germany. They also unnecessarily increase the tragic isolation of Israel in the comity of nations.

W.R.

THIRTY YEARS RESTITUTION OFFICE

The Berlin Senate organised a special celebration of the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Restitution Office. In the presence of the Israeli Ambassador to the Federal Republic Mr. Yohanan Meroz, Berlin's Reigning Lord Mayor Dr. Hans-Jochen Vogel reminded his audience that the office had been unanimously agreed upon by the Berlin Senate in October 1950, at a time when a great part of the city was still in ruins. Its members were convinced that restitution was not only a moral but also a legal obligation. He thanked all those who had contributed to meet this obligation, in particular members of the younger generation who were not involved in the common guilt, but who had helped to create a new spirit to overcome the past and to work for peace, justice, humanity and brotherliness. In serving these ideals, they were making sure that the sins of the past would not be repeated.

LASTING EFFECTS OF "HOLOCAUST" FILM

Since the film "Holocaust" was shown on West German television over two years ago, the Federal Agency for Political Education has dealt with 150,000 requests for information on the Nazi period. 70,000 of these were from West German teachers on the subject of the persecution of the Jews, and young people under 30 had also asked for detailed information on the same theme.

The Federal Agency believes that "Holocaust" has decreased antisemitic tendencies in West Germany and counterbalanced neo-Nazi activities and the "Hitler-wave". Public awareness of the dangers of neo-Nazism and the moral obligation to atone for the past have been heightened. Still in question, however, is whether any truly lasting effect persists. After the showing, there was no change in the number of Germans who believe that there should be an end to war crimes prosecutions.

HOME NEWS

THE POLICE AND THE RACISTS

The head of the Metropolitan Police Community Relations Branch, Cdr. Malcolm Ferguson, has asked the Jewish public to report attacks on religious buildings, as well as any distribution of offensive literature. Such material would be forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions if there was any chance of a conviction. Although it was hard to distinguish between racialism and mindless vandalism as a motive for synagogue daubing, even minor damage should be reported. The great difficulty in such matters, Cdr. Ferguson stressed, was in actually arresting and convicting the hit-and-run culprits.

Among recent attacks, illiterate antisemitic graffiti were daubed on the Simon Marks Jewish Primary School in Stamford Hill, accompanied by theft and vandalism. Following the painting of a swastika on a dug-up sports pitch and other such incidents, Haringey Council has set up cleaning teams to remove racist daubs.

On the other hand, a recent letter to a suburban newspaper by a National Front spokesman complains about increased surveillance by uniformed police and plain-clothes officers from the new Community Relations squad. After accusations of telephone-tapping, the letter continues: "We consider that the tactics of the police in relation to the NF are similar to those employed by the Soviet KGB or the German Gestapo . . .".

PRINTING-WORKS BURNT

At Lewes Crown Court, freelance journalist Manny Carpel was recently sentenced to 2½ years in prison after he had pleaded guilty to arson. The building burnt down contained a printing press originally owned by the Racial Preservation Society and later used to print "Spearhead" and other National Front material. In mitigation it was stated that Mr. Carpel had been upset by "gloating in the magazines over the recent bombing of a synagogue in Paris". The judge said it was an unusual case, arising out of ideological concern, but while he could understand the defendant's feelings, it would be intolerable to allow such conduct.

DUNDEE TWINNING STORM CONTINUES

As well as the notorious link with Nablus, the city of Dundee is twinned with four other towns and has invited the mayors of all five to the Dundee Festival to be held in July. The Mayor of Würzburg, however, one of those invited, has informed the civic authorities that he will not attend unless the Palestine Liberation Organisation flag is removed from the city chambers. Scottish MPs, the Board of Deputies and the local Jewish community are continuing their strenuous endeavours to convince the Dundee councillors of their wrongheadedness.

SWASTIKA ADVERTISEMENTS REJECTED

"Exchange and Mart" will no longer accept advertisements depicting swastikas. Some advertisers who deal in Nazi regalia have been including illustrations of their wares, and these, the management acknowledges, "have caused offence and attracted a disproportionate amount of attention". However, the many small advertisements which offer recordings of Nazi rallies and songs, "Hitler's badge" and other such relics will continue, at least for the present.

OSMOND HOUSE SUMMER FAIR

The Bishop's Ave., London N.2.
Sunday, 14 June at 3.00 p.m.
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ANTI-ZIONISTS SHOCK BAZO SPEAKER

About fifty people, some of them Iraqi students, attended a British Anti-Zionist Organisation meeting recently held in London on the theme "Nazi-Zionist collaboration in the Second World War". One of the speakers, a Jewish anti-Zionist, was evidently shocked at statements made by members of the ultra-Orthodox sect Neturei Karta, who declared that the Zionists "thought it worthwhile" to have the religious majority of Jews in Europe "murdered in the gas chambers in order to prevent them founding the State of Israel".

Some days previously, the National Union of Students had voted at its Blackpool conference for the closure of the BAZO stall. Having booked the stall in a fictitious name—"Anti-Imperialism in the Caribbean"—BAZO was promoting, among other books, Alfred Lilienthal's "The Zionist Connection", a so-called exposé of Zionist control over the American media and political system. An NUS spokesman said that, in the light of previous contacts, BAZO would have been refused a stall under its own name.

NAZI CAMP HOLIDAY

After protests from Jewish citizens in the USA, The British Tourist Board has withdrawn a holiday pamphlet which recommends inter alia a weekend in a "Nazi Camp". When the camp was opened in Southern England last autumn, Sir Henry Marking, president of the Tourist Board, said "the camp has nothing to do with Jews or with the tragedy in concentration camps". This is strongly denied in a letter to the Editor of the Jewish Chronicle by Mr. Terence Prittie, himself a former inmate of several German POW camps. The Nazi "adventure holiday", he states, had features in common with concentration camps, not POW camps.

LORD WEIDENFELD

A new recruit to the Social Democratic movement is Vienna-born Lord Weidenfeld. He emigrated to Britain in 1938, where he worked for the BBC during the war, thereafter becoming a political adviser to Chaim Weizmann, before founding the publishing house of Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

reminds members and friends that it will hold its

GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, 16 June, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House,

9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3
(Side Entrance)

I

Report on AJR Activities
Treasurer's Report
Discussion
Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive is published on page 8

II

MR. HERBERT LOEBL, OBE, M.Phil, BSc.
Newcastle upon Tyne
will speak on

A VIEW FROM THE NORTH

Mr. Loebel, an industrialist, has written a thesis on the establishment of industries by Refugees

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

Space donated by Arnold R. Horwell Ltd.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MEETING

At this year's well attended Holocaust Memorial Meeting on May 10, the main speaker was Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, who gave a detailed account of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The function was opened by a performance under the heading "Out of the Depths", a kind of anthology of the happenings under the Nazis. The participants were members of the younger generation, a particularly gratifying arrangement which helps to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive among the children and grandchildren of the victims or their relatives.

LORD MOUNTBATTEN FOREST

The late Lord Mountbatten is to be remembered by the planting of a forest near Nazareth, sited next to the Lady Mountbatten Memorial Forest. The fund for this was launched by the Leeds Jewish National Fund Commission at a reception in honour of the late Earl's granddaughter, Lady Joanna Knatchbull.

BELSEN RELIEF WORK LEADS TO PENSION CUT

As a young medical student in 1945, Andrew Dosseter interrupted his training in order to help the sick and dying in Belsen concentration camp. He went there in response to a Government appeal and was seconded to the RAMC from the Red Cross. While working in the camp, he fell victim to the typhus epidemic and, as a result of medical complications, lost two years of study. Now practising in Suffolk, Dr. Dosseter has learnt that the Department of Health classes him as a civilian during those two years. Even though he was decorated for his services, none of this time can count towards his Health Service pension.

LIBRARIES GROUP ESTABLISHED

At a conference in Cambridge, attended by representatives of Jews' College, the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies and Leo Baeck College, as well as delegates from the British Library, the Bodleian and many other archives and institutes, it was decided to establish a Hebraica Libraries' Group. The object is to co-ordinate information and provide mutual assistance among the librarians responsible for the collections of Hebrew books and documents in this country.

AJEX FUTURE ASSURED

The new national chairman of Ajax, Gerald Bean, dismissed rumours that the organisation would soon be closed down. Although projected talks with the Board of Deputies would deal with the possibility of a successor to the nationwide defence organisation, this was a move for the future and Ajax would still play a major role for the coming ten years. Its future was assured and it would fulfil all its commitments to the Anglo-Jewish community. "In fact", said Mr. Bean, "there are immediate plans to widen the scope of our activities . . . I look forward to the co-operation of the whole community . . .".

JEWISH CEMETERY IN YORK

Archaeologists in York are hoping to make exploratory digs in the Monkgate district, where it is believed that a mediaeval Jewish cemetery may lie. The York Archaeological Trust has promised not to disturb any graves found and the Chief Rabbi has approved the project.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

CANADA

Grant for Holocaust Tapings

The Canadian Jewish Congress has set up a fund amounting to £45,500 for the establishment of a Holocaust documentation "bank", while double that sum has been allocated by the Canadian Ministry for Multiculturalism to assist in the project. The intention is that survivors of the Holocaust and of Nazi occupation, now living in Canada, will record their experiences on audio-visual tape. Under this scheme, non-Jews will also contribute relevant memories of that time.

Rock Cult Group Barred

The Way International, a mind-control cult which combines preaching with rock music, has been barred from performances in two universities and a polytechnical institute in Toronto. At the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, the president cancelled bookings after discovering that, in addition to its other activities, the group promotes books denying the Holocaust. The Way International has some 35,000 supporters in North America.

POLISH INTELLECTUALS PROTEST

In an Open Letter to the daily press 121 Polish intellectuals protested against the emergence of chauvinist and antisemitic elements in the country. They stated that a number of publications had recently spread disinformation among the young by distorting recent history and accusing Jews of crimes they had not committed.

EQUIVOCAL END TO DUTCH CONTROVERSY

The role played by the Jewish author Friedrich Weinreb during the Nazi occupation of Holland will probably never be cleared up. This was the finding of the Dutch Parliamentary Petitions Commission after an appeal begun six years ago by Dr. Weinreb, now aged 71 and living in Zurich. During the Second World War, it was said by the Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie, he had spied on fellow prisoners and betrayed hidden Jews; this had led to the arrest of 118 people, 70 of whom were killed by the Germans. In fact, he was tried on a charge of collaboration with the occupiers in 1948 and sentenced to six years' imprisonment, of which he served 3½ years.

Dr. Weinreb's case is that he hoodwinked the Nazis and saved hundreds of Jews. Many Dutch people support this story and in 1969 he published three volumes of memoirs in his own defence. Commenting on Dr. Weinreb's complaint against the Rijksinstituut, one MP said, "There can be no doubting the sincerity of those who think him a traitor; on the other hand, neither can there be any doubting the sincerity of those who think him a hero."

NAZI CONTACT CENTRE IN HOLLAND

Following a rash of anti-Jewish stickers in the diamond quarter, Amsterdam police have seized neo-Nazi and antisemitic material from the printing-house of Siegfried Verbeek, most of it in English. Among the papers confiscated was "Haro", which carried Holocaust denials reproduced from American articles and notified European Nazis of a contact centre in Amsterdam, the "Eurowinkel".

The international aspects of this propaganda activity have many parallels. In Britain, National Front papers apparently emanate from Eire, among them the cartoon paper "Stormer", carrying "Blood Libel" caricatures and declared by its author to be "as harmless as the 'Beano'". Bilbao is notorious as a fascist publication centre, printing much English-language material, while in Copenhagen a recently-established firm issues such titles as "Mein Kampf" and "Auschwitz Lies".

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

JEWISH LIFE IN HUNGARY

Reassurance on the present conditions of the Jews in Hungary was given by Dr. Geza Seifert of the Central Board of Hungarian Jews, who recently visited London. The 100,000-strong community, he said, suffered no racial discrimination, "though there may still be antisemites". Nor was there any interference with religious teaching and practice: 30 synagogues and prayer halls were to be found in Budapest, where there was also a Jewish library of 20,000 books. Dr. Seifert mentioned too that the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee had spent £1 million over the years to help Hungarian survivors of the Holocaust.

ARNO BREKER UNWELCOME IN PARIS

Protests from French artists and Jewish survivors' organisations erupted when it was learnt that Arno Breker was to be represented in an exhibition of European art from 1937 to 1957 at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. Breker, considered Hitler's favourite sculptor, was well-known in Germany for his immense reliefs and male nudes symbolising aggression and physical vigour. He was highly successful, earning nearly 100,000 RM in 1938. After the war he began a second career, sculpting busts of such famous contemporaries as President Sadat, and a few years ago published his memoirs. In view of the opposition to Breker's visit, however, the curators of the Pompidou Centre have withdrawn their invitation to him.

This follows another rebuff from the City of Düsseldorf, to whom Breker had offered a monument in honour of the poet Heinrich Heine. He had designed the work even before the Nazi Machtergreifung and kept it in reserve throughout the intervening years. The Düsseldorf authorities considered it unfitting that the sculptor "so intimately connected with the artistic message of the Nazi period" should produce a Heine memorial.

ITALY

Dictionary corrections needed

An Italian publisher has been asked to withdraw offensive definitions in a recently-published "Dictionary of the Italian Language" and to hold up sales until corrections have been made. Apart from straightforward definitions of the word "Jew", figurative meanings are given as "usurer, mean or stingy person". The Union of Italian Jewish Communities, while not unduly alarmed in this particular matter, feels bound to maintain increased vigilance in view of antisemitic incidents in Italy, about 100 in 1980. Rightwing youths are suspected of having daubed the recently-restored Leghorn synagogue a short while ago.

At a recent conference on the subject of resurgent antisemitism, sponsored by the Milan University and the Centre of Contemporary Jewry there, speakers emphasised that Western states and churches no longer preached antisemitism; nevertheless it remained and was now rooted in growing chauvinism and xenophobia.

Following outbreaks of antisemitism in Florence, Catania and most recently in Rome, Cardinal Ugo Poletti said in a radio interview that "the heart shrinks" when such things occur. He called antisemitism a "poisonous miasma" from the past.

Archbishop's Palestinian Activities

Despite such signs of friendship as the recent feelers towards a possible papal visit to Israel, Italian Jewish representatives have felt obliged to protest to the Vatican concerning talks between Cardinal Casaroli and Farouk Kaddoumi, a senior member of the PLO. The Vatican "Foreign Minister" denied that these signified any recognition of the organisation. A further point at issue was the continued activity on behalf of the Palestinians by Archbishop Capucci. In 1974, the Greek Catholic Archbishop had been sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment after smuggling arms for El Fatah. His release came in 1977 following an undertaking by Pope Paul VI that such an act of clemency would not harm Israel. Once again, however, the Archbishop is vigorously propagating the cause of the PLO.

A WITNESS FOR AUSCHWITZ IN PARIS COURT

Fourteen years ago, Robert Faurisson, 52, an associate professor of French literature at Lyons university, began researching the history of Nazi persecution. He was born at Shepperton to a Scottish mother and a French father and claims to be a left-of-center liberal. Two years ago, he published his findings in *Le Monde*, claiming that the story of the gas chambers and the genocide of the Jews were "one huge historical lie". His article coincided with one by Darquier de Pellepoix, Vichy minister for Jewish affairs, now exiled in Spain, who equally denied genocide and wrote: "The Jews are always ready to do anything to make themselves interesting. The only things the Germans gassed, were lice". Both articles started an enormous controversy. Faurisson was suspended from his job, attacked in the street, and copies of his books were destroyed in a Paris bookshop. The French International League against Racism and Antisemitism started a prosecution under the civil code "for falsifying history". The case has taken 15 lawyers two years to prepare. Faurisson published a 275-page defence of his position in which he attacked the veteran French historian Leon Poliakov, who had edited detailed accounts of statements by Kurt Gerstein, a junior officer in the SS about gassings he had witnessed in Belzec near Lublin, and the diaries of an SS doctor at Auschwitz, Johann Paul Kremer who had witnessed the gassings. Faurisson accused Poliakov of misquoting both and of being "a fabricator and a manipulator". Poliakov sued.

His lawyers have now produced a witness who was hitherto presumed to have died, Baron Goran von Otter, a 74-year-old retired Swedish diplomat who on a night in August 1942 had met Gerstein on the Warsaw-Berlin express. At the time, von Otter was a junior consul with the Berlin Swedish embassy, and Gerstein talked to him for 12 hours in a sleeping-car as their train traversed occupied Poland. Gerstein begged him to tell the world about the gassings he had witnessed and showed him documents, identification cards and orders from the camp commandant for the delivery of hydro-cyanide. The Swede reported the conversations to Stockholm, but nothing was done. Gerstein who tried throughout the war to expose Hitler's "final solution" programme, died in mysterious circumstances in a Paris jail in 1945. After the war, the meeting between the two was reported, but until recently, it had not been possible to find von Otter who was living in retirement.



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REFUGEE CHILDREN IN WARTIME

Before the start of World War Two, Britain, remembering the bombings of the Great War and fearing worse, made elaborate preparations to provide safety retreats for children in London, Glasgow, and other big cities. It was an extremely well-organised operation, and as soon as war seemed inevitable, the evacuation of schools began. Jewish schools were among them and they often faced special difficulties at their places of refuge.

The story of the evacuation of one such Jewish school is told in a book by Dr. Judith Grunfeld (Shefford. Soncino Press. 122 pp. £5.80). It is of great interest for two reasons: generally, it tells a story with which most people under 40 are totally unfamiliar, and, in particular, because her school included an unusually large number of unattached refugee children from Germany and Austria, and some refugee teachers, many of whom had only very recently arrived in Britain.

Dr. Grunfeld was educated in Frankfurt, where she graduated in Natural Science. In the late Twenties, she went to Poland to organise orthodox Jewish schools and teacher training colleges, which though they were destroyed during the war, have served as models for similar institutions all over the world. In 1933, she came to London and was soon appointed headmistress of the Jewish Secondary school, founded by young Rabbi Dr. S. Schonfeld as the first of many opened after the war. She continued in her job after her marriage to the late Dayan Grunfeld, a well-known scholar and religious teacher and after the birth of three children (a fourth was born during her evacuation).

Dr. Schonfeld who had himself studied in Germany, was active in organising transports of unaccompanied children from orthodox families in Germany and Austria, most of them in late 1938 and 1939. It is interesting to note that these children, placed in orthodox families or hostels, settled in much sooner than children with a different background, because they found the same

religious environment and customs they had known at home.

On the Friday before war broke out, the primary and secondary Jewish schools received their marching orders—code word "Pied Piper". Their several hundred pupils, entire staff including headmaster Dr. Levine and headmistress Dr. Grunfeld were sent to the large village of Shefford in Bedfordshire and accommodated there and in several neighbouring villages. They were to remain there for six years.

All the children were sent to individual families whose enthusiasm was severely lessened when they found out that their charges refused to eat any of the food they had lovingly prepared, and later on that Friday night, even to turn off the light in their bedrooms. In addition, most of the refugee children spoke very little English. Dr. Grunfeld describes in detail how over the years, the local population began to realise the special religious restrictions which had led to such disappointment and became eager to collaborate. They even ordered kosher margarine so that their children could have some sort of breakfast before leaving in the morning. The staff eventually managed to provide adequate communal meals and to secure rooms for lessons and religious services. Their final triumph was the approval and support of a visiting school inspector, whose visit had at first been dreaded in view of the makeshift arrangements.

Sometimes there is a hint of condescension when Dr. Grunfeld speaks of refugee children who could not even respond to their own names as pronounced by an English senior master, or mentions that the headmaster's English "unlike the English of the German-born teachers and helpers" revealed his vast knowledge of English culture which made him acceptable to the local "higher society". These teachers and helpers were, however, greatly missed when, in the course of the war, they were interned for a year.

On the whole, the tact and persuasiveness of

Dr. Grunfeld and her staff established very good relations with the local population in all its strata, and there were close ties between many children and their foster-parents. One foster-mother was deeply hurt when, after two years, 15-year-old Leo, a refugee from Vienna, was to be sent to a Yeshiva. She said: "He is one of ours, how can he go away like this. It will break my husband's heart and mine." When the school eventually returned to London in August 1945, they gave a concert in the village hall for the foster-parents, billeting officers and village personalities. When they left, "the streets were lined with our friends, there were hugs, moist eyes, farewell scenes. Some folks were really heartbroken and they showed it." To this day "many an old Sheffordian, coming from America, from Australia, or from Israel, to visit England goes to Shefford to visit his old former family. . . . At various weddings in London in the years after the war, the old landlady and landlord of Shefford were important and honoured people among the wedding guests. The ties lasted a long time and they still survive."

To have helped in establishing these ties is one of Dr. Grunfeld's major achievements. Her simply-written and moving reminiscences record a success story, both educationally and in the field of human relations.

MIXED VIEWS ON TV SERIES

A television history of Zionism, "Pillar of Fire", is arousing controversy in Israel. The 19-part series, the most ambitious ever produced by the Israel Broadcasting Authority, was expected to generate discussion and awaken Israelis to their past history. Some viewers, however, feel that the series makes Zionism appear only as a response to antisemitism and moreover that it tends towards a pro-Arab and pro-British view of the establishment of the State. Nationalists accuse Israeli TV of subjection to a mafia of self-hatred and of presenting only the negative side of Israeli society. "Pillar of Fire" has indeed broken new ground by presenting the Arab standpoint to viewers. Its aim has been to avoid any propagandist position, while putting over the message that all in all the Jewish people was right to pursue the path of Zionism.

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RECOLLECTIONS OF TWO "ASSIMILATIONISTS"

After the disappearance of the ghetto walls and the ensuing emancipation which affected the Jewish communities, the process of assimilation commenced in Central Europe and, to a lesser degree, also in Eastern Europe. It has become fashionable to give the term "assimilationist" an exclusively negative meaning as if the integration of Jews into their gentile surroundings has been one of the greatest misfortunes that befell the Jewish people. This condemnation is, at best, a dangerous and misleading half truth. Assimilation is a complex phenomenon with, it must not be forgotten, many beneficial aspects; Jewish nationalism, including Zionism, had also been a kind of assimilation. Whatever one's personal views and feelings, it should not be denied that most assimilated Jews were not lost to Judaism, but maintained their loyalty to the Jewish community while others merged, more or less successfully, into the general population. These tendencies were vitiated by antisemitic discrimination, culminating in the truly racist theory and practices of National Socialism.

Two recently published books by genuine "assimilationists" tell of their experiences and problems: "Von des Kaisers Schule zu Hitlers Zucht-haus—Eine Jugend links-aussen in der Weimarer Republik" by Henry Jacoby (242 pages, dipa-Verlag Frankfurt am Main; 1980) and "Augenzeuge—Erinnerungen eines österreichischen Sozialisten" by Joseph T. Simon (410 pp., Wiener Volksbuchhandlung, Vienna; 1979).

Heinz Jacoby (he became "Henry" after his emigration) was born in Berlin in 1905 into a typical Jewish middle class family, whose attachment to religious tradition had diminished from one generation to the next. Soon after the end of World War I, he joined first a small pacifist group with anarchist leanings, and then—like so many young Jewish idealists—the Communist Party. He was professionally engaged in social work in prisons. After the National Socialists had come to power, his party cell continued activities underground. Heinz was sentenced to a few years' im-

prisonment; he emigrated via Czechoslovakia and France to the United States. His memoirs concentrate on his Berlin days; he tells about his encounters with other left-wingers and outlines his intellectual development, especially his critical non-dogmatic approach to Marxism and to Adler's individual psychology. Henry Jacoby is averse to self-advertisement and overstatement but it is significant that he became a distinguished international civil servant at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). After his retirement he published several books, most notably the sociological study "The Bureaucratization of the World"; he is a respected representative of Amnesty International at the Geneva branch of the United Nations.

Jacoby observes that he never experienced any difficulties because of his Jewish origin, which does not seem to have bothered him particularly; he is no doubt more clearly aware of it now than in his youth. He notes that several members of his family—all good German patriots—became victims of the Nazi murder machine. He acknowledges that many other young German Jews sought "normalization" by joining the Zionist movement, whereas he belonged to those who lacked any knowledge of matters Jewish and felt no inclination to learn about them. Notwithstanding his own critical self-assessment, it is quite likely that his active attachment to humanitarian ideals had something to do with his Jewish extraction.

Joseph Simon (1912-1970) was aware of his Jewish background, but not conversant with Jewish thought and practice. Like Jacoby, he did not convert to another religion; his "faith", transmitted by his parents, was the Austrian branch of democratic Socialism. His father was a grammar school teacher in Vienna, and one of the pioneers of Esperanto. Both parents were loyal members of the Labour Movement. Although the father belonged to B'nai Brith, he was not interested in Judaism.

Another formative influence which shaped Joseph Simon's outlook was the connection with a Danish Protestant family, with whom he stayed some time as one of the Viennese children of the first World War, when starvation plagued the population of the once joyful former capital of the Habsburg empire. Simon was active in the Socialist youth and student movements; later, in the Austrian fascist era, he participated in the organization of resistance. Once more, he found refuge in Denmark, his second home country, but had to move from there to the United States, after the German invasion. He joined the Army; his unit was sent to Britain, and from there he returned via Denmark to Austria with the Allied forces. He became a prominent member of the legal branch of the American High Commissariat. Subsequently the Austrian authorities entrusted him with effecting the re-transfer of important assets held by the Soviet administration—a particularly difficult and thankless task. Afterwards, Joseph Simon established himself as a lawyer in private practice. His untimely death was mourned by many friends who appreciated his loyalty, selflessness and steadfast devotion to his social-democratic ideal.

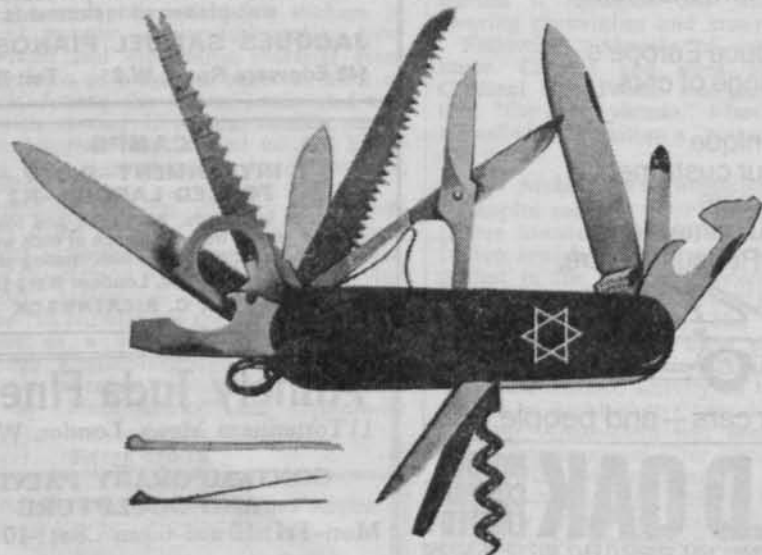
Unlike Henry Jacoby, Simon recollects several instances of anti-semitic hostility, which he experienced in school and university and, even more depressingly, within Socialist party circles at various levels. Whereas the Berliner manages to look at his past with humorous and self-critical detachment, the Viennese remained too deeply attached to his home country and to his party, which was for him a community of faith, to take lightly such shortcomings as antisemitic tendencies. Both Jacoby and Simon had a story to tell; they did it well, modestly and sincerely.

PRIZE FOR ISRAELI AUTHOR

The city of Würzburg has awarded its cultural prize for 1981 to the renowned Israeli writer Yehuda Amichai who was born in Würzburg in 1924 as a member of the Pfeuffer family. He and his parents emigrated to Israel. After serving in the army, Yehuda received a call to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where he teaches literature.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

NAZI CRIMES BEFORE GERMAN COURTS

Defending Hermann Hackmann, the former deputy of Maidanek Commandant Koch, his lawyer said in the Düsseldorf trial that it was his client's bad luck that Koch was no longer alive to stand trial. It was he who was responsible for the shooting of escaping Russians and some 200 typhus sufferers. Hackmann had only followed superior orders; he was at most an abettor and therefore protected by the laws of limitation. In Hackmann's time, his counsel continued, the gas-chambers at the camp were in all likelihood used only for disinfecting clothes; the epidemic of typhus alone could explain the fact that "such an incredible number of people had died in the camp".

In the Frankfurt trial, the hearing shifted to the hospital bed of Walter Fasold, accused of complicity in the murder of 180 Jews at Czenstochowa in 1943. As in the case of Horst Czerwinski in the Auschwitz trial, the accused had suffered a heart attack and the authorities were anxious not to abandon the proceedings after nearly five years.

A former SS-Obersturmführer, Arpad Wigand faces a Hamburg court charged with killing Polish Jews in 1941/42. Two former police officers are also accused of complicity in the crimes. Wigand is said to have carried out orders to shoot Jews found outside their living quarters and those who had not handed over their furs. Further charges relate to the death of 50 or more Jews while he was in charge of the concentration camp of Treblinka. He has already spent 15 years in Polish prisons.

GOEBBELS BOOK ON STAGE

A stage adaptation of Joseph Goebbels' fictional diary "Michael—Ein deutsches Schicksal" is to be produced by the Municipal Theatre of Heidelberg. Semi-autobiographical in nature, the book describes the attraction of the rising National Socialist party. The theatre management explain that their aim is to depict the age which led up to Hitler's triumph. However a late report states that the production has been cancelled.

AUSTRIA

No support for Gymnasts

The Vice-Chancellor of Austria, Fred Sinowatz, has withdrawn his patronage of the Federal Gymnastic Festival to be held by the extreme right-wing Oesterreichischer Turnerbund. This move follows articles in the "Bundesturnzeitung" and the "Junger Bund" questioning whether "six million Jews were gassed or only 300,000" and whether or not "World Jewry" had "officially declared war on Germany". The festival was to have been held in Villach this summer, but in the circumstances the Province of Carinthia is withholding a proposed subsidy of 500,000 schillings.

Successful School Project in Vienna

For just twelve months, an active young group of parents have been busying themselves in preparations for an autonomous Jewish school in Vienna. Despite many obstacles in their way, a brand-new primary school has been built in that time and already there are plans to expand it by adding a comprehensive or a secondary school.

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REPORT FROM BERLIN

Visits of former Citizens

A short while ago, another 150 emigrated former Jewish residents were the guests of the City of West Berlin. Most of them came from North America and Australia. Since 1961, about 11,000 former Berliners have benefited from the scheme, yet a further 13,000 are still on the waiting list.

Anniversary of Friedrichs-Werdersche Gymnasium

The Friedrichs-Werdersche Gymnasium, which from 1908 until 1935 was located in the Bochumer Strasse of the Moabit district, was founded 300 years ago. Files and several memorial plaques are now deposited in Berlin-Hermsdorf. The Secretary of the "Verein fuer die Geschichte Berlins", Dr. Hans-Günter Schultze-Berndt (Artuswall 48, D-1000, Berlin 28) would be grateful for names and addresses of former "Werderaner", who might be interested in the celebration to be held on the occasion of the anniversary.

"General-Pape-Strasse"

The name of this street evokes reminiscences of the tortures and murders of anti-Nazis committed by the SA in the cellars of these former barracks from February 1933 onwards. A plaque in memory of the victims has now been fixed on the building and was unveiled by the Mayor of the West-Berlin district of Tempelhof. EGL

EXHIBITION ON GERMAN-JEWISH SOLDIERS

In the re-built baroque castle of Rastatt, Baden, which had been badly damaged during the war, an exhibition "German-Jewish Soldiers 1914-1945" has just been opened by the Defence Secretary of State Dr. Leister, who reminded his audience of the overwhelming feeling of patriotism which was felt by German Jews in the Great War. The Federal Ministry of Defence had republished the letters written home by Jewish soldiers killed in the war and named two air force barracks after the Jewish fighter ace Wilhelm Frankl who received the Order "Pour-le-Merite" and the socialist member of the Reichstag Ludwig Frank. The exhibition will later be on show in various centres of the Bundeswehr, accompanied by historical explanations by officers.

RIGHT-WING CONSERVATIONISTS

In a recently published book about neo-Nazi groups of the extreme right, its editor Jan Peters points out that many right-wing extremists have infiltrated conservationist groups, and that conservationist candidates for parliamentary elections in several of the Länder were almost exclusively members of right-wing organisations.

Club 1943

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

1 Juni. Dr. R.v. Schulze-Gaevernitz: "Die Entdeckung der Erdkugel durch die Griechen, (430-330 B.C.) und die Menschheitsidee".

8 Juni. GOETHE INSTITUTE at 7.30 p.m.
Film: "Stolen Life" with ELISABETH BERGNER und MICHAEL REDGRAVE.

15 Juni. Kurt Passer: "The Centenary of Offenbach's Death". With musical illustrations.

22 Juni. AUSFLUG des CLUBS 1943. "Eine Fahrt auf der Themse". Von Henley -on-Thames nach Bray.

29 Juni. Karin Reinfrank, B.L.D.: "Aus dem Leben einer Idealistin. Malvida von Meysenbug (1876-1903)".

6 Juli. Erwin Seligmann: Lecture on Mexico and the Majans. Peter Seglow: Colour Slides.

Naeheres ueber den Ausflug wird am Montag, 1. Juni im Club bekannt gegeben, oder ist zu erfahren von Berta Sterly, 883-2158.

BIRTHDAYS

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER ALTMANN, 75

Professor Alexander Altmann, who recently celebrated his 75th birthday, is one of those Jewish scholars of Continental origin, who by their achievements have added lustre to our community. The son of the late Chief Rabbi of Trier, Dr. Adolf Altmann, he became Rabbi in Berlin in 1931 and also lecturer of the Rabbinical Seminary. In 1938, he received a "call" to Manchester, where he held the exalted office of Communal Rabbi. During his tenure of office, he founded the Institute of Jewish Studies, modelled on the Frankfurt "Lehrhaus". He re-emigrated to the United States in 1959 to become Professor of Jewish Philosophy of Brandeis University, an office he held until his retirement in 1976. Professor Altmann has many outstanding philosophical and historical works to his credit and he continues to give lectures in many countries. Among them is his address "Aufklaerung und Kultur; Zur geistigen Gestalt Moses Mendelssohns", which has just been published in the 16th "Jahrbuch Preussischer Kulturbesitz". His biography of Moses Mendelssohn, which deals with the spiritual, political and economic activities of this sage, has left its mark on the wider public and has become the most comprehensive standard work on the subject. Through his interest in the AJR and his co-operation with the Leo Baeck Institute, Professor Altmann has become the friend and colleague of many people in our midst. We extend to him our sincerest congratulations and best wishes for many years of further constructive activity.

RABBI FELIX CARLEBACH, 70

Rabbi Felix F. Carlebach, MA (Manchester), recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Born in Luebeck into a distinguished rabbinic family, he came to this country as a refugee. He served as Minister of the Hendon Adass Congregation from 1939 to 1941 and of the Palmers Green and Southgate United Synagogue from 1941 until 1946. Since then, Rabbi Carlebach has been Minister and Headmaster of the South Manchester Synagogue which, with a membership of 850 families, is one of the largest of the town. Through his enthusiasm and energy he has succeeded in revitalising this congregation. He is actively associated with many other Jewish and non-denominational organisations and was Chaplain to four Lord Mayors. Throughout the years, Rabbi Carlebach has taken an active interest in the wellbeing of the residents of Morris Feinmann House, the Home for elderly refugees. We wish our friend Rabbi Carlebach undiminished vigour and health for many years to come.

LECTURES AT MARTIN BUBER EXHIBITION

The lectures delivered on the occasion of last year's Martin Buber Exhibition in Heilbronn have now been published in Vol. 11 of the "Heilbronner Vortraege". Among the speakers, whose contributions are included in the volume, are Albrecht Goes and Dr. Erwin Rosenthal (Cambridge), whose theme was "Die Wissenschaft des Judentums". E.G.L.

AJR GENERAL MEETING

As readers will have seen from the announcements published in our previous and current issue, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, at 7.45 p.m., at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage.

As on previous occasions, the business of the AGM will be followed by a talk on a topical subject. This year, for the first time, we can welcome a speaker from the Provinces, about whose refugee communities most of our London members have but scanty knowledge. Mr. Herbert Loebel, OBE, who will address the Meeting, was born in Bamberg in 1923 and came to this country in 1938. He studied Electrical Engineering at King's College, Newcastle, and, in 1951, from small beginnings set up his own manufacturing business in scientific instruments and electronic devices. When he retired as chairman in 1974, the firm employed over 650 people. In 1978, Mr. Loebel was awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy by the University of Durham for a Thesis on "Government-financed Factories and the establishment of Industries by Refugees in the Special Areas of the North of England 1937-1961". By this work, he has done spadework on a subject, which so far has not yet been comprehensively explored and which is of essential importance for the history of our community. Mr. Loebel was awarded the OBE in 1973 and is a member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities.

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

Committee of Management (Executive): The following members of the present Executive stand for re-election. They are: Mr. A. S. Dresel (Life President), Mr. C. T. Marx (Chairman), Dr. F. E. Falk (Vice-Chairman), Mr. L. Spiro (Treasurer), Mrs. S. Taussig (General Secretary), Dr. W. Rosenstock (Director), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. C. F. Flesch, Mr. O. E. Franklyn (Trustee), Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Mrs. B. Kanter, Mr. M. Kochmann, JP (Trustee), Dr. Laura Stein.

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

It is proposed to elect as new members Mrs. H. Lieser, Mr. G. Selby, Mr. H. Wetzler.

The Board also includes representatives of the Provincial groups.

ISRAELI MEDAL FOR PRESIDENT

When Moshe Meron, vice-president of the Jerusalem parliament called on Federal President Karl Carstens with a delegation of Knesset members, he presented him with a beautiful medal showing the parliament building in Jerusalem. The delegation protested against the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia.

CHAIR FOR GERMAN HISTORY

A Chair for German History, to be named after the late historian Richard Koebner, was inaugurated at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. At the opening ceremony, Professor George Mosse of the University of Wisconsin, the first appointee to the Koebner Chair, gave a lecture about "Chances and Failure of National Socialism". Apart from him, Moshe Zimmermann, who obtained his doctoral degree at the University of Hamburg, will also teach German History. The Rector of the University stated that only a few years ago, the establishment of a Chair for German History in Jerusalem would have been unimaginable.

ISRAEL AT CAIRO FAIR

For the first time, Israel has been represented at an Arab trade fair. Gideon Patt, the Minister of Commerce, declared at the Cairo Industry Fair that Israel would not hesitate to transfer a large part of her current trade with Europe to deals with Egypt. He was hopeful that trade between the two countries would reach an annual billion-dollar level from the present monthly turnover of over two million dollars.

"GOVERNMENT PREVENTS RESURRECTION"

In Mea Shearim, Jerusalem's orthodox quarter, protests against autopsies and transplants were staged, culminating in a banner reading "Israeli Government prevents resurrection". The protest even extends to autopsies where murder is suspected, as the orthodox believe that there can be no resurrection unless the body is buried whole.

SEEN AGAIN IN NAZI PHOTOS

After many years, the organisation of Polish Jews in Israel has succeeded in obtaining a collection of nearly 5,000 pictures of Jewish deportees from South-West Poland. The Nazi occupiers took photographs of the victims, almost all of whom died at Auschwitz, and the collection was left in an SS office to be found after the war. It came into the possession of the Warsaw Institute for Jewish History and a few months ago was sent to Tel Aviv, where it is available for inspection. In many cases, family and friends have recognised portraits of the deportees, who included relatives of the new Archbishop of Paris.

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Eva G. Reichmann

ROBERT WELTSCH-WARNER AND MENTOR

"A young man asked me:
What does it mean to be old.
It means, I told him,
That I can overlook
The lives of many people I have known.
It means that I wish them,
As I wish myself,
A life of three hundred years
So as to overlook even more.
Because every other span which one knows
Makes life more astounding, more questionable.
More hopeful, more intelligible
And more inexplicable".

Would Robert Weltsch agree with the statement of Elias Canetti? He would, I assume, recoil from the request to live three hundred years. He will be ninety on June 20th—a great blessing for all of us who love and revere him, and, we hope, also for himself if he succeeds in feeling—as we would implore him to do—that our love and reverence is an acceptable compensation for the vicissitudes of a long life.

Regarding the other wishes of Elias Canetti we need have little doubt: Robert Weltsch would share them wholeheartedly. The tireless investigator of things old and new, of topics, experiences and their connotations, is sure to share our wish that he go on questioning and elucidating that enigmatic world around us—making it "more intelligible", even if also "more inexplicable".

"In every human being", he wrote in 1965 (*Der Wende des modernen Judentums*, Tübingen 1972), "the belief in the absolute, unfathomable and inexpressible fights with the absurd necessity to express it all the same, to explain it, to make it comprehensible". It has been our good fortune that those very last secrets have not always been the only ones into which Robert Weltsch's probing spirit has striven to penetrate. The field of his observations and expositions has generally lain within our own reach, thus benefiting the queries of our own lives. But at all times has it been the specific of his reasoning that between the facts of everyday life and the abiding truths supposed to govern them, a manifest relationship must be seen to be established. Day to day matters are being dealt with by him conscientiously and instructively. But never have they been allowed to darken the awareness of their authentic meanings within our multifarious existence. It is to these, in actual fact, that all his endeavours have always been devoted.

Nearly every article of Robert Weltsch might serve as proof for his abiding submission to absolute values. For topicality's sake only one example need be mentioned, where bygone problems cast a meaningful light on the most intractable present ones. As early as 1925, that is before the most fateful clashes of political entities, he raised his warning voice against "a senseless chauvinism in the face of a nation with whom co-exist fate has destined us". He never hesitated to make himself unpopular by censuring all temptations to neglect the rights of the Arab population of Palestine. The aim of Zionism, he emphasised over and over again, cannot be an exclusive Jewish state, but a "state of two nations in whose framework both nations—Jews and Arabs—have their full rights".

The politics of yester-year have become history. Robert Weltsch's maxims may have over-estimated the possible. No responsibility is to be appropriated if it is stated that his warnings have not been—could perhaps not be—heeded. This responsibility would have to be looked for on all sides participating in the creation and development of the state of Israel. Israel was born out of tragically unfortunate circumstances within which

its emergence was the only ray of hope. To proceed within these circumstances according to strict moral principles overstrained human possibilities.

The conditions prevailing to-day are proof that the triumph of expediency brought its own dismal consequences. What could not be achieved by renunciation and compromise has still to find a satisfactory solution. It threatens to be resolved by political decisions whose consequences cannot be foreseen. Robert Weltsch's teachings and warnings have been counteracted by events. And yet, the events, inexorable though they appear, would assume a different character had they not been preceded by those earlier aspirations whose mouthpiece he was. What is to be seen to-day as tragic failures of high-minded intentions would stand in the bare light of stark reality, neither good nor bad—the undisguised facts of political inevitability.

Fighting for moral values

That Robert Weltsch in unison with his like-minded friends did gauge Zionist policies from the start against the question of moral admissibility, that they continue to ventilate the same issues to-day in fundamentally different circumstances, prevents ruthless reality from becoming the only yardstick to be applied. Due to them reality in Israel can never be judged without seeing it against the background envisaged by its founding fathers. Weltsch's great friend Martin Buber preached: If we Jews are not to be more than any other nation of the earth, we shall not even be a nation like the other nations. To be different has been the law of our existence since its very beginning. It has governed our lives as individuals and is destined to govern Jewish life where it has assumed national identity. Normalization is easier to bear than lack of normality. The gravity of political concentration pulls towards any lower level offering easier conditions. If we listen to Robert Weltsch we will realise that giving in to these forces of gravity in Israel as well as in the Diaspora contradicts the fundamental law of Jewish existence. Aberration there will always be. It will probably shape the face of the Israeli body politic for the foreseeable future. But it will never remain unchallenged. The challenge held out by Robert Weltsch and his friends cannot be obliterated. If one generation in the turmoil of war and regeneration neglects its vocation the next one will rediscover it, even if it is only as a constant warning against the comforts of complacency. Too deeply has it been interwoven with the sources of Jewish national renaissance.

Will Robert Weltsch, our wise nonagenarian, share the daring expectation? He will certainly endorse the statement that, the longer one lives the "more questionable and inexplicable" life appears. But will he also find it "more hopeful?" He is much too modest to claim that the guidance he never tired of offering may be judged indelibly engraved into the Jewish consciousness. As a writer of rare excellence he must accept the solemn duty of being considered a classic. Classic erudition and expression is not offered for the day. It is timeless and liable to rejuvenation. It is inscribed into history.

Robert Weltsch's work is part of Jewish history. His 90th birthday is to us a day of thanksgiving and jubilation. May he live through it with at least a slight reflection of the beneficial light he has shed on our turbulent times and on us, his grateful disciples.

POSTSCRIPT BY THE EDITOR

Like Eva Reichmann, I have had the privilege of getting to know Robert Weltsch's outstanding personality at close quarters, when he lived in London for more than three decades. As editor of this journal, I feel the urge to pay homage to him as the doyen of the Jewish publicists of Continental origin. He himself summed up the various phases of his eventful life when he was honoured by the Leo Baeck Institute at last year's function in Jerusalem.

His birthday article for Lola Hahn-Warburg, which appeared in our previous issue, bears witness to his memory of events dating back more than half a century. In his accompanying letter to the manuscript he wrote that Lola had described him as the only one left over from the time of Weizmann's glory. Yet Robert Weltsch does not just live in the past. Throughout the years, he has not been a detached observer of the Jewish scene but an active chronicler and, above all, a courageous fighter, whenever he felt that human values were in jeopardy. His publications stretch from spontaneous comments on current events to analytical essays in which he scrutinises the wider issues involved. Reacting to problems at stake, he has, whenever he considered it essential, raised a warning voice which has not, as he sometimes assumed, become a voice in the wilderness. Simultaneously this widespread knowledge inside and outside the Jewish sphere has been beneficial for his scholarly work as editor of the Year Books of the Leo Baeck Institute.

The friends in London

On the personal side, he has developed bonds of friendship with many in our midst. Whenever I pass Crediton Hill, I remember my numerous calls at his place. The untimely death, three years ago of his wife, Irene, who was equally near to us, brought this 30-year period of his life in London to an abrupt end. He returned to Jerusalem, where special arrangements for his stay in one of the homes for elderly Central European immigrants have been made for him. There, he is provided with the attendance required for a man of his age and, as far as this is humanly possible, with the privacy he needs for the continuation of his work.

Having retained his mental alertness to a full extent, he follows up new publications not only to enrich his own knowledge but also to use them as starting points for articles which open new vistas to the readers. His creativeness and the conciseness of his style are as outstanding as they have been in his younger years.

"AJR Information" has benefited from his co-operation since its inception, and whenever an article by Robert Weltsch appears in these columns, the echo is particularly widespread. As an experienced craftsman, he has retained his unmatched punctuality also after his removal to Jerusalem. Depending on the more or less reliable services of the postal authorities, he always makes a special, and successful, effort to abide by the time-table.

What makes the consignments of his, self-typed, manuscripts particularly valuable is the custom that they are always accompanied by personal letters, in which he not only writes about himself but also enquires about the well-being of his London friends. The intensity with which he follows up their lives re-affirms his deep feeling of attachment to his friends and to the Jewish people. His birthday wishes are always a reflection of his feelings and of his deep affection for his friends and for the Jewish people.

Letters to the Editor

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN BAVARIA

Sir,—Looking at it from the outside and being impressed by the respectable presentation of the Ophir-Wiesemann book on "Die jüdischen Gemeinden in Bayern 1918-1945", reviewed in the March issue of "AJR Information", that fairly recent publication may appear quite "meticulous", in particular as far as the small communities are concerned. However, 70 per cent or more of the former Bavarian Jewish population lived in larger cities such as Munich, Nuremberg, and others, totalling eleven. Here the book does by no means show the desirable accuracy. In the first place, the pre-1933 period is given too little or even insufficient attention. Secondly, too much emphasis is laid on the significance of both orthodox and Zionist minorities and their institutions and representatives as compared with the by far larger and more effective liberal ("Bavarian-Jewish") majorities without whom the small groups would hardly have been able to exist. A third objection arises from the choice and varying manner by which the Bavarian Jewish personalities are presented in the book. Would it not have been worthwhile for the Editors of the book to consult in time one expert or another on the subject? For we shall soon find that such advice is no longer available and obtainable.

(Dr.) E. G. LOWENTHAL (Berlin)

THE BERNHEIM PETITION

Sir,—With reference to the article "David and Goliath" (your December 1980 issue) I should like to mention that the success of the Petition is also due to Dr. Georg Weissmann, who lived in Upper Silesia and later emigrated to Israel, where he died in 1963. Together with Dr. Emil Margolius, who is mentioned in the article, the petition was prepared by him and put before the League of Nations.

Further details may be found in the article by the late Dr. Weissmann about "Die Durchsetzung des Juedischen Minderheitsrechts in Oberschlesien 1933-1937", published in the Bulletin 22 (1963) of the Leo Baeck Institute.
Hollenbeckerstrasse 23
4400 Muenster

(Prof. Dr.) BERNHARD BRILLING

"WHEN MEMORY COMES"

Sir,—In his interesting review of Saul Friedländer's "When Memory Comes" Robert Weltsch summarises the picture of Friedländer's father as follows:—"He had only two passions, music (Chopin) and books but studied law and became a leading director in an insurance company. Judaism remained in the background, but it was there. That was the decadent Jewish bourgeoisie at the beginning of the century".

If Friedländer senior was "decadent", I am proud to be equally decadent, and I am also proud that my parents and grandparents were similarly decadent. Let us leave it to our enemies to denigrate the emancipation of Central European Jewry from the ghetto, in spite of its tragic end one of the greatest periods of our history.

F. HELLENDALL

Dr. Robert Weltsch, whom we asked for his comment on Mr. Hellelland's letter, writes:

"In my view, Mr. Hellelland's grievance is based on a complete misunderstanding of my text. I had not the chuzpa to say that 'Friedlaender senior was decadent'—on the contrary I said that this man, whom neither of us could have known, must have been a man of high individual culture and intellectual interest. What I said was that the residue of Judaism in those Jewish families at that time was actually in a stage of disintegration, or call it 'decadence', although somehow it was still there. This is quite obvious from the description of Friedlaender junior who was born in 1932 and went with his nurse to churches but did not know of the synagogues and Jewish monuments nearby. This residue of an indeed decadent residue of Judaism became very important to Saul Friedlaender in his later life."

"MERCHANT" NOT ANTISEMITIC

Sir,—I read with great interest your reference to the comments on the recent Shylock portrayal (Warren Mitchell) in the BBC production. While I fully concur with the deplorable, whining, Shylock we were shown, I do not accept the play as such as being anti-semitic. Without going into literary discussions, I feel it might be of interest to your readers to learn that a not unsuccessful

production of the play (heavily cut of course to suit the eleven age-average of the cast) was recently mounted by the Hall School (Senior) in Crossfield Road, N.W.3, in which the Shylock part was also played by boys of Jewish blood; and in which the nobility of Shylock, the stranger within a wicked world in Belmont as in Venice, vainly attempted to enforce fair living for himself and his family. I was not aware of a trace of anti-semitism throughout; I was aware of the viciousness of the gentile world towards all who dared intrude upon it—all Shylock, Morocco, Arragon alike.
10 Belsize Park Gardens
London NW3

C. H. GUTTMANN

"FINANCIAL TIMES" EDITOR

Mr. M. H. "Freddy" Fisher retired as editor of the Financial Times at the age of 58 to begin a new career as a banker with a senior post at S. G. Warburg. In its farewell article, the Financial Times describes Mr. Fisher as a member of "that distinguished group of British citizens who were forced to flee the Nazi regime in pre-war Germany." He was born in Berlin, where his parents' friends included Artur Schnabel and Otto Klemperer. After his release from internment during the war, he joined the army and landed in Normandy in June 1944 as a trooper with the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars.

MORE MASCHA KALEKO POETRY

Gisela Zoch-Westphal, the Zürich actress who administers the poetess Mascha Kaleko's literary bequest, has discovered a second lot of unpublished poetry by the poetess who died in Zürich in 1975 and has published it in Berlin (Arani Verlag, 1000 Berlin 31) together with a short appreciation of her life and work.
E.G.L.

THE JEWS OF TAUBERBISCHOFSHHEIM

The town council of Tauberbischofsheim unveiled a commemorative plaque fixed near the entrance of the town hall to remind future generations of the once numerous Jewish community who were deported on 2nd October 1940. The town mayor, Mr. Hollerbach, said that this was done in the spirit of repentance and mourning. A former Jewish inhabitant, Mr. Ernst Rosenstock, who now lives in Tel Aviv, expressed the hope that the Jewish past would not be forgotten.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

Fuller:—Congratulations on the occasion of Mr. Anthony Fuller's (formerly Furberg, Bremen) 80th birthday. Happy birthday, Dad, love Helga.

Weiler: Erna Weiler (Zadek), formerly, Berlin/Meseritz, of 84 Forset Court, London W.2., will celebrate her 70th birthday on June 5.

Golden Wedding

Walters:—James and Ellen Walters (formerly Warschauer, Berlin), Collendean, Links Road, Bramley, Surrey, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 5.

Weiler:—Mr. and Mrs. E. Weiler, formerly Berlin/Meseritz, of 84 Forset Court, London W2, will celebrate their golden wedding on the 14 June.

Deaths

Boas:—Rachel Boas, widow of Fritz Boas, solicitor, formerly of Berlin, died on May 10 after a long illness. Mourned by her daughter Miriam and family.

Fraenkel:—Arnold Fraenkel of Stanmore, Middlesex, beloved husband of Hansi, passed away on the 22nd April, after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his wife, all his family and friends. May his dear soul rest in peace.

Frank:—Margaret Frank, of 59 Thirlmere Gardens, Wembley, passed away on May 3. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her loving sister Edith Gray, relatives and friends.

Librowicz:—Hans Librowicz passed away peacefully at home on May 17 in his 91st year. Beloved husband of Lulu and deeply mourned by her, their children and grandchildren. He will rest in peace.

Loebl:—Mrs. Elsa Loebl (née Fried), formerly Bamberg, died after a short illness in her 89th year on March 28. Her warmth, energy and caring disposition will be missed by family and friends in many parts of the world. G. F. Loble, 5 Kenton Avenue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 3.

Wolff:—Dr. Walther Wolff, dearly loved husband of Friedel and father of Sula, died on 16th April aged 84 years.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiries

Nachod:—Would anybody who knew the Opera Singer HANS NACHOD (born Vienna 1881, died London, Leo Baeck House, 1966) contact Mrs. E. Steiner, 5 Garson House, Gloucester Terrace, London W2 3DG.

Seidman-Freud:—Would any reader, who can give information about the illustrator of children's books, Tom Seidmann-Freud (born 17.11.1892 in Vienna, died 8.2.1930 in Berlin), her daughter and her family, please contact: Dr. Barbara Murken, Eichendorffstr. 37A, 8012 Ottobrunn, West Germany. The information is required for an article about the artist.

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OBITUARY

DR. WALTER BRESLAUER

Dr. Walter Breslauer died at Osmond House in his 91st year. He was a co-founder of the AJR and, for many years, Vice-President of the Council of Jews from Germany. An appreciation of his outstanding personality and his signal services to our community will be published in our next issue.

EDWARD LASKER

Berlin-born Edward Lasker has died in New York at the age of 95. He emigrated to the United States as a young man and there, although trained as an engineer, he made his name as a chess master in the years 1915-1930, following in the footsteps of his distant relative Emanuel Lasker.

LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL

Lord Russell of Liverpool, who died recently at the age of 85, was the author of a famous indictment of Nazi crimes, "The Scourge of the Swastika". A senior legal adviser at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, Lord Russell had worked in the Judge Advocate-General's department of military law for many years. Rather than withdraw his book from publication, as the Lord Chancellor wished, he resigned his office in 1954. His many other works include "Return of the Swastika?", on neo-Nazism in Germany, and "The Trial of Adolf Eichmann".

MGR. ANTONIO SANTIN

Bishop of Trieste from 1938 to 1974, Monsignor Antonio Santin has died at the age of 85. It was he who, when the Italian racial laws were passed in 1938, asked for a meeting with Mussolini at which he expressed the utmost disapproval face to face with the dictator. During the war, Mgr. Santin intervened to prevent Croatian Jewish refugees being returned to the puppet state; he also preserved the Trieste Jewish community's scrolls of the Law from the Nazi occupiers.

WALTER WALLICH

Mr. Walter Wallich died recently after 30 years of devoted work with the BBC, first in the External Services, then as a news editor and finally in the Current Affairs Department. He was born in Germany in 1918, the son of a distinguished banker, and came to this country in 1933, where he later won a scholarship at King's College, Cambridge. At the end of his war service, he established the radio station in the British sector of Berlin under the auspices of the Control Commission. Mr. Wallich always took a great interest in the position of his fellow refugees and once arranged a successful series of BBC interviews with some of them. He also associated himself with the efforts of the AJR.

HYMAN SHAPIRO

The death has been announced of Hyman Louis Shapiro at the age of 62 in New York. A South African pharmacist, in 1946 he volunteered for work with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, where he helped to plan the rehabilitation of Jewish displaced persons in Europe. Later he was involved in Operation Magic Carpet, when the Yemeni Jews were brought by air to Israel. Mr. Shapiro's career spanned many international agency posts and took him to many parts of the world, notably India—where he spent eight years working for the UN Children's Emergency Fund—Europe and America.

HERMANN YABLOKOFF

Hermann Yablokoff, head of the Hebrew Actors' Union since 1945, died recently in New York at the age of 77. After emigrating to the USA from Poland in 1924, he organised scores of Yiddish theatrical productions, but the high point of his career came in 1947, when he toured the camps for displaced persons in Europe. Appearing in 94 camps, he gave 104 performances to a total audience of nearly 200,000 refugees.

MRS. TRUDE STERN

Mrs Trude Stern, well-known for her charitable work in Cardiff, died recently in Israel, where she had lived since 1972. Mrs. Stern and her late husband Simon came to the Rhondda Valley from Fulda in 1938. After the war they lived in Cardiff, where before their final move to Israel they received an illuminated address in acknowledgement of their devoted service to the community.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Elisabeth Bergner Films. A series of films with Elisabeth Bergner who is still one of the most valued actresses of our time, will be continued this month with "Stolen Life", directed by Paul Czinner (1939) on June 8th, "Nachtdienst", a comparatively new production (in German, with English subtitles) on June 10th, and the highly successful "Pfungstausflug" in which Bergner and Martin Held excel as a couple of old-age pensioners, on June 15th. All performances are at the Goethe Institut, Princes Square, Kensington, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Vienna Tit-Bits. There will be a seminar for pantomime between 27 July and 8 August, under the direction of the Israeli artist Samy Molcho. A kosher restaurant, named the "Caesarea", providing oriental and Viennese specialities opened in Vienna's Seitenstetengasse.

The Diary of Anne Frank, recently once more in the news, is still frequently performed in Germany. Earlier this year, it was included in the repertoires of the Frankfurt Schauspielhaus and Staatstheater Braunschweig. An impressive performance was also recently arranged by the Hampstead Parish Church.

A Quizmaster's Life. Quizmaster Hans Rosenthal is at present one of the most popular figures of German Television. Rosenthal, who was hidden during the war years (when he lost nearly all his family) is a real showmaster, a feat recognized and generally praised by the press. His life story

has just been serialized in one of the universally-read magazines.

Birthdays. Rolf Hochhuth whose works are much discussed and often the subject of heated debates, but who certainly is one of the most prominent modern German dramatic authors, is 60.—*Mari-unne Hoppe*, Rostock-born, for years the top attraction of the Berlin Gruendgens ensemble, and even to-day a much sought-after stage actress, celebrated her 70th birthday.—*Curt Bois*, the sad-faced comedy actor whose activities have ranged from operetta and cabaret to rôles in Brecht's "Puntilla" and Brandon Thomas' "Charley's Aunt", and who worked with equal vigour in Vienna, Berlin and Hollywood, received many congratulations on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Obituary. The German film actor *Hans Soehner* has died at the age of 77.—*Kammersaenger Karl Friedrich*, a member of the Vienna State Opera for several decades, best known as a Verdi tenor, died in Vienna. He was 75.—The death at 75, has occurred in London of libretto writer *Siegfried Tisch*, who apart from his numerous hit songs, made his name between the wars with the lyrics of many successful musicals (among them "Das Ministerium ist beleidigt" and "Warum lügst Du, Cherie?"). In later years, writing under the name of Fred Tysh, some of his numbers were sung and recorded by, among others, Rosemary Clooney and R

NEW LAWS AGAINST NAZI PROPAGANDA

In an interview with a German trade union newspaper, the Federal Republic's Justice Minister Jürgen Schmude has outlined proposed laws to fill gaps in the existing defences against neo-Nazi propaganda. Particular areas to be covered include the distribution of books expounding NSDAP ideology, such as "Mein Kampf"; at present this is not illegal, providing the work is simply reprinted without anticonstitutional comment being added. The law against publications denying the Holocaust and other Nazi crimes is to be strengthened; although survivors and their relatives can start proceedings against such claims, Herr Schmude believes that the Government should be empowered to prosecute the offenders directly. A third point to be covered is the sale of Nazi emblems and regalia, mostly imported into Germany from North America and elsewhere.

SOCIALIST MEDICAL CONGRESS 1931

Material Required
On 31 May 1931, the first (and last) Congress of Social Democratic Doctors was held in Leipzig. A photo, depicting participants of the function has been preserved. It shows about 60 personalities (mainly Jewish or of Jewish origin). Whilst it has been possible to identify the names and ascertain the fate of about 30 of them, there are others whose fate is unknown or who could not be identified at all. In connection with some scholarly work about the role of progressive doctors in Weimar Germany, it would be greatly appreciated, if any participants of the Congress or administrators of theirs, who could give any information in touch with: Prof. S. Leibfried, Bremen, Postfach 330 440, 2800 German Federal Republic.

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