

## THREAT TO PEACE

THE renewal of the truce in Palestine (this time for an indefinite period—that is, until a final settlement is reached), is indeed a joyful occasion. Politically, it no doubt represents a success of Israel, as the period of relative tranquility will give the new State the breathing space so urgently required for consolidating its organisation and economy; on the other hand, the resumption of the fight shortly before the new truce was called, has led to important gains of Israel's armies. UNO can justly claim the ending of hostilities in Palestine as a major success; its authority has emerged strengthened from that conflict and there is cause for deep satisfaction that not only a common Anglo-American policy was arrived at, but also that Russia co-operated with the Western powers although for reasons of her own.

Whilst this threat to the peace has been removed, the world is anxiously watching the growing conflict arising from the peculiar position of Berlin. Once before in our generation, such artificially set up enclaves have led to a general conflagration, for instance the Polish Corridor and Danzig. To invoke UNO would be futile as the big powers sitting as judges at the Security Council cannot pronounce the verdict in a case where they themselves are the parties. Here indeed, are the limitations of any international arbitrary organisation.

## A DISAPPOINTMENT

FOR over a year now, the House of Representatives and the American Senate with its various sub-Committees have been studying and proposing the so-called D.P. Bill, i.e. a Bill for the entry of a large number of displaced persons from the Continent into the United States. At one time, the figure of 250,000 was mentioned and it seemed that the traditional "land of liberty" would make an end to the unworthy and humiliating camp existence of substantial numbers of human beings.

Alas, the Bill has now been passed and although the figure of 200,000 D.P.s, which will be allowed to immigrate to the States, is still impressive, the clauses of the Bill leading to discrimination against Jews have been criticised by many Americans and were only reluctantly passed by Mr. Truman. Only 20,000 Jewish D.P.s will, under the Bill, be eligible for entry, a number so pitifully small in comparison with the prospective emigrants that it will hardly alleviate the bitter plight of the survivors of the Nazi mass murders.

## TWO WORLDS

THE Second Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Montreux revealed that the schism between East and West which divides the world, also cuts through Jewry. The late World War and the conflicts preceding it, created the conception of a Jewry, united against a common enemy. After the downfall of Hitler this conception is bound to break down too and it will be a very difficult task for the organised forces which have emerged in post-war Jewry to keep neutrality between the powers on both sides of the "iron curtain." It might well be that the unifying factor of Jewry may one day be called upon to perform the task of reconciling the two systems of the world.

## JEWRY IN ITALY

An adequate appraisal of the present position of the Jews in Italy can be made only if due regard is paid to the fact that up to the outbreak of World War II the phenomenon of anti-Semitism was unknown in Italy; it had indeed been branded as a sign of atavistic barbarism. Despite the anti-Semitic propaganda conducted by the Germans and the Fascist racial legislation, there is no anti-Semitism in contemporary Italy. The evil could not take root in an ancient nation, that is as intelligent and sceptical as the Italian people.

The position of the foreign Jews in Italy is not affected by any special political, national, or religious considerations other than those applied to all foreigners. There is no doubt that Italy is faced with certain problems which arise out of the presence of foreigners; and since Jewish aliens form a part of the foreign population, their status is viewed in the light of these special problems. At present the Jews in Italy fall into three distinct categories: (1) Italian Jews, (2) foreign Jews in D.P. Camps, and (3) resident foreign Jews.

The position of the Italian Jews is in no way different from that of the rest of the Italian population. They number 40,000, which is approximately .1% of the total population (during the War the Germans deported 7,000 Italian Jews and these have perished in various German Concentration Camps). As far as they had suffered through the war or racial legislation, the damage sustained has been repaired either by adequate legislation, or, whenever this was possible, by according them their original status.

The foreign Jews in IRO Camps form the second group. There are approximately 30,000 of them, although this figure is subject to certain fluctuations. 90% of this camp population consists of former inmates of German Concentration Camps. They came to Italy at the end of hostilities and after the War, assuming to find in Italy better facilities for further emigration. They are mostly of Polish, Roumanian, and Hungarian origin, only a few of them are Austrian or German Jews. This group of Jews presents no special problem to Italy, since they are housed in IRO Camps and are maintained by IRO and the Joint. Most of them want to go to Palestine; others hope to be able to go overseas. The emigration is proceeding only very slowly. As these camp inmates are completely destitute their passages are paid for by IRO, frequently also by the Joint or HIAS. In recent months several hundred Jews succeeded in emigrating to South America, in particular to Paraguay, which is one of the few South

American Republics that do not make the religion of a prospective immigrant a primary issue for admission.

The position of the Jews in the camps is very sad. Most of the camp inmates have no opportunity to work; only an insignificantly small number is eligible for the re-training courses. The food and housing conditions in the camps are extremely primitive. This is particularly depressing, since most of the people were incarcerated in German Concentration Camps for years. Both IRO and the Joint have done everything possible to alleviate the distress of the people under their care, but the great number of needy people naturally limits the effectiveness of the relief organizations. Since direct emigration from Germany and Austria is exceedingly difficult and often altogether impossible, the camps have constantly to cope with new arrivals from these countries. Continuous life in the camps with its enforced idleness has had a most detrimental influence on these unfortunate people. There is the great danger that these camp inmates lose all touch with the reality of normal life by gradually adopting an attitude that there must always be some organization which will free them from the responsibility of earning their own living. There is only one solution to this human problem: Facilities for emigration must be found without delay.

The foreign Jews who are resident in Italy outside the camps present a special problem. Most of them are pre-war immigrants and they consider Italy to be their new country of domicile. On account of the racial legislation the bulk of this group had been interned in Italy during the War. Only a few of them succeeded in fleeing to Switzerland, when the

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## CURRENCY REFORM

According to the British Law No. 63, in principle Reichsmark claims shall be so converted into Deutsche Mark claims that the debtor shall be obliged to pay to the creditor one Deutsche Mark for every ten Reichsmark due.

United Nations Nationals who had this status already on May 8, 1945, are entitled to refuse a payment in Deutsche Mark or to object by a declaration made to the debtor on or before August 20, 1948, against the conversion of the debt into Deutsche Mark at the rate of one Deutsche Mark for

### JEWRY IN ITALY, Continued from front page

Germans occupied Italy in 1943, and returned to Italy at the end of the War.

A considerable proportion of the foreign Jewish residents have been absorbed in the economic life of the country. They are merchants, artisans, employees, commercial agents etc. and have been more or less successful considering the difficult economic conditions in Italy. The legal status of this group is as yet entirely unsettled. They have the right of residence and received labour permits. Whereas people engaged in the professions and those conducting their own enterprises have been allowed to follow their occupations without much interference, employees encounter certain difficulties in obtaining labour permits. All these persons continue to be regarded as foreigners without legal claim to reside in the country, and since no one protects them, they remain exposed to the threat of deportation should adverse political circumstances arise.

In 1944 the Intergovernmental Committee obtained the agreement in principle from the Italian Government, that aliens who had been resident in the country for more than five years and suffered internment in Italy should be granted the right of domicile unless special circumstances would speak against such a procedure. In practice, however, almost all individual applications which have been made with reference to this agreement, have so far been rejected on the grounds that at present no contact could be established with the applicants' countries of origin. At the end of the War numerous applications for naturalization were submitted but remained undecided. All interventions have so far remained unsuccessful. The authorities concerned declared that for legal reasons a settlement could only be considered after the election of the new Parliament. A rejection of the applications for naturalization in these cases could hardly be regarded as equitable, since most of the applicants have been legally residing in Italy for more than ten years and may thus, according to the regulations concerning Italian citizenship, claim to be naturalized, as far as one may speak of such a claim at all.

It is to be hoped that this question will be settled in a favourable way within the near future. Only a positive solution of this problem can remove the feeling of insecurity from the foreign Jews, who have until now been in the country on sufferance only.

(Special Report for AJR Information from the Association of Formerly Interned Jews in Italy, Milan, Constituent Member of the Council of Jews from Germany).

every ten Reichsmark. The special rights which these United Nations Nationals will acquire by such declaration have not yet been defined.

For the purposes of Law No. 63 debts are all claims for the payment of a sum of money other than credit balances with financial institutions (e.g. banks). Special regulations will be published regarding debts of the Reich, the Reichsbahn, Reichspost, Reichsbank and similar institutions and debts of the N.S.D.A.P.

Persons who have money claims with regard to restitution or compensation on account of Nazi discriminatory laws or measures, will have to await further legislation. Such claims are not covered by Law No. 63.

### BLOCKED REICHSMARK ACCOUNTS

The Foreign Office (German Section) announce that authority is now granted under Military Government Laws No. 52 and 53 to all Land Central Banks in the British Zone of Occupation to approve or disapprove in their own responsibility applications for licences covering certain transactions involving property blocked under Mil. Gov. Laws No. 52 and 53, and for no other reason.

An announcement with respect to such blocked Reichsmark accounts has been published in the Board of Trade Journal of June 26, 1948 (Vol. 154, No. 2688), page 1275. Further details of the procedure for applications to engage in transactions falling under the new regulation may be obtained from the Foreign Office (German Section), Room 528, Norfolk House, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

### RESTITUTION

Asked on July 14 by Lieut.-Colonel Lipton, when the ordinance dealing with the restitution of property to victims of Nazi oppression will be promulgated in the British Zone of Germany, and whether it will be in uniformity with the corresponding ordinance in the U.S. Zone, Mr. Mayhew, on behalf of the Foreign Office, answered: "A draft ordinance on this subject has been prepared in Germany and is now under consideration in London. Every effort will be made to arrange for its promulgation in the near future. I am unable to say at present how closely its provisions will conform to those in the corresponding ordinance in the United States Zone."

### BUSINESS VISITS TO GERMANY

Business visitors to the British and American Zones of Germany can now obtain Military Entry Permits initially valid for repeated journeys over a period of 30 days. These permits authorize the holder to receive full facilities in both zones. Applications have to be submitted to the German Division, Board of Trade, I. C. House, Millbank, London, S.W.1, setting out briefly the name of the person or persons concerned, the purpose of the visit and, if possible, the firms and towns to be visited in Germany. If the Board supports the application, the business visitors will receive a letter of sponsorship and the necessary forms, which should be forwarded by post, together with a valid passport or travel document and £1 fee, to the Military Permit Office, Commercial Visitors Section, 20, Princes Gardens, London, S.W.7. Currency can be obtained on presentation of the Military Permit to the Finance Section, Foreign Office (German Section), Room 4, Norfolk House, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

### PARCELS TO GERMANY

On 28th June, Mr. Mayhew, on behalf of the Foreign Office, stated that "safety razor blades and boot polish may be sent in gift packages sent to Germany, provided such gift packages are not included in food parcels, as food must be sent separately."

### MIGRATION

According to the Board of Trade Journal of July 10, 1948, about 98,000 British emigrants went by sea to British countries (other than Eire) in 1947, compared with 29,000 in 1938; 23,600 went to foreign countries in 1947, against 5,100 in 1938. Immigrants of British nationality from British countries other than Eire totalled 50,900 in 1947, compared with 32,600 in 1938, and those from foreign countries 5,600 in 1947 and 8,000 in 1938. 24,000

## WOMEN IN NATIONAL INSURANCE

Married women who have not paid insurance contributions after January 1st 1946 are not allowed to enter the insurance as long as they do not work for gain. This applies e.g. to housewives engaged in their household duties only.

All other married women have to decide between being insured and paying contributions or being excepted.

Married women who work for an employer (Class I) remain insured as long as they do not declare otherwise. They can do so at any time.

Married women who work on their own account (Class II) and have not paid any contributions after January 1st 1946 have not to make any declarations, if they choose exception.

In all other cases special declarations are required. The declarations have to be made on a special form C.F.9, attached to the Leaflet N.I.1, before October 5th by women, who on July 5th were already married; by women married after July 5th while self-employed or non-employed, within 13 weeks after marriage.

For detailed information about this rather complicated matter, Leaflet M.I.1, obtainable at the Local Labour Exchanges and the Local Offices of the Ministry of National Insurance and the special "News Chronicle Guide for Married Women" may be helpful.

What does the decision imply? An excepted woman relies on her husband's insurance only. She is not entitled to unemployment benefit, sickness-benefit and retirement pension in her own right. On her husband's insurance she receives maternity grant, attendance allowance, widow's benefit, retirement benefit to which also a widow's benefit will be converted when she reaches 60.

Nevertheless through exception she runs some risks such as connected with a divorce or the husband's premature death. The full retirement pension is dependent on a yearly average of 50 contributions paid or credited between the entry into insurance and pensionable age. The married woman's entry into insurance is, at all events, deemed to be that before her marriage. Thus in case of divorce the yearly average may be greatly reduced in consequence of the exception. The pension will be paid at a scale sliding down to 7/- at a yearly average of 13 contributions, below which no pension is due at all. The same may happen to a woman widowed at an early age or after rather a short marriage. The widow's allowance or the widowed mother's allowance may come to an end without her fulfilling the conditions for a widow's pension, i.e. an age of 40 or 50 and a married life of at least ten years. She is at 60 not entitled to retirement pension on her late husband's insurance; for her widow's benefit did not last up to pensionable age.

Finally a wife less than five years younger than her husband will, by choosing insurance, receive the full retirement pension of 26/- at 60, whereas excepted she will be paid during her husband's life 16/- only, and that not before he is 65. These will increase to 26/- not before after his death.

F. J. WITTELSHOEFER

aliens with labour permits and, in addition, 80,000 other aliens who came to stay for longer than six months, arrived in this country in 1947. The number of aliens who emigrated by sea in 1947 is 4,950.

### IRO

In his report at the Session of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organisation, Mr. William H. Tuck, Executive Secretary, gave some reasons for the delay in settling DP's and refugees: The recruitment, he said, was often restricted to able-bodied, working members of refugee families, leaving dependant members to wait in DP Camps. Governments failed to find more appropriate work for those refugee immigrants who were unable to perform the hard physical labour for which they were recruited; instead, these refugees were returned to Germany. The nations, Mr. Tuck continued, had no plan by which each of them had to accept a fair share of all displaced persons, regardless of age, sex, nationality or working status. Finally, present policies of some governments permitted former prisoners of war or members of conquered alien populations to immigrate instead of displaced persons and refugees.

## C. C. Aronsfeld: GERMAN JEWS IN ENGLAND (II)

Continued from previous issue

Cassel shared this pathetic fate with another prominent immigrant from Germany—Sir Edgar Speyer, whose family hailed from Frankfurt though he himself was born in New York. Speyer, too (naturalized in 1892) was a successful, cultured business man and member of the Privy Council. When in 1914 he found himself insulted by charges of disloyalty and suggestions of treachery, he at once wrote to the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, considering it "due to his honour as a loyal British subject and his personal dignity as a man to retire from all his public positions." He asked to be relieved of his membership in the Privy Council and to have his baronetcy revoked. Asquith, in a prompt reply, denounced the "baseless and malignant imputations" and said that the King would withdraw none of "the marks of distinction which you have received in recognition of public services and philanthropic munificence." However, while Cassel bore the cruel buffetings with equanimity, Speyer strongly resented them. Eventually, in spite of the King's intervention, his Certificate of Naturalization was indeed revoked and his name removed from the list of Privy Councillors. He returned to New York where he died in 1932.

### Religious Indifference

Cassel had died eleven years before him, and much to the surprise of almost everybody the memorial service was held in the fashionable Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mayfair. Nobody seemed to have been aware that at the request of his dying Gentile wife (to whom he had been married only three years), Cassel had, in the eighties, turned an inconspicuous as well as very indifferent Roman Catholic! Of course, few of the Jews from Germany were orthodox in the traditional manner—after all Germany was the cradle of Jewish liberalism—though few too would openly forsake their faith, at least in the first generation. Indeed, Ludwig Mond's son Alfred who had been brought up without any religious instruction, married a Gentile and had his children baptized, in the decline of his years (and under the impact no doubt of the Balfour Declaration) suddenly and strikingly affirmed a passionate allegiance to the national ideals of Judaism, and his children, the present Lord Melchett and Lady Reading, in 1933 formally returned to the old faith.

### Chief Rabbis from Germany

But this is perhaps rather an exceptional case. The story of most German Jews in England during the 19th Century was probably much like the experience of those, between 1830 and 1860, who settled in Bradford, whose business was to develop the export of Yorkshire-manufactured textiles and whose destiny gradually to become integrated in the English community—together with the Reform shool which they founded, one of the first in England; it completely disappeared (until it was recently revived). Yet the orthodox Chief Rabbis of the Victorian and Edwardian Empire were also both German Jews—Nathan Marcus and Herman Adler, father and son, who came from Hanover. The father, who had been highly recommended by the Duke of Cambridge, then Viceroy of Hanover, succeeded Dr. Solomon Hirschel who, although born in England, had been brought up in Germany and never attained a secure command of English. The three other candidates for the Chief Rabbinate at that time were also German Jews—Dr. Hirschfeld, of Wollstein; Dr. Hirsch, of Emden, and Dr. Auerbach, of Darmstadt. Dr. N. M. Adler, at his solemn installation on July 9, 1845, delivered the sermon in his German mother tongue, wherefore he duly apologized, and according to a contemporary report in the "Jewish Chronicle," he "touchingly expressed his consciousness of the difficulties surrounding the elevated position he now occupied, as he was removed from his native country to a foreign land, and apprehended that the language in which he now addressed his brethren was not understood by many present and might fail in its effect." He trusted, however, that He who had guided him from his youth, would also, in this instance, not forsake him. He held the exalted office till old age forced him into retirement, ten years before his death in 1890, and he was relieved

by his son who was generally recognised as the only possible successor.

### Anglo-Jewish Association

Another important institution which owes its existence to at least one German Jew, is the Anglo-Jewish Association which was founded in 1871 through the exertions (among others) of Dr. Abraham Benisch, then Editor of the "Jewish Chronicle," who had arrived in England about 1840. He must be considered one of the earliest and ablest Anglo-Jewish journalists. He was the first to adopt the name "Jewish Chronicle" as the proper title, the first also to render the paper self-supporting and create a medium for close contact between the different Jewries of the Empire. "The Anglo-Jewish Press," says J. Picciotto (in his "Sketches of Anglo-Jewish History") "is much beholden to Dr. Benisch." So, on a vaster scale, is the general press to the achievement of another Jew from Germany—Julius Reuter, of Cassel, who in 1851 transferred his first news agency (then at Aachen) to London. He had to fight an up-hill struggle for about eight years, but when "The Times" for the first time printed an important Reuter telegram, the road to success was clear, and in 1865 the Reuters Telegram Company was founded.

### The Rothschilds

The purpose of this remarkable system of news transmission originally was predominantly commercial, but it could remain so no more than the strictly private intelligence organized, half a century earlier, by one of the most illustrious German Jews in England, Nathan Mayer Rothschild, who first outbid his rivals with the "Latest Prices" from the Continent and eventually obliged H.M. Government with the sensational information that Bonaparte had indeed been defeated at Waterloo. As late as 1830, it was noted by Talleyrand that "the English Cabinet always obtain their information from Rothschild ten or twelve hours before the arrival of Lord Stuart's dispatches, and this (Talleyrand adds) is not to be wondered at, seeing that the vessels, which carry Rothschild's couriers belong to that firm, take no passengers and start at all hours."

Nathan Mayer, the star among the Five Frankfurters, had come to Manchester in 1797, at the age of 20, as an exporter of cotton goods, but soon after, in 1805, a year after his naturalization, and assisted by old Mayer Amschel's chief book-keeper, Siegmund Geisenheimer, he settled in London as the head of the firm which later became known as N. M. Rothschild & Sons. Their story, like the record of all the "Magnificent Rothschilds," is too well known to require re-telling in these pages. But it is not always remembered that the first of the Frankfurters in England also took a conscientious interest in the fate of the people from whom he sprang. His principle in everything he did seemed to be what he once confessed was the secret of his commercial success—"minding my own business." He laboured faithfully to advance the cause of Anglo-Jewish emancipation, but he also sought to help his brethren abroad, and in 1819 he refused for a time to transact any business in bills coming from German cities where Jews were persecuted.

### Other Financiers

In the shadow of the Rothschilds as it were, other German Jewish business men were settling in England at about the same time. Messrs. Schuster, Son & Co., merchants and bankers, also hailed from Frankfurt, and when Francis Joseph Schuster joined the firm in 1866, with him came his 12-year old son Felix who was to become one of the foremost experts on banking, both English and foreign. To Sir Felix Schuster is due the innovation of the widest possible publicity in banking matters, for he believed that bankers, on account of their special experience, owed the public a periodical review of economic developments, past and to come, which might be hardly less important than the Chancellor's Budget Speech. As Governor of the Union Bank of London from 1895 to 1918, Sir Felix was responsible (with Lord Inchcape) for the first of a number of great amalgamations—the establishment of the National Provincial and Union Bank of England (since 1924 simply "National Provincial Bank").

TO BE CONCLUDED

## EVENTS IN ANGLO JEWRY

The new Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth and Empire was installed with impressive solemnity at the New Synagogue on June 28. Referring to "the pattern of an Anglo-Jewish tradition which has persisted," Dr. Israel Brodie, in his eloquent sermon, acknowledged that "our community owes some of its lustre to men and women who . . . came from lands of Europe and . . . created basic institutions devoted to Torah, Service and Charity."

Sir Robert Waley Cohen, the President, moved, and secured the unanimous adoption, at a Council meeting of the United Synagogue, of the following resolution: "This Council respectfully associates itself with the message of the Chief Rabbi to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, reading as follows: 'With gratitude to the Guardian of Israel, we rejoice in the restoration of Israel's land, and pray that under your Presidency the new State will prosper and promote peace and understanding among the family of nations.'"

The Palestine issue was again predominant at the monthly meeting of the Board of Deputies which again urged H.M. Government to join with the U.S. and Russia in recognising the State of Israel. Mr. L. J. Hydeleman, Chairman of the Defence Committee, stated that a Director of Defence would have to be appointed for the purpose of bringing about the closest co-ordination of the present variegated activities.

Col. L. H. Gluckstein, K.C., President of the Liberal Synagogue, resigned his membership of the Board of Deputies because of the "virulent personal hatred" which many of his fellow-Jews had displayed towards him at the Board. In a critical comment on this action which "gives up the struggle" instead of "maintaining one's ground," the JEWISH CHRONICLE deploras the "further widening of that rift between various sections of Anglo-Jewry which is already so injurious to our common interests."

At the Annual Meeting of the Liberal Synagogue, it was announced that the membership had increased, subscriptions amounting to £6,859, as against £6,232 last year. Expenditure had increased by nearly £1,000.—A deficit, as yet no larger than £20, was also revealed at the Annual Meeting of the Jewish Board of Guardians. It was stated that during the year nearly 4,000 cases were registered, of which 2,500 were entirely new.

Schemes for a new Home for Aged Jews, which would consist of a number of separate houses, may necessitate an appeal to the community for £200,000. The consecration of the Jewish Blind Society's new Home at Westcott, near Dorking, which is to accommodate 100 residents, was commended in a special message from the Minister of Health.

A Communal Planning Committee in Manchester, Britain's second largest Jewry, has set out to end the "chaos in the community." A number of amalgamations of smaller bodies is to enable the civic authorities to recognise only the Communal Rabbi in spiritual and religious affairs. A heated controversy broke out in another provincial community, at Cardiff, where the local United Synagogue decreed a virtual excommunication of a number of persons described as "new assimilationists" and "camouflage Jews" who were seeking to set up a Reform Congregation.

Dr. B. Homa, Chairman of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education, resigned his office as a result of disagreements with the United Synagogue. He stated that two of their greatest difficulties were the inadequate supply of teachers and the low standard of so many of the teachers now employed. Miss B. J. Barwell, President of the National Union of Hebrew Teachers, warned the London Board (now under the Chairmanship of Mr. I. W. Goldberg) that demands by Hebrew teachers for increased salaries could no longer be ignored.

Since the beginning of 1948, the Central British Fund has collected £136,000. About £60,000 are still outstanding from the Manchester and other appeals. In Leeds an appeal will be launched in January.

Herbert Freedman:

## FOUR JEWISH PLAYS

"Four Jewish Plays," edited by H. F. Rubinstein (Victor Gollancz—12/6) are the select result of a drama competition arranged by the Anglo-Palestinian Club. The competition set out to induce dramatists to write Jewish plays, i.e., as defined by the editor, plays on specifically Jewish themes. Taking the Jewish subject matter as the common denominator, "The Merchant of Venice" and "Nathan Der Weise" would fall under the category of Jewish plays, but the comedy, "You Must Stay to Tea" by Toni Block—one of the four pieces—would not fulfil the necessary stipulation. The fact that some of the people have Jewish names does not alone make a Jewish play and the rather thinnish plot (the mothers of a Jewish soldier and his non-Jewish fiancée quarrel whether the wedding ceremony should be held at Church or the Registry Office) does not add any Jewish substance either: if one substitutes the Jewish and Christian partners for an orthodox and an atheist one gets the same sort of "conflict"—and there is no Jewish milieu and no Jewish characters to back up the story.

Two of the plays deal with the recent Nazi period. One of them, "Pillars of Salt" by Paul Scott, is a very gifted though sketchy piece in some imaginary setting, which, stripped of the realities of time and place, tries to give an eternal example of racial persecution. Although there is a definite atmosphere about the play and its people which testifies to the poetic qualities of its author, it lacks that human warmth which would have made it a great drama.

But I fail to understand how "Poor Ostrich" by Hemro, could be included in this collection. The idea of portraying a German Jewish family in four stages—1913, 1923, 1933 and 1938, certainly gives opportunities of depicting a tragedy whose origin goes back over some decades, but the author should have guarded himself against cheap retrospective prophecies. Moreover, the people speak in a kind of pamphleteering language, when, for instance, one is accosted as "a Jewish middle class mother" and another states in 1913 that "assimilation has torn us away from Judaism." The author has not all facts correct. One of the main Jewish characters is a member of the Nazi party although Jews were barred from membership since the party's inception, and events, like the racial laws, promulgated in September 1935, are in the play produced in 1933.

The most mature piece of the four is, no doubt, Emil Bernhard's "The Marranos." The author, Rabbi Emil Bernhard Cohn, well-known to our readers, has only some months ago been killed in

a street accident in Los Angeles. Some of his former plays were performed on various German stages.

He transfers the happenings of the Nazi years to the time of the Inquisition in Portugal in the year 1536 and he has written a historic drama in a conservative and classical style in which he portrays the tragedy of a mixed marriage, that between the Prime Minister of Portugal and his wife, a Marrano. Then, as in Hitler's years, the conflict arose between the Jewish mother and her adolescent son brought up in the doctrine of Jew hatred.

One feels that here has been a pen at work, familiar with the intricacies of play writing and the intimate effects of the stage. The grandeur of the subject is matched by a fine characterisation, especially of the Premier's wife, torn between her awakening Judaism and her love for her son. Here indeed is a Jewish play if any play deserves such a classification.

### BACKGROUND OF MARTYRDOM

Friends whom I urged to read "Prisoners of Fear" by Ella Lingens-Reiner, Doctor of Law and of Medicine of Vienna University (Gollancz, 7s. 6d.) showed some reluctance. Although impressed by the record of the authoress as a fighter against Nazism they were obviously inclined to resist the invitation to take note of yet another report on Concentration Camps. But I feel that Jews must not shrink from listening to what Dr. Lingens-Reiner has to tell. Her readiness to help her Jewish friends to hide and to escape from the clutches of the Gestapo during the war made her fall into a trap laid by the Nazis—with the assistance of a Jewish spy!—and caused her to be sent to the Women's Camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Dachau.

Because of her being a medical person of purely German "Aryan" stock Dr. Lingens-Reiner was spared the worst humiliations and her privileged position gave her a chance to view with considerable scientific detachment the terrible happenings which constituted every-day life in the camps. What makes her observations so valuable is her attempt to describe and to understand the pattern of behaviour of both the inmates and the guards.

They were all "prisoners of fear"—not only the captives but their masters as well. The outstanding figures—like the subhuman "beast of Belsen" Kramer, the psychopathological wardress Borman and the camp "doctor" Klein—are less interesting than the average little S.S. men and women who

suddenly found themselves rulers over supposedly inferior human beings. More surprising than the sadistic excesses of the criminal elements was the callous indifference of the so called "decent" or normal persons.

The authoress, a faithful and active member of the Austrian Labour Movement, was struck by the considerable number of S.S. guards who came from respectable working-class families. How was it possible that they could behave so contrary to their humanitarian upbringing? "Many of the workers of those (older) generations lacked the capacity of transmitting their wealth of valid ethical principles to their children in a form which would have been impressive and emotionally attractive."

That even amongst the prisoners themselves, in the face of death and destruction, petty national animosities and jealousies played their ugly part is the most depressing observation; in particular anti-Semitism was practised by "Aryan" camp inmates, especially by the Poles.

Jewish suffering forms, naturally enough, the main theme of the book. Whether and how this evil of race hatred can be effectively eradicated from the German mind appears, after the reading of Dr. Lingens-Reiner's book, to be a very complex problem indeed. But it is, on the other hand, a glimmer of hope to know that men and women of her courage survived the crucial tests imposed by the Nazis.

F. BRASSLOFF.

### UNPLEASANT NOVEL

Isaac Rosenfeld is—according to the publisher's note (Secker & Warburg, London: 9s. 6d.)—a young American writer whose short stories have met with considerable success. "Passage from Home" is said to be his first novel. The author draws on what seems to be his autobiographical experience: the background of a Jewish family in Chicago. But it cannot be typical of any community. There is not one pleasant character in the whole book. Is there some symbolical meaning behind it?

There can be no doubt about the author's talent: he is a keen observer, he possesses psychological insight, he shuns sentimentality, and he has a sense of humour, though a somewhat forced one. Some passages are quite moving, e.g. when the father woos for the young hero's love.

Everything is kept so strictly within the private sphere that the reader cannot help the feeling of witnessing dirty linen washed in public. And yet, if the whole of the book were as good as it is in details, the author's conclusion might have had a wider application: "My only hope had been to confess that I did not love him, to admit that I had never known what love was or what it meant to love, and by that confession to create it. Now it was too late. Now there would only be life as it came and the excuses one made to himself for accepting it."

LUTZ WELTZMANN

## LAW and LIFE

Legal Advice Hours (for persons with limited means only): Wednesday 5-6.30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

### RENT RESTRICTIONS ACT

An important problem concerning the limits of the protection granted to tenants of unfurnished houses and flats by the Rent Restriction Acts has recently been clarified by a decision of the Court of Appeal after repeatedly having been argued before the Courts.

The Acts protect tenants of a "dwelling-house" and define that word which certainly is not in general use as "a house let as a separate dwelling or a part of a house being a part so let." It is clear, therefore, that a flat or even a room, being part of a house, may be protected, but only if it was let as a separate "dwelling." How is the legal position if part of the dwelling is shared by the tenant with the landlord of another tenant?

The problem was discussed in 1945 in a case where garage, kitchen, bathroom, lavatory, coal-house and conservatory were shared and it was decided that under these circumstances the tenant had not a separate dwelling, and was not protected.

In the same year another case was heard where the tenant had the separate use of sitting-room, bed-room and a combined kitchen and scullery, and only a combined bath and W.C. were shared. In this case it was held that the tenant was protected and for the first time the theory was developed that a flat or rooms were a separate dwelling if none of

the living rooms were shared, and that a kitchen was a living room, whereas a bath or lavatory were not.

This theory was applied, in 1946, to a case where the tenant had the use of the kitchen "for the purposes of cooking only." The Court was of the opinion that it would introduce an "unwarrantable refinement" if it were to distinguish between this special case and the normal case where a kitchen was shared for all intents and purposes.

In the most recent case, decided in June, the tenant had attempted to argue that protection should be granted in cases where the kitchen was shared not with another tenant, but with the landlord himself. The Court rightly decided that there was no essential difference between these two cases. It re-emphasized that protection could not be claimed whenever a living room, including a kitchen, was not to be used exclusively by the tenant asking to be protected—there can be no doubt any longer that this is the law of this country.

It may be mentioned, however, that the restricted control and protection which applied to furnished rooms under the Furnished Houses Rent Control Act, 1946, is not confined to "separate dwellings." On the contrary the Act expressly has been made applicable to a tenant who is entitled "to the use in common with any other person of other rooms or accommodation in that house."

### PERSONALIA

Dr. Paul Stern, formerly Vienna, died recently. He has been a Member of the AJR Board since its inception and always took an active interest in its work. Inside and outside the Community he was well known by his publications and radio talks as a Bridge expert.

Jeanette Wolff, Berlin, the only Woman Member of the "Repraesentanten-Versammlung" of the Jewish Community, recently celebrated her 60th birthday. She has survived the horrors of Concentration Camps and laid down her experiences in a book, which, by its unassuming conception, is particularly impressive. Mrs. Wolff is also the Chairman of the Women's Group of the Jewish Congregation and a Member of the Berlin Municipal Council.

NEW BOOKS.—Egon Larsen: "Inventor's Scrapbook" (Lindsay Drummond); Rudolf Kassner: "Das Neunzehnte Jahrhundert" (Eugen Rentsch, Zurich); Frederic Thieberger: "King Solomon" (East and West Library); C. A. Simpson: "The Early Traditions of Israel" (Blackwell); Jo Sinclair: "Wasteland" (Macmillan); Cecil Roth: "The House of Nasi: Dona Gracia" (Jewish Society of America, Philadelphia); Ernst Glaeser: "Das Unvergaengliche" (Limes Verlag, Wiesbaden); Theodor H. Robinson: "The Poetry of the Old Testament" (Duckworth); Leonhard Frank: "Mathilde" (Peter Davies Ltd.); Solomon Goldman: "The Book of Books" (Harper & Bros., New York).

# IN THE NEW STATE

Haifa, 12th July.

I remember, in 1933, the hoisting of the red Nazi flag with the swastika, acclaimed by an excited, brutal mob, whilst others, frightened, looked on in silence. It was different when in the afternoon of May 14th, after the proclamation announcing the advent of the State of Israel had been read, the white-blue flag rose over the administrative buildings. People were deeply moved and impressed, but there was no boisterous jubilation; all were aware of the historic significance of the hour, but not less of the hard necessity to defend the existence of the new-born state.

Jewish traffic police, with white blue armlets, have substituted the English; they are mostly middle aged men, as the young men and women are all in training camps or at the front. In the post and other administrative offices of the towns with formerly mixed populations, Jews have taken the place of the Arabs. Except in some rural districts, the Arab element has mostly disappeared. Whole quarters are empty and dead, houses and shops, if not in ruins, have shattered windows, broken doors, and twisted iron shutters. Only very slowly, the one and the other of the fugitives are returning. I spoke to one of them, an elderly man; he complained of the treatment experienced in the neighbouring Lebanon. "I should never have thought of leaving, if I had not been urged to do so, and if I had known that I should be treated here so decently," he said.

Our young men and girls on leave look healthy and sunburnt. All dressed in khaki, they have no uniform proper yet, and but for their berets and belts, one would not make out their present occupation. In the streets, mainly in border districts are still many civil guards, and one often sees transports of elder men called up for digging trenches and building shelters against the indiscriminate bombing by Egyptian flyers. Nothing is left to chance, even in towns and villages so far not exposed to attacks.

Administrative notices are being displayed in Hebrew only (in Arabic also where there is a need)—the period of the "three official languages" has come to an end. Also on the new stamps the description runs in Hebrew and Arabic only (the wording "Hebrew Post" is explained by the fact that they were printed before the name of the state had been decided on). The design shows inscriptions and symbols of the last Jewish state 1,900 years ago, to which the new state is thus symbolically linked. Radio transmissions of "Kol Jisrael" from Tel-Aviv, substituting the P.B.C.'s "Second Sender" are in Hebrew, Arabic, and English, the latter two unsuccessfully jammed by Arab senders. The programme containing, besides political news, biblical, literary and musical contributions is on a very satisfactory level. Arabic newspapers, formerly mostly published in Jaffa, have ceased appearing, at least in the Jewish state; the Hebrew and the two German language papers, with not less than five evening editions, are eagerly bought. The only English paper published by Jews in Palestine, the "Pal. Post" could not reach its numerous readers outside Jerusalem for weeks;

## Letter to the Editor

"ISOLATION AND INSECURITY"

Dear Sir,

Always reading with interest "AJR Information," I was particularly pleased about the article "Isolation and Insecurity" by Dr. E. G. Lowenthal in your June issue, because our special problems are so clearly described, as if the author himself held the thankless office of the Chairman of a Jewish Community in Germany.

I can only confirm the impression given by Dr. Lowenthal and hope that it will come to the notice of all our friends abroad, wherever they may live now. This is very essential for us, not for material reasons, but because emigrated German Jews should know how many difficulties we have to encounter. When speaking of "our friends," I sometimes cannot but feel that this term is not always justified, because there are Jews from Germany who seem to have forgotten everything connected with their former homeland, including the Jews still living there.

Bismarkstr. 118, Krefeld.

Fritz Leven.

it has now started an "austerity" news sheet, printed in Tel-Aviv, which even contains sometimes the much appreciated "Column I" by D. Courtney (Elston), the prominent British writer.

The economic life is greatly influenced by the absence of numerous men under arms, but on the whole it is well maintained on a restricted scale. Food is generally not scarce, and well rationed, although the situation is quite different outside the area of the state, especially in Jerusalem. Imports meet with many difficulties owing to obstacles raised by the English shipping and insurance circles, and by the confiscation of goods for Palestine shipped in foreign vessels, calling in Egyptian ports.

The general morale is excellent, but with the exception of enthusiastic youth, proud of military successes, the cease-fire is welcomed and hope for a definite settlement expressed. Responsible people do not forget that our new small state is economically linked to a larger Middle East, and must cultivate mutually advantageous relations with the Arab Palestine sector and the neighbouring countries.

HANS MOSBACHER

## NEWS FROM GERMANY

### SOCIAL WORK IN BERLIN

The Berlin Jewish Weekly "Der Weg," contains a report by Mr. Carl Busch (formerly Board Member of the Community), on the social activities of the Community. Amongst others, the report states that at present 60 rooms of the Old Age Home, Iranische Strasse, give accommodation for 150 inmates. Further 40 elderly people are living in the 20 rooms of the Home Niederschoenhausen, 26 persons in 14 rooms in the Invalids Home Iranischestr. 4, and 23 inmates are in the Ludwig-Hoffmann Hospital, Buch.

33 children are accommodated in the Children's Home Niederschoenhausen (6 rooms resp. dormitories).

In order to put up a further number of old people it is intended to make use of the houses Klopstockstrasse (Tiergarten) and Wrangelstrasse (Lichterfelde) as well as of the building Berkaerstrasse which, at present, is occupied by the British Military Government.

The Jewish Hospital has at present more than 100 beds at its disposal.

The Social department of the Jewish Community gives grants and maintenance allowances to needy persons as well as special assistance for fares, court fees, fuel, medical treatment, etc. About 400 persons (200 of them T.B. cases) receive a special medical diet. The demand towards the Clothing Depot is particularly great.

Free meals are issued to about 250 persons over 70 years, and to 35 students.

With the assistance of the Joint and the Jewish Relief Unit, children were sent to Convalescence Homes near Berlin, in Switzerland, and Bavaria.

Considering the tremendous difficulties under which the reconstruction work of the Jewish Community had to be carried out, the achievements are very gratifying indeed.

### NO GERMANS FOR HAGANAH

According to the "Nene Welt," the Jewish paper for the American Zone of Germany, a great number of former German soldiers had expressed their intention to join the Jewish defence forces in Israel. Their applications were not accepted by the Jewish authorities.

### "JUDE" AS OFFICIAL TERM

Under the heading "If Germans write a Letter," a Dutch paper in Hilversum reports that the Municipal authorities of Amsterdam had received a letter from the "Magistrat" Hanau, in which they were asked for information about "den Juden . . .", who was supposed to have immigrated to Amsterdam in 1937. In its reply, the Amsterdam authorities stated: "An answer to your letter can only be given, if your inquiry is being made in a correct form. The term 'Der Jude' is not used by civilised countries in their official correspondence."

## Old Acquaintances

**London Visitors:**—This is the time for travelling. Wherever former Europeans may be settled, they seem to long for the old Continent. So on his way to Paris we met Erik Charell who has just finished the production of a musical version of the famous French picture "Pepe le Mokko" in Hollywood. It's now called "Casbath." Charell looks exactly as he looked when we saw him first in the twenties as a dancer together with Ellen Petz. Do you remember his "Matrosen-tanz," for which Ludwig Kainer did the decors? But Charell gave up his successful career and became the famous producer of Berlin's big shows; his version of "White Horse Inn" is still unforgotten in Paris, London and on Broadway, where actually Bob Hope, then an unknown comedian, made his debut in the part which Max Hansen once played in Berlin. —Also Ilse Bois, Kurt's gifted sister, passed through London on her way to Venice. Of course, we didn't let her go without asking her to do her well-known imitation of Fritzi Massary and Elisabeth Bergner.

**Rendezvous in Zuerich:**—Londoners, of course go to the Continent too, to re-visit Switzerland, where—so they tell for a joke—posters proclaim "English visitors are requested not to talk German too loud." Zuerich's Summer Festivals presented a brand new play by Bert Brecht, "Herr Puntina und sein Knecht." As he did in his famous "Dreigroschenoper," Brecht again mixes dialogues and songs, a Finnish play serving him as a pretext; it's the story of a man who changes completely when sober and when tipsy, but Brecht's treatment is original in every respect. Kurt Hirschfeld of Zuerich's "Schauspielhaus" directed the cast excellently, and Leonhard Steckel, Gustav Knuth, Therese Ghiese, Alice Lach, and Wolf von Beneckendorf had a tremendous success.—Leopold Lindtberg, director of "Last Chance," produced the Russian fairy tale "The Shadow" with Kaethe Gold, Erwin Kalsner, and Lukas Amann.—Albert Bassermann acts in the immortal "Raub der Sabinerinnen," but he refused to play in a picture "Das Kuckucks-ei," because his wife's part is too insignificant.

**Werner Krauss, Shaw and Jannings:**—When Werner Krauss was denazified in Stuttgart—he has only to pay 5,000 Marks and can act again,—he showed a letter he got from 92 years old G. Bernard Shaw in which the playwright wrote that the whole culture (of the world) was built on the idea of the masses collaborating with the government, whether it's their own or a foreign one. So everything seems to be forgotten except the few million Jews who lost their lives through the pogroms incited, amongst others, by "Jud Sues." And, of course, Vienna's "Burgtheater" immediately made an offer to Krauss to play "Julius Caesar," perhaps to help him pay the fine.—Because there was very little hope to be denazified in Germany, Emil Jannings changed his nationality and became an Austrian—didn't he claim to be a born American a few years ago? It was still more surprising that Vienna's "Equity," the trade-union for actors, re-admitted him as a member, and the doors of the studios am Rosenhugel and of the "Burgtheater" are again open to the man who threatened to denounce anyone who said he had a Jewish grandmother.

**Home News:**—After an absence of many, many years Lucie Mannheim appeared again on the stage of London's "Arts Theatre" in Ibsen's "Rosmersholm" and scored a success.—Frederic Valk is adapting for himself Neveux's "Plainte contre Inconnu" which Jack de Leon hopes to produce in autumn.—Lilly Freud-Marlé who just finished a study about Sigmund Freud, gave a recital in several languages last month here.—Hans May, whose operetta "Carissima" is still a main attraction of London's season, writes the music for the new picture "No Room at the Inn."

**California Date-Line:**—Lotte Lehmann published her autobiography "My Many Lives" with Boosey and Hawkes.—Hermine Stelzer will be in "Dark Past," and Alfred Zeizler will direct "Parole" in Hollywood.—Oscar Homolka—you can now see him in the picture "I remember Mama"—will play in the Broadway production of "Bravo" by George S. Kaufmann; it's a play about Franz Molnar.—Paul Falkenberg is producing a new picture for the "World Jewish Congress."

PEM

## FROM MY DIARY

At least as enlightening as the film "Gentleman's Agreement" itself, is the reaction it provoked in the British Press. It seemed as if the straightforward treatment of that unpleasant topic which had so far been taboo on the screen, namely, anti-Semitism, has hit a bullseye by touching the consciences of the audiences. And according to their good or bad consciences, the critics viewed this film.

Although all of them agreed that it was a fine work of production and acting, some were annoyed that it was too doctrinaire; others objected to its being propaganda. One reviewer found it impossible that there should be so much anti-Semitism in America, and the critic of a London evening paper treated the theme of the film as if it were the usual mixture of crime and love (in which case he might have been more amicable).

The most moving reaction came from Leonard Mosley, the "Daily Express" reviewer, who wrote:—

"I came away wondering what would have happened if he had really been a Jew, and I was filled with guilt and shame."

The story of the film is too well known to be repeated here—a journalist who gets an assignment for a series of articles on anti-Semitism pretends for six months to be a Jew himself. These six months are filled with anti-Semitic subtleties and sometimes even less subtle incidents. No doubt this journalist has not the "powers of resistance"

which a Jew develops in the course of his lifetime and which make him to some extent immune. This immunity derives from his understanding of Judaism and from his position as a Jew.

For the journalist in the film to be a Jew is just a mere accident, and his sense of justice and fairness revolts at the discrimination against people who had the bad luck of being born as Jews. Although the film gives a fine diagnosis of anti-Semitism, it fails to indicate a cure. The era of common decency which the film advocates is a dream worth dreaming, but not a reality to be relied upon. The existence of the Jewish problem cannot be debated away, even by people planning the Golden Age.

Nevertheless, "Gentleman's Agreement" is a film of rare candour and unique sincerity, and will no doubt start people thinking.

The caretaker Martha Mueller was accused of a Crime against Humanity for having denounced to the Gestapo a Jewess, who had gone underground. She was acquitted by the Landgericht, Berlin, because she had been told by two Gestapo officials that she should give them a report as soon as she would have seen the Jewess; otherwise, the officials had told her, she might have to expect disadvantages for herself. The Court took the view that Martha Mueller had acted not on her free decision, but under a "Notstand." The Weekly of the Berlin Jewish Community, "Der Weg," strongly protests against this acquittal.

NARRATOR.

## WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

The Second Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Montreux (see our editorial note on the front page) was attended by delegates from a very great number of countries all over the world, including representatives of the Jewish Communities and D.P. Camps in Germany. The wide range of subjects dealt with at the Session is reflected in the resolutions, which, amongst others, covered the following problems: Anti-Semitism, UNO Legislation on Human Rights and Genocide, Restitution, War Criminals, Jews in Germany and Austria and Legal Status of Jews of enemy nationality. A declaration welcoming the establishment of the State of Israel, was also passed.

## AIR-MAIL TO PALESTINE

Air-mail services for letters up to 2 oz. and postcards have been resumed from Britain to Israel and Jerusalem.

## SOUTH AFRICA

A pledge that the new Government of the Union of South Africa will not discriminate against its Jewish citizens was given by the Prime Minister, Dr. D. F. Malan, when he received a representative deputation of South African Jewry at his Pretoria Office. The Premier stated that both he and the Government as a whole stood by the policy of non-discrimination against any section of the European population and looked forward to the time when there will be no further talk about a Jewish question in South Africa.

### CLASSIFIED

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### MISSING PERSONS

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## AJR BOARD MEETING

More than 60 delegates from London and the Provinces attended the AJR Board Meeting on July 4th under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Horowitz. Recalling the foundation of the AJR just seven years ago, Mr. W. Rosenstock, Secretary of the AJR, pointed out that many aims conceived at that time, had, meanwhile, become the basis for further important activities. This applied especially to naturalisation, which commenced shortly after the war as a result of endeavours, in which the AJR took a prominent part. New tasks had arisen, amongst them the establishment of an AJR Employment Bureau, which indicated the necessity of a strong organisation, able to render new services to the Community.

Mr. Rosenstock also dealt with the special problems of the Refugee Doctors, and of the Unregistered Dentists who, so far, had not yet been able to work as professionals in this country. Speaking about "AJR Information," Mr. Rosenstock pointed to newly introduced features. The endeavours of establishing an Old Age Home, he continued, had not yet led to a result, because the funds so far collected were not sufficient for the initial costs and the maintenance.—The feeling of isolation, expressed by some younger readers in letters to "AJR Information," had resulted

in some informal and preliminary talks on this vital problem.—The AJR felt a particularly great obligation to help the Jews in the Communities in Germany, not only by bringing relief through the AJR Relief Department, but also by strengthening personal contacts with them.—Whilst by emigration, death, and partly also by indolence, there was a slight decrease in membership, the bulk of the members had kept their relationship with the organisation. In order to be able to fulfil the manifold tasks of the AJR, the support of all members, and especially of the Board Members, was imperative.

The work of the recently established AJR Employment Agency was reviewed by Miss A. Levy. Licence for starting this Department had been granted by the London County Council, and employers and employees alike had already made ample use of this new important institution. There were, owing to the present economic situation, a great number of callers for whom, so far, work could not be found, and to increase the success of the Employment Agency, the active co-operation of firms was very essential.

In a lively discussion, many valuable suggestions were made.

Questions of Restitution were dealt with in the

Afternoon Session. Dr. W. Breslauer gave a survey on the present legislation in the various Zones in Germany. Whilst the American Restitution Law was, on the whole, satisfactory, this could not be said about the French Restitution Law. For the proposed legislation in the British Zone, a Memorandum had, just recently, been submitted to the Authorities by the AJR in co-operation with other organisations.

A plan for the establishment of a Restitution Claims Agency was outlined by Dr. K. Alexander, General-Secretary of the AJR. Particulars will be published in a special article in a later issue of "AJR Information."

The Meeting was concluded by a detailed report on the position of the Jews in Germany, given by Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Executive Member of the AJR who, by his work as Senior Field Representative of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad has a first-hand knowledge of the every day problems of the German Jews. Referring to his article in the June issue of "AJR Information," "Isolation and Insecurity," he stressed the obligation of the emigrated German Jews, to help the Jews in the Communities in Germany.

Not only by the variety of subjects, but still more by the spirit which marked the reports and the discussions, this Board Meeting was particularly impressive and encouraging for all those who were present. At the same time it reflected the manifold tasks which rest upon the AJR.

### THEODOR HERZL SOCIETY

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August 31st, A SOCIAL.

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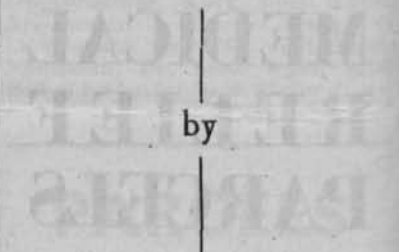
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