

AJR INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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BRITISH JEWRY'S EFFORT FOR RELIEF

The record of British Jewry in the relief and rehabilitation of the refugees from Germany and Austria, and from Hitler's persecution generally, is remarkable and deserves to be recalled. Great Britain indeed played an outstanding part in giving a temporary home to these refugees in the year immediately preceding the World War. During the first five years of Hitler's persecution—from 1933 to 1938—the admission of refugees to the country was rather narrowly restricted by the regulations in regard to alien immigration. But when the pogroms against the Jewish Communities throughout Germany, in November 1938, startled and roused the English public, the old tradition of asylum for the persecuted was revived and the gates were generously opened. Between November 1938 and the outbreak of war, in September 1939, not less than about eighty thousand fugitives from Germany and Central Europe were admitted, and of those the great majority, perhaps four-fifths, were Jews.

LEO BAECK:

HISTORY

It is part of the Jew's thought and lot to experience history immediately. Seldom has it meant to him something that happened elsewhere to any far-off people or that was only related and sung of. Time and again he found himself in some way or other placed in the midst of problems and events: he must undergo history.

To-day the world is destined to feel what the Jew did always feel, the world has become alive to an ubiquity of history. All mankind is now, so to speak, stricken with history. And thus, what the Jewish people had to prove ever since—each one's readiness in standing up for the other, however remote, and in coming to one's aid and assistance, now humanity is to prove somehow. One could be inclined to say that here again the Jewish mind has entered mankind.

All the more we should be sensible of our "yomim noraim," our "solemn days," the Rosh Hashanah and the Yom Kippur which we are about to celebrate. They are characterised also by recalling to our mind that there is a universal human life too, that there is human history. What all peoples should engage and pledge themselves to, only this is genuine history. Selfishness of a nation means denying history. There cannot be a true history of one nation or one community only.

This therefore is the aim and purpose of history: to be universal, to unite mankind. On our solemn days the old prayer is offered that all peoples may learn the fear of God, that deep awe which gives inner freedom, in order that "they may form a single bond to do His will with a perfect heart."

This is the Jewish sense of history.

The Anglo-Jewish Community indeed, made a continuous effort to help the Jewish exiles from Germany and the German Jewish Community during the whole of the period of persecution. The Central British Fund for relief was established in 1933, and annual appeals were launched in the community and brought in large sums. After the issue of the Nuremberg laws, in 1935, when it was realised by the Jewish people all over the world that a big constructive effort of emigration and re-settlement must be carried through to save the young generation, Anglo-Jewry took the lead and formed the body known as the Council for German Jewry. That was a combination of the Central British Fund, the Joint Distribution Committee of America, the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Jewish Colonisation Association. It was a remarkable achievement of co-operation and co-ordination which continued till the first year of the war, when the crisis of the Battle of Britain made it difficult to maintain communications with America. Till 1938, the main effort was directed towards emigration from Germany and Austria—and, latterly, Czechoslovakia—to Palestine, America and the free European countries. It may be mentioned here that the money contribution of British Jewry to the Central British Fund, during the period 1933 to 1940 was over three million pounds: and, in addition, thousands of individual Jews in Great Britain gave a personal guarantee for individual refugees, and maintained them when they were permitted to come to the country.

It was in the last year before the war that the urgency of granting asylum led to the admission of a larger number of refugees into Great Britain than into any other country, including Palestine. Included in the eighty thousand who were admitted were ten thousand unaccompanied children brought by the Children's Movement that was launched by representatives of all sections of the population. The children received the most generous hospitality from Christian families in all parts of the country, and Lord Baldwin, the ex-Prime Minister, headed an appeal for them which brought a response of nearly half a million pounds from the general public. Some thousands of young persons were brought to England in the same period to carry on here their agricultural training with a view to their emigration to Palestine and other countries; and in the early months of 1939 a transit camp on the Kent coast at Richborough was established for adult male refugees, who had a prospect of emigration, but had to wait a year or more for a visa. Altogether some 4,500 were received into that camp, and when the war broke out, a large proportion of those who were then in it, volunteered for the British Forces, and eventually played a notable part in the fighting units. Not fewer than 10,000 of the refugees were enlisted in the army before the end of the war.

Another remarkable and admirable aspect of the British aid to the refugees from persecution was the saving of scholars and scientists. Immediately following the exclusion of all Jews and non-Aryans from academic posts in Germany, the heads of the universities and the learned societies in Great Britain formed an Academic Assistance Council (later to become known as The Society for Protection of Science and Learning) and found academic or research places in this country ultimately for some seven hundred men and women distinguished in different forms of science and scholarship. Again, far the greater proportion of those who were rescued were Jews; but the effort to help

them was made in far greater measure by the general academic society and the English public.

It should also be recorded gratefully by British Jewry that in 1940, when it became clear that (1) the eighty thousand refugees, to whom Great Britain had offered temporary asylum, would have to stay for the duration of the war, (2) the Jewish Community could not sustain the burden of maintaining those who were unable to find employment, and (3) many who had given personal guarantees of maintenance had also become unable, in the new conditions, to fulfil their obligation indefinitely, the British Government agreed to share the burden with the Community. It gave through a Central Committee for Refugees, first, half, and later two-thirds of the cost of maintenance and administration and continued that contribution till this year, 1950. The amount contributed by the Government under this head must have been over one and a half million pounds. To-day the annual sum required for the maintenance of the reduced numbers who still must have public support has greatly diminished, and the Central British Fund, which has continued its annual appeals, is trying to sustain the burden alone. Since the end of the war, in 1945, C.B.F. annual appeals have brought in a sum of not less than one and a half million pounds for relief and rehabilitation. A part of it has been applied to the help of the displaced persons and the communities on the Continent, and a part for Palestine settlement, but the larger portion has been required in Great Britain for the remaining refugees of the original exodus and for those who have been admitted subsequently. The latter include some eight hundred children and young persons who were brought to England at the end of 1945 from the Concentration Camp in Theresienstadt and other camps and have been rehabilitated here.

Another and most important effort of British Jewry was initiated during the war, for bringing aid to the displaced persons on the Continent, as soon as the countries were liberated from the Nazi yoke. To that end a new body was created in 1943, known as the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad, and it has played, until this year, a notable part in the constructive aid to the surviving Jewries in Germany, Austria, Italy and Greece. The Central

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EDITORIAL CHANGE

Dr. Herbert Freeden, co-editor of "AJR Information" since its inception in 1945, will go to Israel this month to take up an appointment with the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael as Publicity Officer for the English speaking countries.

Thus, a pleasant partnership which lasted for almost six years comes to its conclusion. It is mainly due to his initiative that the AJR started the publication of a regular periodical, as soon as the removal of the paper restrictions made this possible. If, in the course of time, "AJR Information" has become an established institution within the Community, it can to a very high extent be attributed to his untiring labours. As a gifted writer and an experienced journalist he gave shape to our monthly by co-ordinating its manifold features and by contributing innumerable large and small articles and notes.

Not only the Hon. Officers of the AJR but all readers of "AJR Information" are indebted to Dr. Freeden, and whilst his co-operation, guidance and advice will be sadly missed by his co-editor, it is some consolation that he will keep contact with us by writing regular reports on events in Israel. We wish him godspeed and good luck for his new start.

W. R.

Continued from front page.

British Fund has borne the financial burden, which amounted for several years to over one hundred thousand pounds a year. But the special character of the J.C.R.A. was personal service. It was in 1944 that the first Jewish Relief Units, which had been trained in England and were composed of social workers and persons with professional qualifications, went out to the Middle East. They were under the auspices of the broad British effort for relief, known as the Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad. At first service was done in the displaced persons camps in Egypt, Italy and Greece; but the major effort was concentrated in Germany and Austria as soon as it was possible to send teams to the liberated areas. From 1945 to 1949 an average of over one hundred young Jews and Jewesses were working in the D.P. camps in those countries, and also in the restored Jewish communities (Gemeinden).

That chapter has reflected the greatest credit on British Jewry, and the work of the Jewish relief units has been deeply appreciated, first by U.N.R.R.A. and then by the International Refugee Organisation. It is now drawing to a close. Happily, almost all the displaced persons in the British areas have been able to emigrate either to Israel or to other countries.

Besides the contribution of personal service, there has been continuous dispatch of material help in supplies of clothing, food, books, tools, etc. In this effort also the Jewish bodies in the British Commonwealth have taken a full share. While their money contribution has gone principally to the Joint, they have kept up steady flow of supplies to the English Committee for Relief Abroad.

Restitution

There is another recent aspect of rehabilitation of refugees from Germany. That is the big effort which is being made for restitution of Jewish property confiscated or robbed by the Nazis in the three Western Zones of Germany. It is a double effort:

- (1) The claims of individuals for identifiable property, immovable or movable, which was owned by themselves, their parents or relations, and for compensation for the loss of liberty and other injuries suffered at the hand of the Nazis.
- (2) The claims of the community for heirless property and the communal property of the old Jewish Gemeinden in Germany.

As regards (1) United Restitution Office which covers the claims of Jews in Germany and the refugees in all countries, Israel, the United States, Great Britain, the Commonwealth and France, has been established, with its centre and a co-ordinating Committee in London, to conduct the cases on behalf of those claimants who have not the means of pursuing their suits without aid.

As regards the heirless and communal property, two corporations have been founded, (a) in the American Zone, and (b) in the British Zone, to conduct the suits and hold the property or compensation recovered. The proceeds of the restitution of the communal and heirless property will be used in the first place for the maintenance of the restored Jewish communities in Germany, their synagogues, homes for the aged, etc., and subject to that, for the assistance and resettlement of the refugees generally, both in Israel and in other countries where they have found refuge. The fund should eventually relieve in part the burden of the Jewish bodies in those countries which have borne that burden for seventeen years. But for this year and the following years, while the suits are pursued, and negotiation for settlement of the claims is conducted, a heavy expenditure will be incurred for the legal offices and for administration. That has to be advanced at present by the three major bodies, the C.B.F., the J.D.C. and the Jewish Agency.

The creation this year of the Jewish Trust Corporation to claim and hold Jewish heirless and communal property in the British Zone involves a heavy charge, and the help of the other British Communities would be welcome. It is urgent that the work of preparing the claims should proceed as intensively as possible; and to that end the united contribution of British Jewry this year would greatly help.

(From a report to the recent Commonwealth Communities Conference, London)

RESTITUTION

TRANSACTIONS IN GERMANY BY NON-RESIDENTS

In a recently published circular the Foreign Office (German Section) summarises the principal transactions now possible in the German Federal Republic. Parallel legislation will, according to the announcement, be introduced in the Western Section of Berlin.

Deutsche Mark bank accounts may be used *inter alia* for the following purposes (partly by General Licence, partly after Special Licence has been obtained): Investments, reconstruction and replacement of property, payment of insurance, premiums and bank charges, legal fees and taxes.

As already mentioned in the July issue of "AJR Information," withdrawals for the *travelling and living expenses* of the account holder and accompanying members of his family (including servants) during visits to Germany may be made subject to a limit of DM. 75 per day per person with a maximum of DM. 200 a day per family (General Licence No. 19, revised).

The circular also repeats the General Licence for *maintenance payments* to near relatives (DM. 200 a month to one relative, with a maximum limit of DM. 300 a month in the case of payments to several relatives).

Amounts not exceeding DM. 300 per annum may be released for the *maintenance of graves* of near relatives.

The circular also refers to the regulations governing receipts from German debtors and other transactions, such as sale of property for Deutsche Mark and inheritances.

Furthermore special licences can be obtained for the *transfer* of real estate and other *non-monetary* property in Germany (excluding bank balances and securities) which was acquired before June 1950 to other non-residents for foreign exchange.

The full text of the circular may be obtained at a charge of 6d. from the United Restitution Office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, Finchley Road, London, N.W.3.

TIME LIMIT IN U.S. ZONE

To keep the time limit for the submission of compensation claims in the U.S. Zone it was sufficient to lodge an informal registration by June 30, 1950. Such an informal registration alone is, however, not sufficient to safeguard the claim. It has to be followed up by an ordinary application on the official form, which must have reached the Compensation Office of the Land of last residence in the U.S. Zone not later than September 30, 1950.

The American Compensation Law only refers to the U.S. Zone of Germany, not to the U.S. Sector of Berlin.

"URALTKONTEN" IN WESTERN BERLIN

The closing date for the submission of applications to banks in Western Berlin for the conversion of precapitalisation Reichsmark balances (Uraltkonten) has been deferred from June 30 to December 31, 1950.

RESTITUTION IN AUSTRIA

The "Association of Ruckstellungsbetroffenen" has decided to demand a plebiscite for altering the Austrian restitution law in case the Austrian Parliament should not decide on such a measure. The new formulation should make the duty for restitution dependent on the fact that the purchaser has made an adequate payment, and not as before, that the owner has come into possession of such a payment.

HAMBURG BROADCAST ON RESTITUTION

The North-West German Radio (Hamburg) recently broadcast two talks on Restitution. In a well-balanced way the present legislation and jurisdiction was described and practical examples were quoted to encounter unjustified criticism.

The case of a former SS. Standartenfuhrer and Major-General Paul Will, was contrasted to that of a former Jewish Councillor of the Prussian Ministry of Interior. The SS. Officer receives a monthly pension of DM. 1,000, the Jewish Councillor of DM. 180.

IN PARLIAMENT

ANTI-SEMITISM IN GERMANY

Dr. Hill asked the Foreign Secretary what reports he has received of antisemitic activity in Western Germany, and what action he proposes to take.

On behalf of the Foreign Office Mr. Ernest Davies replied: "A number of such reports have been received from various sources. Practically all refer to a limited number of specific incidents, with which the German authorities themselves have effectively dealt or are dealing. No action on the part of His Majesty's Government is considered necessary at present, but the position is being closely watched and my right hon. Friend will not hesitate to instruct the High Commissioners to intervene with the German authorities if occasion requires."

DISTRESSED PERSONS

According to a statement of the Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede, the main features of the scheme for the admission of distressed relatives remain unchanged, but the scheme is kept under review and it is the policy to grant applications in respect of relatives outside the existing classes where there are special circumstances which justify exceptional treatment. Passport control officers are kept fully informed.

In a supplementary question Mr. Kenneth Thompson asked: "In view of the fact that it is possible for distressed relatives to be admitted into this country under the present Regulations, would it also be possible to admit into this country the non-distressed relatives of a distressed person in this country? Is that clear?"

The Home Secretary replied: "It is quite clear, but I would like to give it mature consideration."

GERMAN DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

Mr. Sorensen asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies why medical practitioners with German qualifications are allowed to practise in Tanganyika and the Cameroons but not in the Gold Coast, Nigeria and other Colonies; and, in view of the great need of doctors in all the Colonies not likely to be met for a long time, whether he will take action to secure the fuller services of German medical practitioners, dentists and similar professional men.

Mr. J. Griffiths: "There are no special rules about German qualifications as such. In most Colonial Territories, doctors from outside who wish to practise are required by law to have qualifications recognised by the General Medical Council in the United Kingdom. The law in the former Mandated Territories, however, gives the local authorities discretion to register practitioners with other qualifications. The recruitment of foreigners for the Government medical services in the Colonies is obviously not free from difficulty, but in fact a number of foreign doctors and dentists have been appointed during the last two or three years. Most of them had obtained British registration."

FOOD GIFT PARCELS TO SOVIET ZONE

It is understood that senders of food gift parcels to the Soviet Zone of Germany should mark their consignments on the outside with a signed note "Gift Parcels, no Merchandise." Furthermore a list of the contents in duplicate should be put into the parcel.

GIFT PARCELS FOR ABROAD

According to information received on going to press, regulations governing the sending of gift and food parcels abroad will be relaxed by the Board of Trade as from 1st September, 1950.

The limit in value will be increased to £10. The 7 lbs. weight limit on food parcels will be withdrawn. The new weight limit allowed by the British Authorities is 22 lbs. Parcels containing food may also contain clothing, soap, etc. It will no more be necessary to include rationed food with unrationed food.

It must be noted, however, that in spite of these new British Export regulations the old Import regulations for *Israel* still stand, i.e.: food gift parcels may not weigh more than 7 lbs. per person per month (including not more than 1 lb. of coffee, 2 lbs. of tea and 2 lbs. of sugar); other gift parcels 4½ lbs. per person per month. Parcels to *Germany* may weigh 22 lbs. per person per month (including not more than 1 lb. of coffee, 8 oz. of tea and 2 lbs. of sugar).

New regulations increasing the weight of parcels to *Israel* may be expected.

Enquiries may be made at the General Post Office, Chief Enquiry Office, Telephone No. Monarch 9876.

A. J. Fischer:

JEW IN AUSTRIA

Before the "Anschluss," Jews held many prominent positions in Austria's economic, scientific, cultural and social life. Numerically, too, they represented a large minority. 200,000 Jews (11% of the population in the capital) lived in Vienna.

Apart from some exceptions, Jews have vanished from Austria's public life. The number of survivors is very small. 975 returned from the concentration camps, and 1,118 were saved by mixed marriages. 440—246 men and 194 women—survived the Nazi regime "legally." Probably this was due to the fact that Vienna was the only city in Greater Germany where a skeleton community administration was officially allowed to function until the liberation. There were only 260 "U-boats." This small number contradicts the assertion of many Austrians, who claim to have given much and generous aid to Jews living underground.

Of the 8,838 Austrian Jews only 166 were born after 1945 and there is a tragic over-agedness of the community. In spite of their bitter experiences and countless recipients of public welfare, Austria's Jews are still thoroughly assimilated and doubtless much more than German Jewry to-day. This tendency is furthered by the relatively large number of "returnees": 1,143 from Shanghai, 728 from Israel, 603 from the United Kingdom and 342 from France. Economic motives were predominant for those returning from Israel and Shanghai. The 603 who forfeited their asylum in Britain belonged in this overwhelming majority to the Free Austrian movement. They are left-radicals and their only tie to Jewry was the monthly joint parcel. Amongst this group a few disappointed and repentant individuals can be found.

Transmigrants

Two hundred thousand East-European Jews, who later went mainly to Israel via Germany have been sluiced through Austria with American aid. Only 5,000 of them chose to remain. Hungarian Jews (1,670) form the largest group, then follow the Rumanians (796), the Czechoslovaks (664) and the Poles (659). Centres for Jewish D.P.s are Vienna, where the famous Rothschild Hospital has been put at their disposal, Salzburg and Linz. Their spiritual leader is Bronislaw Teichholz, an almost legendary figure, whose adventures and escapades as keyman of the Hungarian underground have already been used as background for a novel. A few Jewish D.P.s are engaged in the Black Market. This sinister organisation is, however, controlled by quite different powers. Unfortunately, however, the public does not deal with the Austrian and international racketeers, but with their small Jewish tools.

Since the Western occupation authorities have transferred most of their powers to the Austrians, it is mainly due to the socialist Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer, that right of asylum is continuously being granted to infiltrates from the surrounding Peoples Democracies.

On January 29, 1950, a federation of the remaining communities was inaugurated. It comprises Vienna, Linz, where Simon Wiesenthal, an engineer, is looking after the Historical Institute with its good publications and a first-class library—Graz, Innsbruck, Salzburg and Bregenz. General Secretary of the federation is Director Krell. He is an Executive member of the Association of Socialist Fighters for Freedom and Victims of Fascism. Its main aims are full restitution and counter-actions against Antisemitism and Neofascism, whereby Neofascism is a mild understatement for the real thing.

The policy of the Vienna community, whose Chief Rabbi Dr. Eisenberg hails from Hungary, underwent many fluctuations. Until April 1948, the party "Jewish Unity" under the leadership of David Brill, was in the majority. It is close to the communists. In 1948 it managed to get only 46% of the votes. When discussions about a coalition broke down for reasons of competence, Brill and his friends went into opposition. However, the menace of Antisemitism—emotional and practical, which endangers the whole issue of restitution—led to unity. Thanks to the efforts of the World Jewish Congress representative Dr. Ernst

Stiassny (a native of Austria but to-day a U.S. citizen) and the famous surgeon Professor Mandl, who returned to Vienna from Israel, an agreement was finally reached, which has so far produced practical collaboration. By permitting each group to elect one of their members as community president for a certain term, one of the main difficulties had been removed.

There are to-day in Austria 144 Jewish doctors, 66 dentists, 129 lawyers, 83 engineers, 139 technicians and chemists and 229 students, 104 teachers and professors, 20 Jewish industrialists, 956 merchants and 1,256 private employees, 51 civil servants, 267 tailors and 296 skilled workers.

Dr. Ernst Lachs, a national economist, who was recalled from America, is to-day the right-hand man of Vienna's Lord Mayor. Oskar Pollak (during the war in London) became again editor of the SPO (Socialist Party of Austria) central organ "Arbeiter-Zeitung." Professor Mandl, who led the Zionist group, has just been appointed Austria's delegate at UNESCO.

Another honour was bestowed upon the Jewish actor Ernst Deutsch—he divides his activities between the United States, Germany and Austria—for his outstanding performance as synagogue Shammes Schwartz in the film "Der Prozess" (the ritual murder affair of Tisza Eszlar). Deutsch was awarded the artistic diploma of the city of Vienna. Next to him, Farkas and Leopoldi enliven the Viennese stage.

Use of Heirless Property

There is an active Zionist life and collections produce good results. Attendance at lectures varies from 70-150 people. One of the highlights of social life at Vienna was a ping-pong tournament between the Israeli and the Vienna "Hakoah" teams, and several guest performances of the Israeli prima-ballerina Naomi Aleskovsky at the Vienna Concert Hall. Editor of the Poale Zion paper "Renaissance" is Hugo Löwy, for whose book "Vom Judenhass zum Judenstaat" Ben Gurion wrote the preface. Israel's first consul is Dr. Kurt Lewin, a native of Berlin: a brilliant speaker, who transferred Theodor Herzl's remains to his spiritual homeland.

Next to opposing Antisemitism, which in all four zones takes on a more aggressive form, the question of restitution presents a rising number of difficulties. Thus, the neofascist "Association of Independents" wants to change the restitution law in favour of the "Ariseure." It meets with considerable support of the right wing of the Clerical People's Party. These elements do not only want to see the undecided arbitration suits (30%) left in abeyance, but they also demand a revision of those cases already settled (70%).

From official socialist quarters, such new-fangled ideas are strictly rejected and it has even been rumoured that they may lead to a break-up of the coalition. There is also much disagreement about the use of heirless property. Austrian government circles have been quick in misinterpreting the proposition of the World Jewish Congress expert Dr. Bienenfeld, to create a so-called Hardship Fund. From the sale of the heirless Jewish property they want to pay indemnity also to other circles who encountered losses for quite different motives. (In the first place to farmers, who have been dispossessed by the Nazi government for strategic considerations.) Compensation claims, too, are rejected. While Western Germany makes cash payments to former concentration camp inmates for each day of detention, the Austrians have not passed a similar law.

The basis of Austrian Antisemitism is the old Lueger tradition. Göbbels' racial propaganda fell on fertile ground. Another chapter is the question of restitution. So many non-Jews have directly or indirectly profited from the misfortune of the Jews, that their bad consciences and the unwillingness to part from anything so easily acquired, produces waves of sympathy for the "Ariseure" and not for their victims.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Three Day Jews

As the solemn season of Rosh-hashana returns, attention falls almost inevitably on those Three Day Jews whose Judaism is laden superstition and a string of embarrassments to be frequently apologized for. They will be the main targets of the sermons, and Yiskor will be said for none more appropriately than for these Dead Souls. Of course they are not the exclusive possession of any community, Jew or Gentile, and of Anglo-Jewry it was said by Prof. Brodetsky as long ago as 1928 that "thousands of boys, tens of thousands of girls, grow up in complete ignorance of Jewish learning, life and thought." Since then, we have it on the authority of Mr. L. G. Montefiore, a "new stock of Yiddishkeit" has been introduced by recent immigrants, though even they are believed to be not all conscientious school-goers.

However, it would be wrong to seek the Dead Souls merely in the crowds that will soon through the synagogues. Our superiors, too, have a good deal to answer for, even before they arrive at Ashamnu. The ministers have already begun to ponder at certain notable shortcomings. They have long remarked with some uneasiness that their profession seems to be holding no lures for young men in search of a career, and after sufficient faults have been found with the young men, the Principal of Jews' College now sees the reason in "a general feeling that no qualifications are required for the ministry and that least of all is learning an essential qualification for the ministry."

"Spiritual Guidance"

But the malaise really sits deeper. The ministry is not attractive because the minister is not free to act as his conscience demands. When earlier this year the Free Synagogue of Chicago proclaimed as one of their foremost principles respect for "the personal, intellectual and spiritual integrity of our rabbi" and solemnly vowed "not to challenge his spiritual and intellectual freedom without which he cannot be a rabbi," the *Jewish Chronicle* remarked that "few congregations in this country would be willing to accord their spiritual guides any such responsibility of leadership." The prophet in the pulpit must not displease the kings in the Warden's Box. It is this unedifying condition which, apart from more material considerations, has caused so many ministers to leave England.

Nor is it merely in matters of religion that a malaise proceeds from the conflict of spirit and expediency. If few attend the synagogue, not many more have recently shown an interest in those political meetings which hitherto had the largest appeal. The General Secretary of the British Zionist Federation finds it is "common knowledge that ordinary society meetings are very poorly attended and, in consequence, knowledge of our problems and acquaintance with the tasks which affect our Movement leaves a great deal to be desired." One has to produce a star speaker to attract an audience, and though the Knesset delegation showed itself duly grateful to British Jewry for their good support of the Zionist cause, the gratitude was qualified by criticism that British Jews are now letting them down. How so? Why do people not care to attend meetings? But they do. A crowd of 2,000 was drawn, point blank, by the relatively little known Jewish Psychic Society which exists for the not conspicuously Jewish purpose of establishing contact with the dead. People apparently grow tired of many old stories, and some expect great things from another witch of En-dor now officiating in Kingsway Hall.

Yet in this undoubted crisis, few Jews have deserted the body of Judaism. For one thing, there is so little they can hope to obtain in exchange. In England, the Church is itself in need of conversion, as a Commission of the Archbishops pointed out not long ago, and if the Catholic *Tablet* fancied that the restoration of Israel has "created, for the first time in modern history, the possibility of a really large-scale conversion of Jews," they were wishfully deluding themselves. Nor is the new religion of Communism likely to offer irresistible lures. The English Jew will just go on, and, grown fond of the truly English habit of mixing the sublime with the ridiculous, he will sing:

For he might have become a Rooshian,
A Frenchman, Turk, or Prooshian,
Or a native of Peru.

Yet in spite of all temptations
To belong to other nations,
He kindly remains a Jew.

HIS BROTHER'S KEEPER

The following is the dramatic story of the late Saly Mayer, Swiss Jewish leader, a former Director of the Joint Distribution Committee for Switzerland who died last month and who, more than any other man, was responsible for the saving of Jewish lives.

Ten years ago, a middle-aged Swiss citizen came out of retirement to become one of the heroic figures of modern Jewish history. One day in 1940 a former lace manufacturer left the peace of his well-stocked library in St. Gall, Switzerland, to embark on a new career. By the time his new "job" was completed, ten years later, Saly Mayer had become a key figure in Joint's international rescue efforts, had—through a series of "cloak-and-dagger" episodes—directly or indirectly saved several hundred thousand Jewish lives.

In 1940 Saly Mayer, successful businessman and Chairman of the Israelitische Gemeindebund, Jewish community organisation, was shocked out of his normal existence; into Switzerland from neighbouring countries poured thousands of Jews, fleeing from Nazi terror. To help provide them with the food and clothing and shelter they needed to survive, Saly Mayer volunteered his services to J.D.C.

When Saly Mayer became the Committee's director for Switzerland in 1940, there were already some 6,000 refugee Jews in Switzerland; by 1943 the number had increased to 25,000. To find an office for J.D.C., he simply took over a part of his on lace factory in St. Gall. Working 14 hours a day, he soon found it easier to sleep on an undersized couch in the factory office.

Before long, J.D.C. headquarters in New York had a proposal: since Saly Mayer was living in strategic Switzerland, would he undertake to find channels by which J.D.C. funds could reach Jews in Axis-occupied countries?

Saly Mayer agreed, then proceeded to find "channels." He got money to Jews in Rumania and Poland and Hungary, sending it through the diplomatic pouches of the Swiss Legation, or by using "Aryan" couriers. Through the most difficult days he moved calmly, steadying his staff

with his favourite expression: "Langsam" ("Take it easy").

In 1944 came the climax. From Germany came word that the Nazis, desperate for funds to buy war materials, were ready to sell Jewish lives for cash.

The problem was: how to save these lives without at the same time strengthening the Nazi armies. J.D.C., with the consent of the U.S. State Department and the War Refugee Board, decided on a desperate gamble: Saly Mayer, acting as an independent Swiss citizen, was to "negotiate" with the Nazis.

From the Swiss town of St. Margareten, an old wooden bridge runs across the Bodensee to Austria. One day Saly Mayer came to the centre of this bridge to meet an S.S. officer. Thus began months of negotiations, with Saly Mayer bringing vague promises each day of a huge ransom, always inventing new delays, blustering and demanding that the Nazis show their "good faith" by delaying the deportations of Hungarian Jews, then in greatest danger.

Once, when the S.S. man demanded that he prove his ability to turn over the ransom money, Saly Mayer cabled J.D.C. in New York, within 24 hours received a draft for \$5,000,000. With this draft as bait, Saly Mayer had hundreds of Hungarian Jews released from Bergen-Belsen to Swiss custody, held up the deportation of more than 100,000 Jews from Hungary to Auschwitz.

On V-E Day, J.D.C.'s \$5,000,000 was still intact. It was the first money spent in Europe after the war on behalf of needy Jewish survivors.

Only recently Saly Mayer had been the guest of honour at a luncheon in St. Gall's Valhalla Hotel. During 10 years of J.D.C. service he had remained a volunteer, asking in payment only an occasional American book. His face lit up as he listened to a resolution adopted by J.D.C.'s Administration Committee, with its final words of praise: "To a degree equalled by few men in his time, Saly Mayer has served as his brother's keeper."

LAW and LIFE

Legal Advice Hours (for persons with limited means only): Sunday 11 a.m.—12 noon by appointment.

CRUELTY AND INSANITY IN DIVORCE LAW

"Cruelty" on the part of one of the spouses against the other has been a reason for divorce in English law since 1937. The question arises, whether and to what extent a defendant can plead that he had been insane when committing acts of cruelty. This problem was considered in two recent decisions of the Court of Appeal (*White v. White*, 4.7.49) and the High Court (*Lissack v. Lissack*, 26.5.50).

In the *White* case, two of the three judges, Bucknill and Asquith, took the view that only some types or degrees of insanity could excuse acts which, committed by a sane person, would amount to cruelty, and that not every mental defect could be pleaded. Only if the insanity is of such a kind that it would be a bar to criminal responsibility, the judges decided, it can be pleaded successfully in a divorce case.

The definition for cruelty in the meaning of the Criminal law is laid down in the so-called "M'Naghton Rule," which owes its name to a case decided by the House of Lords in 1843; it says that a defendant is free from criminal responsibility if he "was labouring under such a defect of reason, from disease of the mind, as not to know the nature and quality of the act he was doing, or as not to know what he was doing was wrong." In the *White* case, the judges came to the conclusion that the defendant's "assaults, tirades, tortures and insults" were known by her to be wrong. Therefore, she could not plead insanity and her husband's

petition for divorce on the grounds of cruelty was granted.

The dissenting third judge, Denning, was also in favour of granting the divorce, but for different reasons. He took the view that in the case of cruelty divorce was to be granted in any case and that a plea for insanity on the side of the other party was always irrelevant, also if the type of insanity would exclude criminal punishment. "I can well understand," Lord Justice Denning said, "that a man should not be punished for acts which are outside his control by reason of mental disease; but I do not see why his wife shall not be given relief from her unfortunate plight."

This dissenting view of Denning, L.J., in the *White* case was adopted in the second decision, *Lissack v. Lissack*, in which the wife had petitioned for a decree of divorce against her husband who had murdered their child. The husband had been tried for murder, was found to be guilty but insane and was detained in Broadmoor, the asylum for criminal lunatics. The husband was found not to be incurably insane and there was a possibility of his release. The Judge was prepared to grant the divorce decree, whether or not the defendant was insane, because in his view conceptions of the criminal law should not intrude into divorce law and the question for the Court merely was, "whether the wife can with safety to life and health live with the husband now." Only as a matter of precaution he also considered the degree of the husband's insanity and came to the conclusion that the husband had not proved clearly that he did not know that it was wrong what he did.

Magnus Davidsohn : FRANZ SCHUBERT AND THE CANTOR

By chance, an episode of Franz Schubert's life became known, which is not referred to in any standard work about the great composer. It is reflected in a letter which the family of the great Cantor Salomon Sulzer had in custody and which is preserved in a reproduction. I found this reproduction amongst the old letters, left by Heinrich Fischer, the last successor of Sulzer. In this letter Schubert wrote to Sulzer: "Venerable Master. I was deeply moved when I had the privilege of attending your Service in the Synagogue Seitentstetengasse. I have never heard a voice comparable with yours, so humble and soft and still so clear and understandable. Yours Franz Schubert."

Two days after this letter was written, Schubert paid a visit to Sulzer. He asked him to sing some of the "Lieder" he had just composed and Schubert was deeply touched by the expressive recital. Thus the foundations of a friendship were laid which lasted until Schubert's early death in 1828.

Approximately in 1865 Sulzer himself described in the *Neue Freie Presse* how the song "The Allmacht" was composed by Schubert: "One Friday night, an ecclesiastical dignitary attended the Jewish Service. It was Pyrker, Archbishop of Venice, and gifted poet, who was also a great friend of Schubert's. Whilst still under the impression of the Service, Pyrker wrote his poem "Die Allmacht," which Schubert put immediately into music. The new composition was brought to Sulzer, who sang it in the presence both of the composer and the poet. "It is only now," wrote Schubert, "that I understand my own music and that I realize what I felt when I started the new hymn with the words, 'Great is Jehova, the Lord.'"

In Schubert's view Sulzer was an even greater artist than Vogl, his most intimate interpreter.

Sulzer was the first Jew whom Schubert ever met. He frankly admitted to his benefactor Count Esterhazy that only now he understood the mentality and the high moral standard of the Jewish people.

Do Austrians of to-day know that Sulzer's liturgy of the Jewish Service contains a composition by Schubert based on the Hebrew original wording of the 92nd Psalm?

ROBERT STRICKER MEMOIR

In the gallery of personalities who played an active part in Austria's political and social life between the two wars, Robert Stricker deserves a special place of honour for the ardour and perseverance with which he fought for the rights and interests of the Jewish people. For a short period he was a member of the Austrian Parliament and the only one who was elected on a Jewish national platform. His speeches in that Assembly showed his serious interest in, and real understanding of, issues of general importance.

It was mainly due to his tireless efforts as a speaker, journalist and editor, that in 1932 the Zionists obtained a majority on the board of the Jewish Community in Vienna. In the counsels of the Zionist movement Stricker's advocacy of a Jewish State brought him into sharp and at times bitter opposition to the adherents of a more moderate and "statesman-like" policy.

Stricker perished as a victim of Nazi persecution. In the memoir—"Robert Stricker," edited by Josef Fraenkel (Ararat Publishing Society, London, 7s. 6d.)—a number of friends and sympathisers record their personal reminiscences and impressions of an outstanding man whose contribution to the Jewish cause should not be forgotten although the conception of a Jewish national "Landespolitik" of which he was the most vigorous protagonist, belongs now to the past. F. BRASSLOFF.

Hans Hinkel who, as official of the "Reichskulturkammer," was the "Kommissar" of the Jewish Cultural Organisations in Nazi Germany, was classified as Major Offender by the Munich Court. His estate, with the exception of 5,000 DM., was confiscated. The proceedings took place in the absence of Hinkel, who is at present in a Warsaw prison to face a war crimes trial in Poland.

The famous Bass Emanuel List who emigrated in 1933 and was a member of the New York Metropolitan Opera, returned to Berlin, following a call of Intendant Tietjens. He sang the "Marke" in "Tristan" in the Municipal Opera House.

Kenneth Ambrose :

ALIENS IN BRITAIN

A previous article mentioned some of the disabilities and hazards which aliens in this country had to take in their stride during the 14th to 17th centuries. After this period, the treatment of immigrants gradually became less and less unlike the procedure with which we ourselves have become familiar since we first set foot on these shores. The cruder aspects of the earlier age disappeared, but all the basic attitudes of the past and the present remained.

When the French Revolution caused its refugee problem in this country, the result was the Alien Bill of 1793, which was intended to safeguard this country against the infiltration of French revolutionaries under the disguise of fugitives from the Terror. Its provisions seem to us now less effective than those of our time: Aliens were to give a good reason for their presence in this country, they were to register and to produce passports when called upon; moreover they could be expelled, as was Talleyrand, for instance. Popular feeling was divided, just as we found it to be in the earlier centuries and as we still know it to be to-day. On the one hand there were those who wanted to restrain Frenchmen from meeting more than five at a time for fear of the Jacobin plots they might otherwise hatch and who agreed with that new daily paper, the "Times," that certain French dancing masters were "the veriest Jacobins in existence." On the other hand there was much sympathy with their hardships. Public meetings were held to raise money for them and the British nobility also gave much assistance.

It was estimated that in 1792 more than 40,000 French-born persons were in England, a considerable figure when we remember that the population of the United Kingdom then was less than one-fifth of its present total. We cannot help smiling at the

Maccabiah 1950

Jewish Youth from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia played a prominent part in the 2nd Maccabiah in 1935. When Jewish youth from all over the world will assemble in Israel, "In Unity, for the Honour of Jewry and Glory of Sport," the Jewish Communities from Eastern Europe will not be represented and Austria and the Jewish Communities in Germany will send much smaller teams than 15 years ago.

For the first time, the Maccabiah will be open to all Jewish sportsmen, and teams are expected from 22 countries. Not only in the organisation of the Maccabiah in Israel, former officials of Bar Kochba Berlin (Dr. Atlasz, Levinsohn) and Hakoah Wien (Dr. Justice) have taken a leading part, but amongst 500 competitors and more will be Jewish youth, whose cradle stood in Germany or Austria. Even amongst the British Maccabiah team are a number of men and women who came to this country as Jewish refugees, as children with the Children's Movement or, later on, as war-orphan and survivors of the camps. Amongst many names, we should like to mention Miss Claire Kramer, a Middlesex Champion (formerly Leipzig), Wohlfahrt (an English football schoolboys' international); Igra, a miler; Helfgott (weightlifting) and Halter (swimming), both brought over by the C.B.F.'s children scheme; the former Hungarian swimmers, Engelman and Miss Susi Nador, who represented Hungary at the last Olympic Games; Wittman (formerly Poland) and Hamburger (Rumania), both Davis cup-players for their countries of origin, now resident in Great Britain. A large number of the water-polo players are former members of Hakoah Wien, such as Orlik, Newman, Steyne, Blenford, Corbell.

In many other cases, the country of origin is unknown, but we can say that the youngest generation of refugees from Central Europe has brought a valuable contribution to the British Maccabiah team. The official coaches of the team, Mr. Reisser (swimming), Mr. Rakower (water-polo), and Mr. P. Y. Mayer (athletics) have already played a prominent part in the Jewish Sports Movement in Austria and Germany. Amongst the officials we find Mr. Hart (formerly Stuttgart), Mr. Gradon (formerly Berlin), and Mr. F. Worms (formerly Frankfurt).

way history repeats itself when we read how some of the French upper classes made their livelihood in England. We learn, among others, that the Marquis de Montazet cleaned windows, the Chevalier Anselme worked as a waiter, the Marquis de Chavannes sold coals, and ladies of rank sold artificial flowers and embroideries.

The century from 1815 to 1914 in this country was what one may perhaps call the age of minimum government. The philosophy of life which gained and retained the ascendancy during this period insisted on the least possible government activity in all fields and on the greatest possible fluidity in economic affairs. Man was considered as part of the economy and was therefore to be as little restricted in his movements as were the goods bought and sold in the classical economists' "ideal market." It is true that apart from this "laissez faire" outlook, Britain had also by then become established as the asylum par excellence for political refugees from all countries, but it was her new free-trade philosophy rather than her "asylum mindedness" which made possible the mass immigration of that century. This mass immigration was matched by an even more impressive, if less well known, emigration: more than 20,000,000 people left these islands between 1815 and 1914. This modern "Migration of the Peoples" made it necessary to recast English ideas and procedure regarding naturalisation.

Naturalisation

Before the 19th century, naturalisation was based on the old feudal conception of allegiance and not on the modern idea of nationality. Allegiance was a personal bond between a subject who serves his sovereign, and the latter who protects his subject. This feudal bond between a person and his sovereign was something absolute and could not be severed by either side. If a subject emigrated from this country he did not lose British nationality even though he might acquire another. If this bond was once constructed by naturalisation, it was equally absolute and unconditional.

There was only one way in which an alien could be naturalised, and that was, in the words of the Court of King's Bench in 1669, "by an Act of Parliament with the assent of the whole nation." There was however an inferior type of privilege, which the King could grant without Parliament by issuing letters patent. This was known as "denisation," the alien concerned becoming a "denizen," with certain limited rights only, something like a second-class citizen. We may note in passing that theoretically this procedure is still available, but it was last used about 75 years ago. The procedure of naturalisation by Act of Parliament was made a little less clumsy in some cases by naturalising whole groups of people together, if they were thought sufficiently useful to the country. Thus Charles II naturalised all aliens setting up in the linen, spinning and net weaving trades, and George II all foreign seamen who had served for two years of war on English ships.

Nineteenth century migration clearly required a different approach. Nationality became a legal tie between the individual and the state, and one, moreover, which could be shaken off by either party through a legal procedure. For a century it had not been as absolute as legal theory painted it, since naturalised subjects could not hold office as Privy Councillors, Members of Parliament, nor in certain other civil and military positions of trust. The Naturalization Act of 1844 gave this new outlook legal form and each of us must consider our Naturalisation Certificate as a direct descendant of this Act. It was now made possible to become naturalised through executive action, provided certain conditions of residence and character were fulfilled. An alien so naturalised was equal to a natural-born British subject, except that he still could not be a Privy Councillor or M.P., and that under certain circumstances his naturalisation could now be revoked. Naturalisation by Act of Parliament remains possible, but would only be necessary now if a person is to be naturalised who would not fulfil the conditions of residence, etc., attached to the normal Certificate, or whose grant is not to be made conditional on good behaviour and continued residence in the Empire.

Old Acquaintances

Visitors: People are leaving for the Continent, but from the States comes a flood of visitors. There is Mrs. Lilly Veidt, widow of the late Conrad Veidt. She arrived from New York, and is looking up all the familiar places in London where the Veidts used to live before the war. Another visitor is Liesl Frank-Mittler, the only daughter of Fritz Massary. She was married to the late Bruno ("Storm in Teacup") Frank, and is now Leo Mittler's wife. Liesl saw her mother just before she left, in New York. Also in town is Henry Koster, the famous Hollywood director, whom we used to know when he was called Hermann Kosterlitz. He has just finished "Harvey" with James Stewart, and came to England to direct Neville Shute's "No Highway." Koster made his name, when he discovered Deanna Durbin after he left Europe. Accompanied by his charming wife and his two children he hopes to stay for a few months.

Interlude:—Here are two quotations from German newspapers: a man was punished for hiding a copy of the ill-famed "Jud Süss" picture. He has to pay 100 Marks as a fine. On the other hand, Veit Harlan, who directed this picture, starts working on a new film with his wife Kristina Soederbaum in the leading part.

News from Everywhere:—Maria Fein, her daughter Maria Becker, and her son-in-law Robert Freitag playing Coctau's "Oedipus" in Lucerne.—Directed by I. Mansdorff, a new theatre group called "Ta'az" started with Goldoni's "Misogynist" in Israel.—"Freie deutsche Buehne" in Buenos Aires preparing Zuckmayer's "Barbara Blomberg" directed by Siegmund Breslauer.—Friedrich Schramm, who directed in London's "Covent Garden," took over the directorship of Basle's theatre.—Kurt Hirschfeld of Zurich Schauspielhaus turned down the offer to take over Berlin's "Schiller-Theater."

Kortner's Answer:—People in Munich have the habit to show every visitor from abroad their ill-famed Mochlstrasse, the street populated by D.P.s dealing in the black market. They don't say it, but they do it in order to give a reason for the new Antisemitism. When they led Fritz Kortner through Mochlstrasse, he commented "Let us keep our black-marketeters, and you keep your murderers, please. . . ."

London:—Allan Gray scoring "The Late Edwina Black," scripted by Charles Frank.—Mischa Spolianski, who wrote the music for "Happy go Lovely," starts work on the score of the new Michael Wilding picture.—Meinhart Maur and Marianne Kupfer-Deeming are in "Tales of Hoffmann," the new Emeric Pressburger-Michael Powell picture.—Heinz Tietjen, who runs Berlin's opera in "Theater des Westens," coming to London to produce "Flying Dutchman" at Covent Garden.

U.S.A.:—F. Torberg and Felix Jackson-Joachimson working on television features.—Maxwell Anderson spoke at a memorial service for the late Kurt Weill.—Fritz Reiner will conduct "Fledermaus" at the "Met," and Rolf Gerard will do the decors.

Germany:—Werner Finck invited to lecture in South America and the States.—Gruendgens was attacked for being host to Brecht's "Berliner Ensemble" which showed three productions in Duesseldorf.—Berlin's former "Planetarium" will become an operetta theatre soon.—H. K. Ruppel returned to his old profession as a dramatic critic in Munich after running Stuttgart's theatre.—Heinz Ullstein, publisher of Berlin's weekly "sie," took over the "Splendide" night club.—Clara Viebig celebrated her 90th birthday.—Willy Forst will start his first post-war picture "Die Suenderin" with Hildegard Knef in the leading part.

PEM.

In 1870 and in 1914 relatively minor changes were made in two new Acts, but neither of these affected the new principles under which you and I received our Naturalisation Certificates. In the words of the Royal Commission of 1868, whose report led to the 1870 Naturalisation Act, the indelibility of allegiance was now considered "neither reasonable nor convenient," because it conflicted with "the freedom of action which is now recognised as the most conducive to the general good," and was "inconsistent with absolute freedom of emigration." Times have changed again since then. Maybe we shall have to explain a further new principle to the immigrants of 50 years hence.

FROM MY DIARY

The so-called "Kleine Knaur," the well-known pocket encyclopaedia, has been re-issued and re-edited. The Berlin daily "Tagesspiegel" comments that this new edition devotes much too much space to the National Socialist past of Germany. The programme of the NSDAP has been expounded in a thorough and sympathetic manner, all "Gauler" has been mentioned and even a black-framed "Ehrentafel des Führerkorps des NSDAP" is not missing. All this was done at the expense of anti-Nazis. As an example, the Nazi murderer, Horst Wessel, got seven lines, but the President of the Federal German Republic, Dr. Heuss, had to be content with three and a half lines.

The war in Korea has brought the Nazi Generals into the public limelight again, this time however as military commentators in German newspapers. Apart from the notorious radio commentator of the Nazi times, Lieut.-General Dittmar, Tank-General Guderian and General Geyr von Schweppenburg have taken to the journalistic career. Similar developments are reported from the Eastern Zone.

Tribute to the achievements of the Central British Fund was paid by the Chief Rabbi Dr. Israel Brodie at a reception arranged by the C.B.F. at the Adolph Tuck Hall. Dr. Brodie, who was welcomed by Mr. Anthony de Rothschild, thanked those who throughout the years had contributed to the C.B.F., and appealed for the active co-operation of those who so far had stood aloof.

Dayan Gruenfeld referred to the financial support which the C.B.F. has rendered to the work on behalf of the Jewish War Orphans on the Continent.

Mr. Leonard G. Montefiore described the care for the young survivors of Concentration Camps, who had been brought over to this country after the end of hostilities. With the help of the Central British Fund, most of them have been able to build up their lives in this country; others, who suffered in the Camps, are still under the care of the Central British Fund.

NARRATOR

PERSONALIA

This month the Rev. Magnus Davidsohn terminates the fiftieth year of his professional career. For almost three decades he was the Cantor of the Fasanenstr. Synagogue, Berlin, whose services he conducted from the time of its erection until it was destroyed in 1938. His devotion to his vocation, his knowledge and artistic accomplishments and his extreme interest in the well-being of the members of his Community made him a widely known and greatly respected personality in Berlin Jewish life. Mr. Davidsohn, who is now officiating with the New Liberal Congregation, has always displayed an active interest in the work of the AJR. His many friends in this country and abroad wish him strength and health for many years to come.

It is learnt with deepest regret that Mr. Berthold Koenig, founder member and Vice-Chairman of the Manchester and District Branch of the AJR passed away recently at the early age of 57. His devoted services to the cause of the Community will be always gratefully remembered by the A.J.R. Mr. A. Abel, Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Branch, writes: "A man, great of heart and of stature, in whom the virtues of compassion and modesty were happily blended with practical ability and good humour, the endearing features of his personality will remain unforgettable, but the gap he leaves behind can never be filled. Throughout the years Mr. Koenig was the life and soul of our Group's activities. In the more recent past he was prominent in establishing the Manchester Home for Elderly Refugees and making it the object of his daily care. Speaking for innumerable friends far and wide we extend our warmest sympathy to his wife and daughter in their tragic bereavement."

Miss Eva Massey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Metzger, formerly Mainz, died recently after a very long illness. Before her health broke down, she took an active part in the work of the *Hyphen*, which owes its name to her suggestion, and whose members felt deeply attached to her.

Letter to the Editor

Revival of the A.I.G.V.

Dear Sir,

Dr. L. Weltmann reports in your last issue on a meeting of the Academic Association for Jewish History and Literature. One gains the impression that the meeting was a social success and that the organisers of the function deserve every praise. Outsiders will be glad to hear that active Jewish work is undertaken by the former members of the Academic Association, but in this report there are two statements which invite comment.

1. Dr. Weltmann ventures into the sphere of history and decrees that the A.I.G.V. steered a healthy middle course between the K.C. and K.J.V. I have asked myself in vain why it should have been healthy for a Jewish student at a German university not to have been a member of K.C. or K.J.V. Does Dr. Weltmann consider these two organisations to be extremes which have to be avoided? In the face of the tremendous events which have shattered the Jewish world, the "healthy middle course" seems to be a little out of place.

2. Dr. Weltmann reports a Dr. Pollack to have said that the A.I.G.V. had always been conscious of the perennial values of Judaism, but less concerned with the political issues of the K.C. and the K.J.V. Does he want to convey the impression that the political issues with which the two Academic organisations were concerned, were of their own making? Does he seriously suggest that his own organisation was the true guardian of the perennial values of Judaism? I can only assume that the pleasant atmosphere of the function has carried the speaker away. The political issues with which the two organisations were concerned were "only" the honour of the Jewish name and the future of the Jewish people.

Just the same, I hope that the members of the A.I.G.V. do not identify themselves with the ivory tower attitude displayed in this report and will continue to serve the Jewish community.

Yours, etc.,

H. Capell.

1 Grasmere Avenue,
Wembley, Middx.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Dr. Franz Pollak, "The Limes" off Stafford Road, Oakengates (Salop), will celebrate his 50th birthday this month. In Berlin, Dr. Pollak took an active part in the welfare work of the Jewish Community and also co-operated with the Jewish "Lehrhaus."

Mrs. Dorothea Baumgart, née Lissner, formerly Breslau, will celebrate her 75th birthday on September 12th. She now lives at "Woodcote House," Woodcote Green Road, Epsom, Surrey.

Death

Charlotte Reiser.—On July 18th Mrs. Charlotte Reiser passed away after a long illness. She was the wife of Mr. Siegmund Reiser, 16 Gainsborough Gardens, London, N.W.11, a member of the AJR since its inception. Her death is deeply mourned by her husband, her family and a great number of friends who were attached to her.

CLASSIFIED

Employment

AJR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (annually licensed by the L.C.C.) has on its register men and women (skilled and unskilled), also homeworkers of any kind, sitters-in. Report vacancies esp. for book- and storekeepers. Tel. MAI 4449.

YOUNG MAN, experienced in travelling and all inside administrative duties with piece goods wholesaler is looking for position. Box 916.

ENERGETIC YOUNG AGENT WITH DRIVE AND INITIATIVE REQUIRED by well introduced leading manufacturers of Ladies' Belts, Buttons and Dress Accessories, for outer London and provinces, calling on Trimming Department of Stores and Retail Houses. Apply with full particulars to Box 912.

COOK required for Youngsters' Hostel. Box 920.

SECRETARY, female, fully experienced and competent in all office duties: Bkbp. (compl. set), Wages, I. Tax (P.A.Y.E.), Shorthand-Typing (Engl., German, French), requires position from 10 a.m. Box 919.

TECHNICIAN, returned from Shanghai, very adaptable and conscientious, seeks any suitable situation. Modest salary. Best references. Box 918.

LADY'S COMPANION wants to look after elderly lady. Full or part time. 5 days. Best references. Box 914.

SECRETARY, Engl.—Germ. Shorthand-Typist, Book-keeping, P.A.Y.E., efficient and reliable, wants responsible work. Write Box 911.

BOOK-KEEPING IN ALL CURRENCIES, PAYE, INVOICING, ETC.

Are you without help in keeping your accounts?
Is your book-keeper ill? Is he overworked?

Whatever your requirements, they will be met promptly. Write to Box Nr. 890 or phone Wembley 4880.

EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER, cashier, typist with good refs. seeks post, part or full time. Box 917.

LADY BOOKKEEPER SECRETARY experienced, requires progressive post. Languages. Box 922.

ENGLISH-GERMAN TYPIST for Hampstead Office required. Perfect in both languages and pleasant personality essential. 5-day week. Full details to Box 923.

Accommodation

ACCOMMODATION of any kind wanted. AJR Social Service Dept.

BUSINESS LADY wants unfurnished or partly furnished Room, W.2 preferred. Box 915.

HOME REQUIRED by aged invalid lady in comfortable Continental doctor's or nurse's house with full board in North-West London. Box 903.

ATTRACTIVE FURNISHED BED-SITTING-ROOM with telephone, central heating, constant hot water, partial board, excellent continental cuisine, best St. John's Wood district. CUN 6825.

BUSINESS GENTLEMAN as sole paying guest offered large comfortable bed-sittingroom, newly decorated. All conveniences. Ref. required. West End Lane nr. Finchley Road, Box 921.

Gentleman 50,

good appearance, in sound financial position, owner of house with furnished flat, wants to meet lady, 35-45, good-looking, acquainted with ladies' fashions business, object matrimony.

Write in German to Box 913.

Miscellaneous

ALTERATIONS, Remodels. Dress-maker, Mrs. Cohn, 158 Adelaide Road. PRI 7428.

PRIVATE LESSONS—coaching—small Study Groups in Hebrew—Ivrit—French—Spanish—English for Foreigners—at a moderate fee. Martin Lawrence, 3 Blackburn Road, N.W.6. Phone: MAI 3463.

MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries from AJR

Asch, Dr. Richard, from Ebersteinburg, last known address: General Hospital, Grimsby, for Mrs. O. Ilse, Ebersteinburg.

Heymann, Wally, div. Kalisch, née Bering, abt. 58, lived at Paris but joined son in England, for Gertrud Schlicht, Nauen.

Franklin, Frank Kenneth, formerly Kurt Frankenstein, born at Hanover on 26.10.07, for K. Steinberg, Johannesburg.

Heirs of Emanuel Gutmann and Sophie née Marx, from Munich, for Bayerisches Landesentschaedigungssamt.

Tokayer, Oskar, wife Grete and daughter Susi, for Frida Franke, née Fluske, Berlin.

Mendel, Ernestine, last known address: 98 St. Georges Avenue, Tufnell Park, N.7, for niece Edith Mendel, Berlin.

Weisz, Olga, born on 15.11.30, left DP Camp for England, for IRO.

Bernstein, Helene, née Maas, last known address 15 Empsell Row, Brigg House, Yorks., for AJR.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

NAZI UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS IN OFFICE AGAIN

Some German University Professors who were prominent in propagating the National Socialist racial theory, have been reinstated into their former positions. Among them the notorious Lenz, who advocated the sterilisation of 10 per cent. of each generation and who is again Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Goettingen; Professor Weiner, the author of "Schulungsbriefe on Racial Questions," is again teaching in Kiel; and Hans F. K. Günther who is the recipient of state subvention which will enable him to write another book.

DR. HANFSTAENGEL AGAIN

Dr. Hanfstaengel, of Munich, who had been Hitler's right-hand man in his fight against "distorted" art, has been appointed Commissar of the German Department of the 25th international art biennial in Venice. In the bulletin of the Exhibition it is mentioned as a recommendation that Hanfstaengel had also been the German representative in the two previous biennials which took place during the Nazi regime.

MONUMENTS WRECKED

A monument in honour of political persecutees at the cemetery of Hohenasperg—a large wooden cross—has been completely destroyed by unknown people; at Pocking, other criminals destroyed for the second time a "KZ-Ehrenmal."

HEDLER RE-ELECTED

The National Conference of the German Reichspartei re-elected unanimously the first Chairman, Wolfgang Hedler.

DOES OTTO STRASSER RETURN ?

It is learned that Otto Strasser is expected back in Germany from Canada at the end of October. In the British Zone there is a ban against his return by the Military Government; in Bavaria, however, a right wing splinter party, the Party of the Kriegsgeschädigten, intends to give him a mandate in the Bavarian Parliament.

AGAIN "BADENWEILER MARSCH"

The "Badenweiler Marsch," which at Nazi meetings used to be intoned to announce the arrival of Hitler, was played in Erlangen on the occasion of a "Kirchweih" (Dedication Day). The incident was discussed in the Bavarian Parliament. Ministerpräsident Dr. Ehard declared that it was up to the Public Prosecutor to decide whether action could be taken. In his opinion, it would be wrong to over-estimate the real power of the Neo-Nazi Movement on the strength of such happenings.

TRIALS

Rudolf Beer, leader of the Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp, was sentenced to 15 years penal servitude by the Stuttgart Law Court.

Rechtsanwalt Dr. Wolfgang Zarnack, Berlin, the former "Gaujuristenfuhrer," who took a leading part in the expulsion of Jewish Judges and Lawyers from the Berlin Law Courts in 1933, was classified as minor guilty ("Mitläufer"). This means that 15 per cent. of his estate will be confiscated. His temporary debarment from professional work will, according to sentence, terminate on June 30, 1950.

The former Gestapo Official, Georg Albert Dengler, ill-famed as the "Judenhenger" of Darmstadt, was sentenced to 6 years penal servitude.

GERMAN CONSUL-GENERAL VISITS RABBI

The West German Consul-General in Paris, Dr. Wilhelm Hausenstein, before his departure for France called on Dr. Aaron Orenstein, Rabbi of Munich.

In the course of the conversation, Dr. Hausenstein declared that he would regard it as his task also to represent the Jewish part of the population in the Western German Republic.

PROTESTANTS CARE FOR JEWISH CEMETERIES

The Protestant Church of the Rhineland at present investigates the position of old Jewish Cemeteries in their district with the view to bringing them under the care of the local parishes unless public or municipal authorities have already taken charge of them.

STUDENTS OFFER HELP

In a letter to the Jewish Community, Berlin, the Protestant Students Congregation of the Technical University, Berlin, offered practical help to the Jews and made, *inter alia*, the following proposals: In the case of desecration of Cemeteries they would help in the restoration work; their choir would like to sing in the Jewish Hospital; and they would render financial support to Jewish students. A similar offer was submitted by the Protestant Students Congregation of the Humboldt University.

HEBREW IN GERMAN SCHOOLS

A number of secondary schools in Northern Germany have introduced Hebrew as an optional subject. This is ascribed to the great interest of German youth in Middle East affairs, especially Israel, and to the eagerness of students of theology to acquire a knowledge of Hebrew.

DACHAU AS WARNING

The municipal authorities of Munich recommended to the Headmasters of Munich Schools to show school-leaving pupils the Dachau Concentration Camp and the Memorial Place at the Leitenberg near Dachau.

Dortmund.—Dr. B. I., who recently returned from a visit to Dortmund, reports that the Community now consists of about 200 members. The regular services on Sabbath and Festivals in the Betsaal of the Community Building are well attended. Due to the devotion of the first Chairman, Landgerichtsdirktor Rosenbaum, the Head of the Administration, Herr Siegfried Heimberg, the other Honorary Officers and the welfare worker Mrs. Else Isaak, everything possible is being done to achieve an intense Jewish religious Community Life and to carry out the manifold charitable obligations.

Stuttgart.—A new Betsaal was consecrated recently. The address was given by the Chairman of the Community, Josef Warscher, and the service was conducted by Herrn Kormann. It is expected that Rabbi Dr. Neufeld, now in Israel, will come to Stuttgart for a period of two years. The Government of the Land Württemberg-Baden gave a grant of DM. 300,000, for the reconstruction of the Synagogue.

AJR AT WORK

BRUNO WEIL AT AJR MEETING

At a most interesting AJR Meeting on July 27 at Broadhurst Gardens, Dr. Bruno Weil gave a vivid description of "The North and South American countries and their Jewish immigrants from Central Europe."

He said there were 500,000 Jews in Latin America and ten times as many (5,000,000) in U.S.A., where now almost 50% of all Jews who survived the Nazi terror were living. In some South American countries the newcomers formed about 50% of the entire Jewish population.

Whilst in the Latin American countries the Jewish immigrants who arrived after 1933 had often been pioneers in the economic field and succeeded in exploring new trades and industries, Dr. Weil continued, they were not to the same extent absorbed in the cultural, social and political life of their new home countries. On the other hand, in U.S.A. many newcomers from Central Europe played an active part in the professional and scientific life. Whereas the number of refugee lawyers and doctors was negligible in the Latin American countries, there were about 50-100 refugee lawyers and about 1,000 doctors in New York alone.

Dr. Weil also mentioned the problem of the old established non-Jewish German communities, whose members in some South American countries, especially in Chile, often were the protagonists of Nazism.

The congregations built up by Jews from Central Europe in the capitals of South American countries are well organised and most active in the cultural, religious and economical field.

It was particularly gratifying to obtain from Dr. Weil an impression of Jewish life in South American countries, of which most people here have rather a scanty knowledge.

Dr. Reichmann was in the Chair.

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THE HYPHEN

Sunday, September 24th, 7.30 p.m., at "The Dorice" Restaurant, 169a Finchley Road, N.W.3 (Lower Ground Floor). Talk by Mr. W. Rosenstock: "What I saw in Germany—Report on a recent visit."

All further details and particulars of further functions to be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Ilse Leven, 78 Compayne Gardens, N.W.6.

FOREIGN STUDENTS IN WESTERN GERMANY

The Frankfurt daily *Die neue Zeitung* estimates that 1,500 students from the United States, Great Britain, Switzerland, Holland and Scandinavia are visiting Germany this summer. Six hundred of them are attending summer schools organised at twenty universities in Western Germany.

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