

AJR

INFORMATION

Volume XXXIX No. 4, April 1984

£1 (To non-members)

TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE

AJR Meeting the Needs of the Eighties

As times change, the AJR changes with them, meeting new challenges as they arise. Flexibility and skilful response to changing needs are signs of vitality, and it is the emerging needs of the 1980s that now demand attention, and will get it.

As the needs of the ageing sector of the refugee population crowd in upon us, the AJR turns to the community and asks it to take care of its own. To employ people for these tasks alone would swallow up our resources, which must be reserved for their most effective use.

We have to meet the requirements of the tenants in sheltered accommodation for which we provide in Hannah Karminski House, Marie Baneth House and Otto Hirsch House, and for the residents of Heinrich Stahl, Leo Baeck and Osmond Houses in The Bishop's Avenue and Otto Schiff House in Netherhall Gardens. These latter are the Homes for elderly refugees which the Central British Fund established in close consultation with the AJR. The operation of the Homes is the responsibility of the CBF's Management Committee. The Director of this organisation, Mr. Maurice Ross, his Matrons and staff, care for some 250 of our frail and elderly people.

Many of them have no surviving family, or whatever family they have resides overseas. They would be grateful for some sort of regular visits to befriend them and offer companionship. They would enjoy being engaged in conversation, being read aloud to and having letters written for them.

It is important to stimulate their minds and raise their spirits. Activities should continue to be organised on a regular basis, ranging from musical entertainments, slide shows, chess tournaments and bridge classes to card evenings, films, discussion groups, singing, games, talks by outside speakers, lessons in flower arrangement—in fact, everything likely to stimulate and engage their attention.

But in addition to those in the old age homes and in sheltered accommodation we must reach out into the community to those living on their own who, for one reason or another, are not in sheltered accommodation or an old age home or for whom a place is not yet available, and to give them the help they need in a variety of forms.

The key roles in these areas of responsibility must be performed by volunteers, and we ask them to come forward to help their own people. "To pursue this aim in an organised and coherent manner", the recently-appointed Administrator of the AJR, Mrs. Lydia Lassman, explained, "we have established the post of Voluntary Services Co-ordinator, which will be filled by Mrs. Sylvia Matus. She will provide the volunteers and fit them into the various slots in accordance with their inclinations and abilities, and, above all of course, the requirements of the clients. Readers of *AJR Information* interested in volunteering should contact Mrs. Matus on 624 4449."

Regular basis

The object is to find volunteers to befriend all these people on a regular basis, in a one-to-one relationship. The knowledge that there is a volunteer to be depended upon will make all the difference to the aged person, and can indeed transform his or her life. For a resident in a Home, the relationship can start at the very beginning, with the admission of the person to help him or her acclimatise to the new situation when adjustments to new surroundings are, in old age, most difficult and disorientating. It can mean a great deal to have someone steady and dependable to turn to at that stage, and can also determine the whole subsequent attitude of the person to the new environment and its routines. *Regular, dependable*

attention is the heart of the matter and the kind of support needed.

While some volunteers will naturally be attracted by the opportunity for a personal one-to-one relationship on a continuing basis, it is assumed that there will also be others who would prefer to give help of a more general nature, for which there are numerous possibilities. Helpers are needed to assist on Open Days, which are fetes within the Homes, in preparing, collecting and sorting and pricing merchandise and to staff the stalls. They can also arrange the celebration of birthdays and anniversaries.

Growing isolation

While the provision of voluntary services to those in sheltered accommodation and to the residents in the Homes presents a solid and stable area of activity, the greater challenge comes from the dire need of those beyond and outside them who often live on their own in growing isolation. Many of these members of the refugee community need our care and regular attention. It should also be recalled that the average age of admission to the Homes, as a result of increased longevity, is the late seventies. There is therefore an urgent need for the domiciliary service that the AJR will provide by arranging for volunteers to offer companionship and conversation, home help and cooking, by assisting with visits to the doctor, letter-writing, and going out for trips and drives and to see relatives and friends.

Referral sources

The provision of meals-on-wheels will be expanded as the proven need grows. The AJR Luncheon Club, also organised by Mrs. Anderman, has turned out to be a great success, and if volunteers come forward, it can be extended beyond the current Wednesdays.

Referrals of members of the refugee community living on their own will come through a variety of sources: from hospitals and GPs, from local government social service departments, and also from individuals.

The AJR is taking up the challenge it sees as its responsibility. It now appeals to its younger and abler-bodied members to fill the ranks of volunteers. It is up to them to turn this plan and this programme into a reality.

FRITZ HABER: THE DIVIDED SELF

Half a century has passed since the death of Fritz Haber, one of Germany's greatest chemists, whose efforts almost achieved victory for his country in the First World War. His work brought him a Nobel Prize, yet his is the only scientific Nobel award to have been contested.

Haber was born in 1868, the son of a prosperous Jewish family who owned a natural dye factory in Breslau. Even as a young man, he foresaw the importance of synthetic dyes and urged his father to branch out into this new field. His life as a student took him to Berlin, Heidelberg, Zürich and Jena—and left him with a prominent duelling scar. No mere academic, he also did practical work in various factories, one of which, ironically enough, was situated in Auschwitz.

In 1894, Haber joined the staff of the Karlsruhe Technische Hochschule and while there met an old flame, Clara Immerwahr. She too was distinguished as the first woman Ph.D of Breslau University. They were married in 1901 and it was about this time that Haber converted to Protestantism—a step which may have been taken for career reasons rather than from any real conviction.

Scientists were already aware that the whole world was facing mass starvation as a result of nitrate fertiliser shortage. Natural nitrate—guano—was rapidly being depleted: yet the air itself consists of almost 4/5ths nitrogen. The problem was to fix the gas in nitrogenous compounds and this was the all-important process discovered by Haber. Despite disagreement with his rival Walter Nernst, Haber was able to prove the value of his discovery and with the co-operation of Carl Bosch (later also a Nobel prize-winner) a successful experimental plant was established at Ludwigshafen. There followed a full-scale plant at Oppau, which was in production by 1913.

The discovery of nitrogen fixing was immeasurably important for the German conduct of the First World War. Without it, the Allied Blockade would have been far more successful and Central Europe could quickly have found itself starving.

But it was the war which threw into relief the dichotomy of Fritz Haber's life. As the founder-director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physical and Electro-Chemistry in Berlin-Dahlem, he was asked to look into the question of chemical

warfare. A convinced patriot, Haber saw no difference between the use of poison gas or bullets and it was under his direction that chlorine was first used by the German army. (Russia had earlier made an unsuccessful trial of chlorine gas as a weapon.)

The first use by Germany of poison gas came in April 1915. In the same year Clara Haber committed suicide. She could not reconcile herself to the idea of gas warfare and had unsuccessfully urged her husband to abandon the project. However, in 1916 he accepted an appointment as head of the Chemical Warfare Service.

Disputed Nobel Prize

In 1918, Fritz Haber was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work on nitrogen fixing: yet the honour was tarnished by the controversy aroused by his association with poison gas. With undiminished patriotism, he attempted to satisfy the Allies' reparation demands on Germany by extracting gold from seawater. His efforts were unsuccessful and, in addition to this disappointment, his second marriage to Charlotte Nathan was ended by divorce in 1927.

Shortly after Hitler came to power, on 1st April 1933 Haber was ordered to dismiss his Jewish staff. At once, he offered his own resignation. He was told that his scientific renown (not, of course, his conversion) would save him from the requirement of "Aryan" status under the Civil Service Law. But his "lower assistants" must be "Aryans". Haber renewed his resignation, this time in writing, and soon afterwards arrived in Cambridge.

On a visit to Switzerland after his emigration, Haber came in contact with Chaim Weizmann, himself a chemist, who suggested that the world-famous Nobel Prize-winner should take over the department of physical chemistry at the Sieff Institute. Yet Fritz Haber was destined never to take up that post, for early in 1934 he died in Switzerland while on a holiday before going to Palestine. The Haber-Bosch process is still used throughout the world; Haber plants manufacture millions of tons of ammonia each year, destined to be turned into fertiliser. J.L.

OESTERREICHISCHE SOZIALVERSICHERUNG

In den Jahren unmittelbar nach Kriegsende, nahm die oesterreichische Regierung den Standpunkt ein, dass es ihr aus staatsfinanziellen Gründen unmöglich sei, Sozialversicherungspensionen an im Ausland lebende Pensionsberechtigte zu zahlen, einerlei ob es sich um Opfer der Verfolgung durch das Nazi-Regime handelte, oder um Oesterreicher, die freiwillig im Ausland lebten, z.B. aus Erwerbsgründen.

Erst im Jahre 1954 gelang es, die oesterreichische Regierung angesichts der stark gebesserten Wirtschaftslage von diesem negativen Standpunkt abzubringen.

Das im Jahre 1955 vom Nationalrat (Parlament) beschlossene allgemeine Sozialversicherungsgesetz (ASVG) sah jedoch im §94 vor, dass wenn neben einem Pensionsanspruch ein Erwerbseinkommen vorlag, so "ruhte" der Grundbetrag (d.h. er wurde nicht ausgezahlt) mit dem Betrag um den das im Monat gebührende Erwerbseinkommen Sch. 3231 ueberstieg, hoechstens jedoch mit dem Betrag um den die Summe aus Pensions- und Erwerbseinkommen den Betrag von Sch. 5558 ueberstieg.

(Ohne auf komplizierte Details einzugehen, sei es bemerkt, dass die oesterreichische Sozialversicherungspension aus dem Grundbetrag und aus den s.g. Steigerungsbetraegen besteht. Der Grundbetrag beginnt mit 30% der Pension und steigt im Laufe von 24 Jahren auf 54.1%, waehrend der Steigerungsbetrag mit 3% beginnt und nach 540 Monaten 49.5% der Bemessungsgrundlage erreicht.)

In den folgenden Jahren wurden, wie bekannt, in Oesterreich nach Massgabe der Steigerung der Lebenskosten die Pensionen erhoeht, Parallel damit wurden auch die Ruhensbeträge erhoeht. Im Monat Maerz 1984 trat ein Ruhen erst ein, wenn das Erwerbseinkommen im Monat Sch. 5959 ueberstieg. Ein Ruhen kam auch dann nicht in Betracht, wenn die Summe aus Pension und Erwerbseinkommen weniger als Sch. 10,247 war.

Ab 1 April 1984 tritt das Ruhen des Grundbetrages schon bei einem Nebeneinkommen von mehr als Sch. 3,200 ein oder wenn die Summe aus Pension und Nebeneinkommen Sch. 7,000 uebersteigt.

Weiters wird die vor einigen Jahren geschaffene Moeglichkeit, auch nach Erfuellung der Voraussetzungen fuer einen Pensionsanspruch auf Grund einer Weiterarbeit eine Bonifikation zusaetzlich zur Pension zu erlangen, abgeschafft, ferner auch die weit verbreitete Praxis eine Pension zu beziehen und am gleichen Posten weiter zu arbeiten. Diese Massnahmen vorfolgen den Zweck, angesichts der steigenden Arbeitslosigkeit Arbeitsplaetze fuer juengere Jahrgaenge zu schaffen.

Weiters ist zu beachten, dass bei Eintritt des Versicherungsfalles (Tod, Invaliditaet, Erreichung des Pensionsalters) die Pensionsanstalt unverzuiglich zu verstaendigen ist. In Zukunft wird die Pension erst bei Eintreffen des Ansuchens und nicht schon vom Eintritt des Versicherungsfalles gezahlt werden. Auch die Zahlung des Hilfslosenzuschusses wird in Zukunft erst mit der Stellung und Bewilligung des Antrages, gezahlt werden und nicht, wie bisher, drei Monate vor Antragstellung. Es wird also angeraten, die Stellung des Antrages auf Hilfslosenzuschuss nicht zu verschieben.

'THANK-YOU BRITAIN FUND'

Contributors to the "Thank-You Britain Fund" and other readers and their friends will be pleased to learn that the next series of lectures will be given by *Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien* (Pro-Chancellor of the University of Dublin). His subject will be "Ireland's British Heritage". The lectures will be given at 5 p.m. on Monday, 30 April; Tuesday, 1 May; and Wednesday 2 May. The venue is no longer Piccadilly but the new house of the British Academy, 20-21 Cornwall Terrace, London N.W.1 (Entrance to Lecture Hall in Allsop Place), near Baker Street Underground Station.

LORD DENNING'S LECTURE

Lord Denning opened this year's Jewish Book Week with his George Webber Memorial Lecture on "Jews in English Law", a lecture co-sponsored by the AJR. With characteristic wit and scholarship, Lord Denning ranged through the centuries from the medieval expulsion in 1290, through the Cromwellian return, to the Emancipation and more recent distinguished legal figures like Sir George Jessel and Rufus Isaacs (Lord Reading). The warm appreciation of an overflow audience was expressed eloquently by Judge Israel Finstein.

NEWS HOME NEWS AD

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MEETING

The annual Holocaust Memorial Meeting will be held on 6 May at the Savoy Theatre at 3 p.m. The guest of honour will be the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Yehuda Avner. Tickets can be obtained by writing to Ajex, Ajex House, East Bank, London, N.16, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

APPELFELD TALK

Aharon Appelfeld, the distinguished Israeli novelist, gave a talk in early March to a select group of Middle East scholars and students at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London on "Writing and the Holocaust". His moving account of his childhood years during the Holocaust was all the more impressive for its restraint and distancing of events. He came from a very assimilated German-speaking family in Czernowitz for which the impact of events was all the more traumatic because they had no Jewish resources to fall back on. Deported to the Transnistria concentration camp, at the age of eight he escaped and lived in the forest for three years before being picked up by the Russians, for whom he worked for a while before making his way to Italy and then to Palestine in 1946, where he has been ever since, and where he teaches at the Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva. The works of Martin Buber and Gershom Scholem were his "gates" to Judaism, and Kafka's work, which foreshadowed the demonic and arbitrary events of the Holocaust, provided the language he could use to cope with the experiences he had lived through. His *Badenheim* (just published in a Dent paperback) was discussed in the February 1982 *AJR Information* together with the poet Paul Celan, also from Czernowitz, and at the talk it emerged that Appelfeld and Celan had lived on the same street. Two further novels, *The Age of Wonders* and *Tzili*, will appear soon in English, and later in German.

ARCHBISHOPS' NEW SECRETARY

The new secretary to the consultants of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York is the Revd. Dr. Anthony Phillips of St. John's College, Oxford. The post was formerly held by the late Canon Peter Schneider, who died some 18 months ago. Dr. Phillips specialises in Biblical law and teaches the Hebrew scriptures at Oxford. Last year he was appointed lecturer at the new centre for the study of Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations at the Selly Oak College in Birmingham, with which he had been associated before its opening.

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ANIMAL LIBERATORS ATTACK SHOPS

The militant Animal Liberation Front denied that it held any racist notions after members had attacked a kosher butcher's shop in Bournemouth. The shop was daubed "Bled to Death" and windows were broken. Non-Jewish butchers' shops have also been attacked by ALF, as well as furriers and Boots the chemists.

In London the group has burnt two refrigerated lorries used to transport kosher and halal meat. A spokesman for ALF said that, if Jews felt that they were being deprived of kosher meat, this was like saying that people were being deprived of lampshades even if they were made of human skin: "It's quite possible for Jewish people to eat kosher by being vegetarians". Later, an unnamed writer to the "Hackney Gazette" referred to "animal Belsens". Replying, David Massel of the Board of Deputies' Shechita Committee said that the correspondent had no idea whatever of what was involved in shechita.

EDUCATION LINKS WITH ISRAEL

Lord Wilson, perhaps still more familiar as Harold Wilson, was present with Lady Wilson at a reception given to honour his part in strengthening Anglo-Israeli relations. A bursary in his name has been endowed by the Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust to enable pupils of the JFS School and the King David High School in Liverpool to take part in a five-month programme at the Givat Washington High School in Israel. Lord Wilson presented the original manuscript of his book "The Chariots of Israel" to the Balfour Trust.

Another educational link was forged recently when just under 20 Jewish nursery teachers from Britain attended a 12-day seminar in Israel organised by the Faculty for Teacher Training and the Torah Department of the WZO. Still more educational news comes from Sheffield, where the Federation of Women Zionists are using a legacy from the late Joseph Strauss, together with donations from the Strauss family, to create six scholarships for Israeli girls at the Wizo vocational school in Jerusalem. The scholarships are to be named after Lily and Marcus Sieff.

TWO OF THE OLDEST

Two of the oldest Jews in the world died within a short time of each other a few weeks ago. Harry Shoerats, at 111 Britain's oldest man, died in Bournemouth, while Khalifa Aviezer of Safed, Israel, was even older. His age was variously given as 112 or 119. Moroccan-born Mr. Aviezer had migrated to Israel in 1963, and he leaves 65 descendants.

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MULTI-RACIAL PROBLEMS OF IMMIGRATION

Black people, Asians and trainee Jewish teachers met recently in London to discuss the common problems facing all immigrants. Paul Hibbert, a British-born Black speaker, declared that the starting-point of all discussion on multi-racialism must be the question of assimilation; Pandit Narayna, an Indian lecturer and priest, said that his own group was afraid that their children would be assimilated and swamped by the alien culture surrounding them. Mrs. Joye Manyan, secretary of the Caribbean Teachers' Association, mentioned that it was the first time she had met Jewish people as a group. The ensuing lively discussion covered racism, education, the generation gap and self-help projects. It is hoped to hold further meetings along the same lines.

VANDALISM IN THE NORTH-EAST

Vandalism and swastika daubing were reported from Gosforth and Kenton Synagogue recently. Newcastle City Council sent workmen to remove the graffiti on hearing of the incident and local police have been alerted.

HARRY BLACKER AT THE AJR CLUB

There was more than full attendance, in fact one could not have squeezed in another chair or person. Mrs. Dora Segall first introduced the newly appointed Vice-chairman Mrs. Lotte Saenger, whose quiet, efficient work is already much appreciated by the members of the Club.

Mrs. Segall then welcomed Mr. Harry Blacker (the cartoonist Nero), giving a brief account of his achievements as a painter, graphic artist, cartoonist, broadcaster, film critic and author of the book "Just Like It Was", the theme of the afternoon lecture. Mr. Blacker accompanied his personal memories of the East End (he calls it the "Mittel East") some fifty years ago with slides of his outstanding drawings and warm-hearted stories. He brought back to us an atmosphere of a lost life of simplicity and loving human relationships, badly missed today in our affluent society but he also made us aware of the hardships of that period.

EDITH RUEFF

GERMAN TRANSLATION

Professor Robert Wistrich, formerly editor of the "Wiener Library Bulletin" in London and now working at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University, has just issued his biographical dictionary of the Third Reich ("Who's Who in Nazi Germany") through a German publisher. This edition, enlarged from the original in English and with numerous illustrations, is published by Harnack of Munich.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

USA

US Racist Groups Listed

No less than 23 organisations promoting racism and antisemitism have been identified in the USA. Membership is estimated at 100,000 in all. Some of the more important groups are Posse Comitatus, Ku Klux Klan, Liberty Lobby, National Caucus of Labor Committees, Institute for Historical Review, Aryan Nations, Christian Patriots' Defense League, New Order, and National Socialist White People's Party. As can be seen, the titles range from the apparently innocuous through the suspicious up to the out-and-out racist.

Another Deportation From US?

Proceedings have opened against the architect Boleslav Bogdanov in Hartford, Conn., with a view to his eventual deportation. He is accused of involvement in the deaths of many Jews in Latvia.

Californian Suicide Pact

A noted scholar of the thirties, Erich G. Schneider of Darmstadt was forced to emigrate to the USA, where he anglicised his name to Eric Snyder. Now he and his wife, both in their late 80s, have died in a suicide pact at Palo Alto, Cal. It is thought that the threat of approaching blindness led the pair to their deaths.

KGB THREATS AFTER PROTEST

After Dr. I. F. Martynov protested against the activities of the antisemitic writer Lev Korneyev (AJR Information, January 1984) he was threatened by the KGB with detention in a mental hospital. Dr. Martynov and his Jewish wife have been fasting in protest against the authorities' refusal to accept his application for an exit visa. Mrs. Martynov has been told that she may apply for emigration papers.

Dr. Martynov and Yaacov Gorodetsky, a Leningrad refusenik, have attempted to bring legal proceedings against a paper which published a Korneyev article, but this too led to threats by the KGB against Mr. Gorodetsky, as well as press accusations of "Zionist propaganda" in an attack on both men.

THE STRUGGLE OF CUBAN JEWS

The US State Department has highlighted the unenviable position of Jews in Cuba and surprise has been felt at the apparent indifference of American-Jewish groups.

At one time a flourishing community of 20,000, Cuban Jewry has been deeply impoverished since the advent of Fidel Castro in 1959. Most Jewish businessmen fled at that time and the remainder are now working for State enterprises on the island. The five synagogues are almost totally ruined and empty, the only kosher restaurant has closed and the community librarian (one of the few community officers) died recently before completing his task of gathering Jewish archives.

FRANCE

"Preserve Provençal Camp"

The French Jewish community has asked that the site of Camp du Mils should not be destroyed. The camp was a collecting point, not far from Aix-en-Provence, where Jews were herded before deportation to eastern death camps. The French community has opened a campaign to preserve the site and remaining buildings as a historic monument and museum.

No Freedom for Barbie

An appeal for freedom on behalf of Klaus Barbie, made by his indefatigable lawyer Maître Jacques Vergès, has been rejected by the French Supreme Court. Vergès argued that Barbie's crimes were in any case covered by the Statute of Limitations, but the court decided that time did not run out for crimes against humanity.

French Refugee Paper on Show

"La Dépêche" was a daily paper published in France from 1933 to 1940 and devoted to the interests of German refugees. It carried monthly leading articles by Heinrich Mann and Georg Bernhard as well as items by other famous exiled writers. Now the Mainz Gutenberg Museum has mounted an exhibition in Toulouse in collaboration with the Goethe Institute there. The documentary display commemorates the refugee paper and its contributors.

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCCER PROTESTS

A Witwatersrand soccer club, Highlands Park Colts, the majority of whose players are Jewish, has been consistently insulted and jeered at by Florida-Albion Colts supporters whenever the two teams have met. Two years ago, the Florida-Albion ground was closed for eight games because of antisemitic jibes against Highland Park's goalkeeper, but this does not seem to have affected the supporters.

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VATICAN DENIAL

Following the official publication of a 1947 State Department report, two Jesuit historians have issued a reply to the allegations against the Vatican. Vincent La Vista, a US Foreign Service officer in Rome just after the war, told his superiors that the Vatican had brought pressure to bear on "countries where the Church is a controlling or dominating factor" to allow entry of "former Nazis and former fascists or other political groups, so long as they are anti-Communist". The report also named Dr. Willi Nix as a "notorious smuggler of Nazis" who operated under the "benevolent protection of the Vatican". Nix, according to Mr. La Vista, fled to the Vatican with the Italian authorities on his heels.

Fathers Robert Graham and Pierre Blet—the historians who, with others, were responsible for the editing and publication of the multi-volume "Actes et documents du Saint Siège relatifs à la Seconde Guerre Mondiale"—have rejected the report. In an interview, Father Graham says that it was propaganda devised by people who never lose an opportunity to attack the Roman Catholic Church. He also denies that Dr. Nix was a "Nazi-smuggler" and declares that instead he was a noted figure of the Resistance.

CANADIAN RABBI'S INVITATION

Three years ago, Rabbi Erwin Schild (at present living in Toronto) was invited by Christians in his home town of Mülheim to return to the country he was forced to leave. During the Third Reich, Rabbi Schild was imprisoned in a concentration camp and emigrated on his release. Now the Mülheim invitation has been reinforced by a request from the West German Government that he should help in the reconciliation of Germans and Jews. Rabbi Schild has recently visited Berlin and other large cities on a tour of discussions about Christian-Jewish dialogue.

More Canadians Accused

Two Canadian citizens, formerly of the Ukraine, have been named by Simon Wiesenthal as War criminals. Mr. Wiesenthal has asked the Canadian Solicitor-General to take action against Anton Shpok (otherwise Anatol Berlotserkovski) and Bogda Babiak. Shpok, formerly a senior policeman in the Kiev district, is said to have taken part in mass executions of 2,000 Jews during the occupation of Poland. Babiak is alleged to have been a leader of the Ukrainian SS division "Galizien", which was based in Lvov.

RENOVATION IN LIMERICK

The history of Limerick Jewry gained public attention when a television documentary showed the neglected state of the old burial ground. Never more than 160 in number, the community suffered from anti-Jewish agitation in 1904; this produced some physical violence, but the most devastating effect came as a result of an economic and social boycott. The Jews of Limerick moved away from the town and 20 years ago the community was finally dissolved and the synagogue building sold.

A burial society was established in 1902 but the interment register has been lost. Only six grave-stones are still standing. After the television programme, Limerick Civic Trust said that it intended to "restore honour and respect" to the old cemetery, turning it into a memorial park.

CONGRATULATIONS TO O. E. FRANKLYN

Our birthday greetings go out to our Executive member, Owen Franklyn, who will be 70 on April 28. Born and educated in Hamburg, his academic career in Germany was cut short when the Nazis came to power, after he had studied law (one term each) in Geneva and Freiburg. He emigrated to England in 1933, arriving in London on July 13. To his surprise, he saw many men wearing top hats, which gave him the impression that this was the usual headgear in this country. Only some time later he found out that the occasion was the Eton/Harrow cricket match at Lord's.

After having passed his English matric, he enrolled at the London School of Economics to obtain his law qualifications. One of his teachers was the late Professor Otto Kahn-Freund, who became also a close personal friend of his.

Having obtained his LL.B., he was articled to a solicitors' firm and passed his solicitor's examination. When, a short while after the outbreak of war, "enemy aliens" could join H. M. Forces, he immediately volunteered. However, to his own surprise, he was rejected for medical reasons. He carried on with his firm and having become a British subject, was admitted as a solicitor. In 1948 he became a partner in the firm of the late Arthur Kaufmann and has since then practised as the trusted representative and adviser of his clients. For several years before and after the end of the war he also taught Law and Public Administration at several polytechnics.

Yet Law is only one of his vocations. His other main interest is music. A passionate viola player, he was for ten years a member of the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, and he is still actively associated with the Rehearsal Orchestra. He also obtains inspiration at the various functions of the Dartington School of Music, which he attends almost every year and in whose musical activities he participates, especially in chamber music.

The AJR has had the good fortune of benefiting from Owen Franklyn's co-operation in many spheres. He joined the organisation as early as 1944. At that time, a panel of lawyers was operating under the auspices of the AJR. On Sunday mornings it advised refugees on the manifold questions with which, as newcomers to this country, they could not be familiar. Owen Franklyn was a member of this panel. Contacts have become closer since he was elected a member of the AJR Executive in 1972. A regular participant in the Executive meetings, he expresses his views concisely whenever a question arises on which he can give his counsel, and it is always to the point. Of equal importance is his office as a Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust, which calls for legal expertise and social understanding.

He is also associated with the AJR's umbrella organisation, the world-wide Council of Jews from Germany. He takes part in the international meetings of the Council and is a Trustee of the Leo Baeck Charitable Trust, its financial instrument. Last but not least, he is a Board member of the United Restitution Organisation and, due to his knowledge of Company Law, an invaluable Hon. Secretary of URO.

It is difficult to realise that Owen Franklyn will be a septuagenarian. His vigour and his appearance belie his age. We wish him very many more years of health and happiness, for the sake of his family, and, to no lesser extent, of his friends and fellow workers. W.R.

PROFESSOR MURDERED IN COLOGNE

Apparently the victim of a mentally disturbed assassin, Professor Hermann Greive was recently shot dead at the University of Cologne, where he worked in the Martin Buber Institute of Judaic Teaching. He was closely associated with the Leo Baeck Institutes in London, New York and Jerusalem, and had made many scholarly contributions to the Leo Baeck Year Books and other LBI publications.

Professor Greive, who was not Jewish, was born in Walstedde, Germany, in 1935. He had written and edited several books on Jewish themes: among them were "Theologie und Ideologie" (1969), dealing with Jewish-Catholic relations in Germany and Austria, and "Die Juden" (1979), on European Jewish history in mediaeval times. His most recent publications, were a collection of Theodor Herzl's letters and diaries and a history of modern German antisemitism. As one of the younger historians of European Jewry, his loss will be deeply felt.

Two other professors at the Martin Buber Institute were wounded in the same incident, but the woman assailant, a former student, was held.

THE DUNERA AFFAIR

The Dunera affair is part of all our yesterdays—a dimly remembered episode compounded of muddle, boneheadedness and malevolence. (*THE DUNERA SCANDAL* By Cyril Pearl. Angus & Robertson, £7.95.) The muddle arose when H. M. Government, panicking over the appearance of Nazi armour along the French Channel coast in May 1940, decided to intern all enemy aliens in disregard of the distinction its own tribunals had drawn between suspected Nazi agents and self-evident Nazi victims.

Malevolence was injected into the situation by certain British journalists who could have strayed from the pages of Karl Kraus's *Letzten Tage der Menschheit*. The egregious Ward Price thundered in the Daily Mail "Act! Act! Do it now! . . . The rounding up of enemy agents must be taken out of the fumbling hands of local tribunals. The head of a Balkan state said to me last month: In Britain you fail to realise that every German is an agent." This was the same Ward Price who a little earlier had enjoyed the confidence of another head of state—Adolf Hitler. (I, for one, shall never forget Price's fawning Fuehrer interview over Radio Linz on the day of the Anschluss.)

The round-up of thousands posed problems of security as well as of accommodation, and it was decided to ship some of them overseas, to the Dominions. The first transport, the Canada-bound *Arandora Star*, was sunk by a U-boat off the west coast of Ireland. The survivors were brought back to Liverpool and put, together with others, aboard the *Dunera* which sailed for Australia a week later.

The *Dunera's* complement comprised around 2,000 refugees, under 500 Class "A" internees (German Nazis and Italian Fascists), the ship's crew, and escort troops. The guards, Pioneer Corps men, treated the refugees with sickening brutality from the moment they went aboard. Refugees suffered physical assault, had vital documents torn up—one man committed suicide over the loss of his American visa—and were victims of organised looting. It might be said in mitigation that the escort troops had recently come back from Dunkirk and mistook the internees for dangerous Nazis—but such excuses, however threadbare, can hardly exculpate the officers in charge.

The eight weeks' journey, aggravated by insupportable overcrowding, punctuated by U-boat scares and a near-riot, ended at Melbourne. Transferred to inland camps the internees created a sort of normalcy—with coffee houses, concerts and lectures. At one camp Franz Borkenau lectured on politics, Hein Heckroth (of *Red Shoes* fame) taught art and Hans Kronberger commenced studies that were to take him to the UK Atomic Energy Authority!

1941 saw the repatriation of the first internees to England and also the courts martial (resulting in lenient sentences) of some officers and NCOs responsible for the *Dunera's* nickname as a "floating concentration camp".

Alas, if only Nazi concentration camps had resembled the *Dunera!* Even so the account of her nightmare journey sets the reader's teeth on edge. Democracy, as someone said, is the *least bad* form of government invented by man.

RICHARD GRUNBERGER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grave Matters

Sir,—It is not often one feels tempted to smile at the mention of death, but when you reported the recent appearance of a Jewish death notice in a Madrid newspaper as a sign of "Spanish tolerance", it did seem odd. The magnificent Madrid synagogue was solemnly opened 16 years ago, under the Franco regime, in the presence of representatives of both the Government and the Church. This was an historic occasion inasmuch as the Expulsion decree of 1492 was then formally revoked. In 1976 the Queen of Spain attended a Friday night service at the synagogue. "Spanish tolerance" really did not have to be demonstrated by—*ausgerechnet*—a Jewish death notice in the press. Life notoriously is stranger not only than fiction but even than death.

19 Thurlby Close
Harrow, Middx.

C. C. ARONSFELD

Julius Gellner

Sir,—Regarding your obituary of Julius Gellner (to whose friends I had the privilege to belong), he never gave up residence in England. His stay in Israel was in the nature of a visit from which he returned many years ago. He died in London.

50 Grampian Gardens

HENRY IMBERG

London NW2 1JG

AJR Lunch Service

THE AJR LUNCH SERVICE is gaining momentum. It opened last May for members of the AJR and it serves them lunch on Wednesdays from noon till 2 p.m. at the Hannah Karminski house in Adamson Road, a stone's throw from Swiss Cottage Station. It is run voluntarily by five ladies:

three honorary cooks, two honorary waitresses and the honorary cashier. The service receives no subsidy from the Council and only the AJR helps a little, but the kitchen and the dining hall are free on that day of the week. All this makes it possible to offer soup plus the main course for only £1 or an extra large portion for an extra 25 pence, and a sweet or fruit salad for 25 pence. An orange drink is also available. Members who find pop music in restaurants rather painful can have a lunch here without that nuisance.

We the undersigned are more than happy with the service and the quality of the lunch.

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H. MORTON

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E. CROFTON

An Opposing View

Sir,—I have just read Mr. Schmerling's views and strongly object that "some of us hold the opposite view and consider Hitlerism to have been the very essence of socialism." As a life-long socialist and certainly no Nazi I would like to protest that opinions like those of Mr. Schmerling should find a place in the columns of your journal.

19 Heathway Court

MAX K. ADLER

Finchley Road

London, N.W.3

NUERNBERG CITIZENS LIST

The city of Nuernberg has published a list of all former residents who survived the Nazi regime and are now living abroad. The list does not claim to be complete and any additions will be included in a second edition. On the other hand, nobody is

forced to agree to the inclusion of his name. Any requests should be addressed to: Presse- und Informationsamt der Stadt Nuernberg, Abteilung Staedtepartnerschaften, Postfach, 8500 Nuernberg 1, Federal Republic of Germany.

MÖNCHENGLADBACH MEMORIES SOUGHT

Researches into the history of the Jews living in and near Mönchengladbach are being undertaken by Dr. Günter Erckens (Eichhornstr. 15, 4050 Mönchengladbach 2). He has been working on the subject for two years and his studies extend to Rheydt, Wickrath, Rheindahlen, Odenkirchen and Giesenkirchen; he would be very grateful to receive photographs of the former synagogue, now virtually disappeared, or other Jewish institutions in the district. Dr. Erckens hopes to publish a book on the history of Mönchengladbach Jewry from the earliest times.

INTERNATIONAL TRACING STILL NEEDED

It is more than 40 years since the International Tracing Service was founded in London during the war years, yet it still receives some 30,000 enquiries a year, most of them seeking to establish grounds for restitution and state pensions, but about 3,000 trying to find out the fate of lost relatives and friends. The ITS was moved to Arolsen in 1945 to continue its work of tracing individuals who disappeared in the time of the Third Reich. Its premises contain almost 4 miles of shelving full of papers and lists, which increase by 50 feet each year, and it employs 250 people—just after the war it had well over 1,000 helpers.

The innermost core of the ITS is its catalogue. Every name found in any document has been registered and put in order both alphabetically and phonetically; the latter is most important, for a name such as "Schwarz" can be found in over 100 spellings, from "Chvarz" to "Zvarss". About 80,000 people named Schwarz (in the various spellings) are to be found in the ITS registers, 4,000 of them with the forename Josef. Even today, the chief archivist estimates that there is work for 15 years just recording the names on newly-found documents—1.3 million entries came to light in 1982 alone. Archives of firms who employed foreign labourers in the Second World War, government offices clearing out old papers, outdated prison lists, day by day new information is found. One important task is to make people aware that their old records can be of use and should not be lightly thrown away.

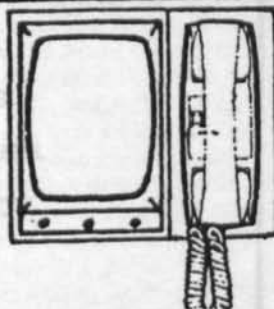
Documentation on the concentration camps of Dachau and Buchenwald, which were liberated by the Western allies, is almost complete, but little information has come from the DDR or the Soviet Union. Polish sources have provided some photocopied documents and Poles as a group are among the most frequent users of the service.

The International Tracing Service is financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, although the organisation of the service has been undertaken by the International Red Cross since 1955. An international committee with delegates from 10 states, including Great Britain, Israel, France, the USA and West Germany, also assists in the running of this valuable service, which has helped so many of those who passed through the Holocaust and the relatives of the victims.

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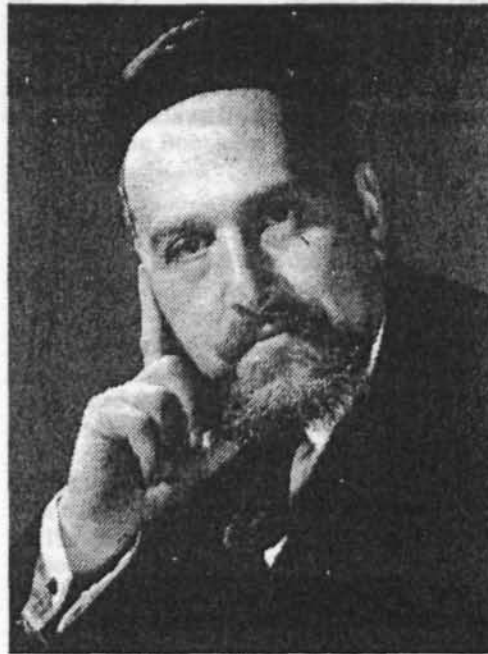
RABBI DR. SOLOMON SCHONFELD

Solomon Schonfeld died on 6 February, his 72nd birthday, after a long illness borne with great dignity.

At the age of 21, he fulfilled his father's dying wish to follow in his footsteps and take his place as rabbi of the Adath Yisroel Congregation. He devoted much time and energy to expanding the Jewish Secondary Schools Movement founded by his father but, as the clouds began to gather over Europe, he became more and more involved in the rescue of victims of Nazi persecution. The Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council, under Chief Rabbi Dr. J. H. Hertz, became the vehicle for his rescue work.

Dr. Schonfeld was a man of exceptional good looks and, when he chose to display it, of very great charm. He had a commanding presence and unlimited energy. His personal magnetism was such that he could approach people in all walks of life, including some of the Christian clergy, and arrange meetings in one of the committee rooms of the House of Commons, where notable politicians of the day, such as Eleanor Rathbone, would lend their names and pledge support to help further the rescue work under the Bernadotte scheme.

Those working with him at the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council might, on occasion, have pointed to the implausibility of some of his ideas, but were swiftly converted. A boat needed to be chartered to bring the remnants of Jewry out of Poland—at once, if not sooner; vans with a special chassis had to be procured to serve as mobile synagogues, to be stocked with food as well as equipped with stretchers and medical supplies in order to bring sustenance both material and spiritual to the survivors of the camps; obstacles the size of mountains were removed, not by overcom-



Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfeld

ing them, but by denying their very existence.

Blazing a trail through what others might have considered impossible barriers, his workers followed, inspired by him, disregarding fatigue, hunger, regular office hours and, on occasions, even the Sabbath in order to save life.

Whilst solicitous for the lives of others, he had little care for his own safety. In Poland, where he had intended to travel by car from one town to another, he was told that an attempt would be made on his life. Fortunately, he heeded this warning. The car made the journey without him and was indeed blown up, as predicted.

There are many who might only have come

across the controversial side of his character. There are, though, many more, in particular, the children, whom he rescued from Germany and Austria before the outbreak of war, who knew him to be an entirely different man.

He loved children intensely and they would sense this when they came into contact with him, even though they did not know what it was that drew them to him. He gave of himself to each individual child, creating time to listen to problems, to dry tears, to comfort and to reassure. Solomon Schonfeld had a way of wrapping his children in love as it if were a gigantic eiderdown, in which they felt warm and secure and, above all, less lonely. I know. I was one of them.

FELICIA SELTON

ALFRED WEICHELBAUM

One of the most prominent members of the German-Jewish community, Alfred Weichselbaum died suddenly a short time ago. Director of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland, he also held the posts of Chairman of the Frankfurt a.M. community and of ORT Germany, together with other important functions.

Born in Frankfurt in 1922, Alfred Weichselbaum emigrated to the Low Countries and thence to France. He was able to organise children's transports from France to Switzerland, but in 1942 he was arrested and sent first to Maidanek and then to Auschwitz.

After liberation, he returned to Frankfurt, where he was a founder of the renewed community and where, it has been said, "he ran from door to door seeking out lodgings, maintenance and work for the survivors of the concentration camps". To the end of his life, Alfred Weichselbaum never ceased his social work on behalf of his fellow-Jews.

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OBITUARIES



MANÈS SPERBER

Manès Sperber has died in Paris at the age of 78. Born in Eastern Galicia, in his youth Manès Sperber went to Vienna. Moving on to Berlin, he worked as an assistant to the psychologist Alfred Adler and later wrote a book on Adler. Between 1927 and 1933 he taught in the Berlin University faculty of psychology and also edited a psychological review.

After emigrating to France in the early years of the Hitler regime, Sperber became editorial director of the publishers Calmann-Lévy. He had been a prominent member of the Communist Party but soon understood the meaning of Stalinism and left the party in 1937. After the Second World War he wrote a number of books, the best-known being the trilogy *As a Tear in the Ocean*, translated by Constantine Fitzgibbon, which threw into relief the sufferings of Polish Jewry in Hitler's power.

His powerful essays were collected in *The Achilles Heel and Man and His Deeds*.

Manès Sperber received many honours, among them the 1979 Buber-Rosenzweig Medal for his work in reconciling Christians and Jews, and the West German Bookseller's Union Peace Prize for 1983.

DR. LOUISE W. LEVEN

Dr. Louise Leven, whose death at the age of 84 was announced in our November issue, was a musicologist of considerable distinction and a devoted educator who worked for over two decades at Stootley Rough School, which had been established as a haven for Jewish children who had fled from Nazi Europe.

She was born in Krefeld, read musicology at university and received her doctorate in 1926. She was a tutor at a music teachers' college from 1927 to 1936 and was chairman of the Music Teachers' Association. From 1934 to 1938 she was organist and choirmaster at the Krefeld synagogue.

Stootley Rough co-educational boarding school was founded by Drs. Hilde Lion and Emmy Wolf at Haslemere and they were soon joined by Dr. Leven, who became director of music, lecturer on the history of art, a very able treasurer, and later, vice-principal. The school was based on very liberal ideals, similar in conception to Gordonstoun, and was at first totally self-supporting. Children took part in all the activities, growing their own vegetables, building their own sleeping quarters and even the swimming pool. Animals were kept and the children did all the domestic chores themselves. For many of them, orphaned by the Nazis, it was their only home.

The pupils were aged between 5 and 18 and the informal atmosphere between staff and pupils created one large family of about 80 people. Many former pupils subsequently went on to America and Canada, becoming successful artists, musicians and writers and they still keep in touch with one another. The school closed in 1960 and Drs. Leven and Lion retired to Hindhead. Dr. Leven had also been a tutor for the Workers' Educational Association.

In her retirement Dr. Leven was visited by former pupils, and by teachers and friends from all over the world. She also wrote music criticism for the local newspaper, and wrote on music in German and English newspapers and periodicals. She left the bulk of her considerable estate to the AJR.

IDA HERZ

Miss Ida Herz died in Osmond House at the age of 89. She was a vivacious personality with widespread interests. A long-standing relationship with Thomas Mann and his family was one of the determining factors of her life. It started with the reorganisation of Thomas Mann's large library, a job for which she was qualified by her profession as a bookseller. In 1933, when the author was already abroad, she was instrumental in packing and smuggling out his books and documents.

The relationship persisted down the years, and in his diaries, Thomas Mann repeatedly refers to the visits of "die Herz". It is also reflected in the fact that, when he was in London on his 70th birthday, she arranged a party for him in her flat. Several years ago, she gave a lecture at University College London under the title "Korrespondenz und Freundschaft mit Thomas Mann".

Born in Nuernberg, she broadcast about her reminiscences of that city, not playing down her special experiences as a Jewess. In another broadcast she spoke about "Beautiful Bookshops". She was imprisoned briefly by the Nazis but in 1935 she got out of the country to Switzerland and thence to England. In this country she was for several years on the staff of the United Restitution Office. Almost to the end she raised her voice whenever she noticed incidents of revived anti-semitism in Germany or when she disagreed with Israel's role in the Lebanon War in 1982. Summing up her qualities, Dame Veronica Wedgwood wrote in *The Times*: "She was a woman of great courage and zest for life".

HENRY HELLMANN

Henry Hellmann (previously Jakubowicz) died early in March at the age of 78. He came from Breslau, where his father had been a veteran Social Democrat, friend of Bebel and Bernstein. Hellmann himself was in the Social Democratic youth movement (SAJ) and in the SPD from 1925. From 1930-33 he worked in the secretariat of the SPD Reichstag parliamentary group, and was present at the "Vorwärts" siege and the arrest of the SPD Executive by the SA. He was then active in the underground group "Neu Beginnen" (Ernst Reuter, Richard Loewenthal and Fritz Erler were also members). In 1935 he was sent to Czechoslovakia, where he married, and then went on to Britain, where he worked as a translator and journalist. His main interests were politics and history, of which he had a wide knowledge. He leaves a widow and a daughter, Mrs. Anna Patterson.

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Simon Garfield

DISCOVERING MY ROOTS

Writing as a 23 year-old who has lost a father, a brother and a mother within the space of six years, and as someone who deeply cherishes their memory, quite the hardest thing has been facing up squarely to the past at all. My mother died four years ago, but it's only in the last year that I've been able to think of her or the rest of my family in anything but a shielding haze of sentimentality. Often in the past when an incident recalled their memory I would try to dismiss it as one might a failed exam or a moment of social embarrassment. Drawers in my flatmate's room were stuffed deep with dusty document files and photo albums, all telling of Germany and Palestine, war and peace, marriages and births, houses and jobs. All remained unopened until recently.

It wasn't that they held no interest, but something far more intangible—they remained a mystery that it seemed would only draw a cloud of darkness, and not a glow of light, on what had been before. The opposite of course was true. For me the greatest tragedy of losing my family, and me the greatest tragedy of losing my family, was particularly my parents, was that they died before I had the chance of knowing them anything like as well as I would have wished. My father died suddenly of a heart attack on a chilling November morning when my top priority—horrendously it seems now—was to gauge whether Chelsea's new signing would have any impact on the team's defence.

As one of the country's most respected solicitors, my father worked long hours and through fair chunks of the weekend, and consequently we talked little about anything that mattered. I guess things are the same for a lot of 13 year-olds.

It was only after my mother died in 1979 that I stopped going to Chelsea. The decision was reached partly because of the growing levels of terrace anti-semitism, and partly because the game simply held no interest any more. With an air of naive 'adult' reasoning I felt that football didn't really matter any more. In some respects I was right of course—there were now far more import-

ant things to attend to. But in one respect I was wrong, for the judgement not to go anymore was a symbol—an archetypal image—of the desire not to recall the past. I went again last month for the first time in four years, and it brought back some vintage memories of when I used to go occasionally with my father. The defence was still terrible, but I left the ground last month loving my father more than ever.

The greatest, and just about the last memory I have of my father was at my barmitzvah in Israel. The joke ran that he had shipped the whole thing over to Jerusalem to avoid getting constant business calls at home on the night before the big day. His advice was sought on all manner of subjects—everything from legal etiquette to the best roadside inn on the way up to the Lake District—and he was never pleased when clients called him at home.

Sense of the past

In Jerusalem he seemed more relaxed than I had ever known him, and it was easy to understand how he hoped to move there when retired. Though he had previously spent a fair deal of time in Israel it was my first ever visit, and he clearly delighted in the freedom he had to show me all the sights—a freedom that he had dreamt of and fought for for much of his life. Both my parents had become happily anglicized since their arrival from Germany and Palestine, and while they tried to speak German to me from an early age, and clearly retained many traditional customs (most notably, perhaps, culinary), by necessity they blended in, rich accents and all, into most aspects of English life with the rest of their refugee friends. But Israel still remained the ideal home, and my barmitzvah was clearly meant as an important introduction to the country.

The barmitzvah itself was a great success—more perhaps for what it meant in family terms and because of the presence of my grandparents and my other relatives in Israel, than for its religious significance.

As far as religion itself went we were probably typical of the level of orthodoxy practised by most members of the United Synagogue. My father held firm to his maxim of 'moderation in all things', and while he had great respect for all levels of orthodoxy he also had a great dislike of hypocrisy. Unquestionably my father shaped many of my own religious views, and it's another regret that we never discussed their importance.

Similarly, my mother died before we really talked as only a mother and son can. The seriousness of her drawn-out illness was very much shielded from me, and there were no fevered last-ditch attempts to 'catch up' on history. Knowing someone isn't about background anyway. But just in the last year I've learnt so much I never knew. Photos are wonderful things of course—both as frozen, stolen moments in themselves and as a jolt to the memory. Showing those dusty albums to relatives has yielded an endless stream of priceless information. Perhaps there ought to be some sort of unwritten Jewish law that notes that photos—just holiday snaps if you like—play such a crucial

part in documenting our cultural and religious development, and should never be neglected nor their value to future generations underestimated.

From these photos and documents alone I've learnt vast amounts about my mother's time in Palestine, her first job as an archivist in the Jerusalem Archeological Museum, about my parents' marriage, about my father's education in Cambridge and his stint in the Durham Light Infantry, and so much about both sets of grandparents, aunts, uncles—most of which I could previously only guess at.

There's one poignant photo in particular that I doubt I'll ever forget. My father as a teenager sits with his parents and thirty other guests around a long, thin table at some sort of celebratory dinner party. It's April 1936, and most, if not all, of the guests are Jewish, all grinning at the camera. Behind the third row, in a highly polished frame hangs a grainy portrait of Hitler, the only face not smiling. You can't help but go cold when you see it.

The voyage of discovery of course still goes on. Perhaps I needed that three year gap before I opened those files to really adjust to what lay ahead, before I delved into what lay behind. Certainly I have no idea why I was able to at last face up to the past when I did.

I wish I didn't have to find out from these sources at all. As a substitute to first-hand information, humour and anecdote they're a valuable but pretty poor rival.

But up until last year I could never understand how people could devote huge portions of their life, and often their entire life, to the pursuit of the fibrous roots of their family tree. How they could write whole books on their family history seemed incomprehensible. Now there's nothing more understandable. And as a young Jew there's perhaps nothing more important.

Simon Garfield is the son of the late Herbert Garfield, who was a member of the AJR Executive and whose untimely death was a grave loss for the community.

AUGSBURG JEWS

Based on reports, documents, photos, lists and statistics Gernot Roemer, with the assistance of Ellen Roemer, has written a comprehensive, 200-page work called "Leidensweg der Juden in Schwaben" (Presse-, Druck und Verlag GmbH, Augsburg 1983, DM 16.). The work also covers 19 smaller places in the Augsburg district. It is one of the objects of the book, the author states in the preface, to induce young people to trace details about the Jews in their region. One has to think of the crimes committed, because they too are part of history. The book recalls the contributions made by Jews in the political, economic, cultural and social fields. A special section deals with the courage and dignity of the last pre-war chairman of the Augsburg Jewish Community, Justizrat Dr. Eugen Strauss (Ulm 1879—London 1965).

E.G.L.

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GERMAN DRAWINGS

There is a slight air of mystery about the latest exhibition in the Department of Prints & Drawings at the British Museum (until 29 April 1984), for it comprises a magnificent collection of Old Master drawings, many of which have not been seen by the public before, which have been lent by an anonymous owner who was a life-long scholar and collector of catholic taste.

The collection ranges from the 15th C., including a superb drawing from the circle of Michel Wolgemut (1434-1519), the master of Dürer. Then on to Martin Schongauer (?c.1445-1491), with three beautiful drawings of angels and a man holding a book. From the early 16th C. there is a fine Dürer, a most attractive ink drawing of St. Augustine by Hans von Kulmbach (c. 1480-1522), several by Sebald Beham (1500-1550) and by Hans Baldung Grien (1484/5-1545). From Augsburg comes a drawing of a bagpiper from the school of Hans Holbein the elder (early 16th C.). There are two drawings by the Cranachs and a superb portrait of a man wearing a hat by Georg Lemberger (c.1495-c.1540). Finally, one of the most attractive pictures is a small gouache illuminated with gold leaf by Georg Hoefnagel

(1543-1600). This by no means completes the list of this admirable collection and is merely intended to give a taste of the delights it contains.

At the same time and in the same gallery, there is an exhibition entitled "Rembrandt and the Passion, Prints and Drawings", drawn from the Museum's own collection, which is the finest in the world. These works are only shown periodically to preserve them from the damaging effects of light and this is the first time that a Rembrandt exhibition has been mounted solely on the theme.

A further exhibition in the same gallery is "Landscape in Italy", being drawings from the 16th and 17th Centuries when landscape became established as a subject for painting in its own right. Artists displayed include Titian, Fra Bartolommeo, Caravaggio, Guercino, Salvator Rosa, Claude Lorrain, Poussin and many others.

ALICE SCHWAB

LITERARY PRIZE FOR GERMAN-SPEAKING AUTHOR IN ISRAEL

The literary prize of the World Zionist Organisation was awarded this year to the 91-year-old German-speaking author Max Zweig, who lives in Israel. He is the second German-speaking writer to

whom this prize has ever been awarded. It was endowed to honour writers living in Israel who have produced important literary work in languages other than Hebrew or Arabic. In 1948 it was awarded to Max Brod. F.H.

BENE ISRAEL PRIZE

Bene Israel, the Jewish community of India, has been honoured in the person of Professor Nissim Ezekiel, head of Bombay University's English department and vice-president of the Council of Indian Jewry. The professor has been awarded the Sahitya Akadami Prize for his English-language book of poems.

PAUL EHRLICH EXHIBITION

An exhibition in memory of the outstanding bacteriologist, discoverer of Salvarsan and Nobel Prize winner Paul Ehrlich was shown in the entrance hall of the West Berlin State Library. It included Ehrlich's original study and documents, some from the "Darmstaedter Collection" of autographs and letters relating to the history of natural science set up by the Jewish industrialist Ludwig Darmstaedter.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Birthday

Harvey:—Congratulations to Herbert H. Harvey (Hirschweh), 3, Hillsborough Court, London, NW6, who will be celebrating his 80th birthday on 18 April.

Deaths

Abraham:—Alice Abraham (née Levit) of Edgbaston, Birmingham, died peacefully in her 89th year on 29 February 1984. She will be sadly missed by her "Kinder" and all her friends.

Newman:—Frank David Newman died suddenly but peacefully on 7 January, aged 62, much loved and deeply mourned by his family and many friends.

Schwarz:—Mr. Frederick Schwarz, of 85, Windsor Court, Chase Side, London, N14, died on 29 January 1984.

Shanbury:—Lizette Shanbury, dearly loved and loving wife, mother, grandmother and niece, passed away on 26 February. Her warm-hearted kindness and care will be forever missed by her husband Kenneth and her family, Clifford, Caroline, Julie and Lynette and her everloving Auntie Friedel and Ilse and her many friends.

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LONELY WIDOWER, late 70s, seeks friendship with sincere lady of similar age, living North London. Reply in full confidence, discretion assured, stating interests, to Box 1023.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiry

SACHS. Walter L. Sachs, who was in the Pioneer Corps and was last known to be in Bangor, N. Wales, or his descendants, being sought by Ernst Grunfeld, B.Sc., Oxon., 45, Wimbledon Hill Road, London, SW19. Tel: 01-947 1221 during office hours.

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WALTER A. BERENDSOHN

The father of research into exile literature, Walter A. Berendsohn has died in Stockholm at the age of 99. Born in Hamburg, Professor Berendsohn specialised in literary history from an early age and lectured at Hamburg University on German and Scandinavian literature, as well as teaching the Swedish language. Exiled from Nazi Germany, he took up a post at the Danish University of Aarhus, later moving to Sweden where he was appointed to the German Institute of the University of Stockholm. The first volume of his book "Humanistische Front—Einführung in die deutsche Emigrationsliteratur" was published in 1946 and was a foundation-stone for this new branch of Germanic studies. Numerous papers and reports on the subject were initiated by him, although the end of his career in the Stockholm German Institute was marred by controversy. It was not until 1983 that the University of his native Hamburg recognised Berendsohn's long work by conferring an honorary doctorate upon this pioneer of literary scholarship.

JOYCE WEINER

Joyce Weiner, the distinguished literary agent, died recently in Hastings. Her author clients included Naomi Jacob, Caryl Brahms, Georgette Heyer and Compton Mackenzie. A lifelong Zionist, she compiled her book "The Seventh Day" following the Six-Day-War of 1967.

She was Honorary Secretary of the Hospitality Committee of the first Jewish Refugees Committee and worked at Woburn House from 1933 to 1935. Her article on the German refugee writers in southern France in 1933 appeared in the November 1983 *AJR Information*.

CHAIM PERELMAN

Only a short time after he was elevated to the rank of a Belgian baron by King Baudouin, Professor Chaim Perelman of Brussels University has died at the age of 72. He was the first practising Jew in Belgium to receive such an honour and was a leading figure in many Jewish organisations in that country. During the Second World War, he distinguished himself in the Belgian Resistance.

ERNA WESTHEIMER

The former head of the Jewish Hospital in Berlin, Erna Westheimer has died at the age of 84. She had the rare distinction of having worked as nurse and matron throughout the Nazi period, for she miraculously escaped deportation. Frau Westheimer continued her life of hospital service for 17 years after 1945 and even after retirement acted as Community Sister for the Jews of Berlin. She received the Federal Cross of Merit in recognition of her activities, which she herself summed up in the words: "To help is my vocation and I have never regretted helping."

EMMA MENDELSON

A leading figure in the rebuilding of the Berlin Jewish Community after the Second World War, Emma Mendelson died some weeks ago. Although she herself had been imprisoned in Ravensbrück, she began her help for the remnant of the community immediately after the collapse of the Nazi regime. She continued working for Jewish welfare until her retirement in 1972.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

50 years ago. 1934 saw the breakthrough for three actresses who were to become household names in German films: Franziska Gaal followed her initial successes in "Paprika" and "Gruss und Kuss, Veronika" with "Csibi", Martha Eggerth was singer of the year, and Paula Wessely starred in Walter Reisch's "Maskerade", which has since become a classic. When in the same year, Franz Lehar, at the zenith of his creative powers, saw his greatest dream fulfilled and "Giuditta" was given a glittering premiere at the Vienna State Opera, the occasion was marked by the last triumph Richard Tauber had in Austria: no longer welcome in Germany, he delighted Austrian audiences, and was partnered by beautiful Jarmila Novotna.

Birthdays. Although *Rudolf Platte* was born in Dortmund, his speech is very much Berlinese, and on his 80th birthday many reviewers are looking back at his career. Starting at the age of 16, he became an "actor of all parts", played in innumerable films and is now considered one of the "greats" in the German theatre. *Lisa della Casa*, Zürich-born soprano but equally at home at major opera houses all over the world, is 65. She sang at Salzburg, Vienna, Glyndebourne, at the "Met" and at Covent Garden where her best remembered role is "Arabella" (1953 and 1965). She is an outstanding Mozart and Richard Strauss singer and during her long career graduated from Sophie via Octavian to the "Marschallin", thus being considered a "Rosenkavalier" specialist.

Obituary. *Bruno Hübner* who played many stage, film and TV roles has died in Munich at the

age of 84. His last part was in Chekhov's "Cherry Orchard" in Frankfurt, 1981. The French chanteuse *Lucienne Boyer* has died in Paris, aged 82. Her song interpretations became internationally known in 1932, and her name synonymous with "Parlez moi d'amour."

Haeussermann-Father and son. Reinhold Haeussermann, Austrian character actor, member of the "Burg" from 1915 to 1947, saw his son Ernst start at the same theatre in 1934. Ernst left for the United States in 1939, returning shortly after the war as the American representative responsible for the re-establishment of Austrian cultural life. Taking up residence in Vienna once more, Ernst Haeussermann soon became a prominent figure in Austrian theatrical circles, was "Burg" director from 1959 to 1968, and is now in charge of the traditional "Josefstadt" theatre. Producer of Salzburg's "Jedermann" and author of several works on the theatre, Haeussermann's book "Das Wiener Burgtheater" provides an amusing mixture of history and anecdote (Goldmann Verlag, Vienna.) S.B.

AWARD FOR PETER STADLEN

In recognition of his work on modern Austrian classical music the pianist, scholar and music critic Peter Stadlen was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art. Born in Vienna in 1910, he has toured Europe playing works of Schoenberg, Berg and Webern. In 1959 he joined the music staff of the Daily Telegraph, becoming its chief music critic in 1977, a post he still holds.

In addition to his excellent criticism, his scholarly articles are much admired.

He was playing in Holland when the Anschluss took place, and stayed there instead of returning to Vienna. "I was saved from the Nazis by the 'flu'", he told an interviewer.

KURT SINGER PLAQUE

A plaque in memory of the physician and musicologist Dr. Kurt Singer was unveiled in the foyer of the Deutsche Oper in West Berlin, with which he was associated from 1926-1931. One of the signs of his double career was his position as conductor of the "Aerztechor", founded in 1913. He will be particularly remembered by readers of this journal as head of the Kulturbund deutscher Juden which came into being in 1933, when the Jews were excluded from participation in German cultural life. Kurt Singer perished in Theresienstadt in 1944 at the age of 58.

WINGATE PRIZE AWARDED

The 1983 H. H. Wingate Prize, annually awarded to the book which best stimulates interest in and awareness of themes of Jewish concern, was jointly given to President Chaim Herzog for his "The Arab-Israeli Wars", and Chaim Raphael, author of "The Springs of Jewish Life". Highly commended for the prize was S. S. Prawer's "Heine's Jewish Comedy". Mrs. Wingate personally presented cheques for £1,500 to Mr. Raphael and President Herzog's representative. The judges for 1983 were Professor Elie Kedourie, Baroness Birk, Madelaine Duke, Terence Prittie and Lady Wilson.

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