

# AJR

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE  
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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## GERMAN JEWRY'S HOPES AND REQUESTS

The Contractual Agreement between the Western Allies and the German Federal Republic will certainly be the subject of heated discussions before its ratification is decided upon. The complexity of the underlying problems is indicated by the fact that there are no clear-cut divisions between the partners of the discussion: political groups who otherwise differ widely come to identical conclusions, though for entirely different reasons, whereas, on the other hand, parties whose political principles usually do not diverge too much from each other, take opposing views on the question of Western Germany's integration into the Western Block at this juncture. There can hardly be a common, specific Jewish point of view in this matter of World Policy, and, broadly speaking, every Jew will react according to his general political convictions. Nevertheless, Jews, and especially Jews from Germany, are influenced in their approach by one important fact: more than any other community, they have experienced the brutal forces emanating from Germany. Therefore, also as far as they do not object to Western Germany's rearmament (a highly controversial question even among the Germans themselves), they are particularly anxious to rest assured that rearmament—a programme also of the Western democracies—does not lead to the re-militarisation and to the revival of the evil spirit which led to the catastrophe of the past decade.

### An Important Anniversary

Just in these days we commemorate the anniversary of an event whose historical importance as a warning signal was not fully realised when it occurred: thirty years ago, on June 24, 1922, the shots, fired in Berlin's Koenigsallee, ended the life of a Jewish Minister of the Weimar Republic, Walther Rathenau. It was an attack against the German democratic forces, and, at the same time, it revealed the precarious position of German Jewry even in those early days of the Weimar Republic. State Funeral and General Strike were the spontaneous reactions, but, in the long run, indolence helped to bring the political associates of the murderers to power. How this could happen, was, to some extent, recounted in an article of the previous issue of this paper. History does not repeat itself mechanically, but certain basic experiences of the past may serve as lessons for the present.

The Contractual Agreement with Germany includes a Convention by which the "Settlement of Matters arising out of the War and the Occupation" is to be secured; the main clauses referring to restitution and compen-

sation are reported in another part of this issue. It will be the object of the AJR, of the "Council of Jews from Germany" and of the "United Restitution Office" to work for a speedy and effective realisation of these commitments.

### Hague Conference Resumed

Other tasks in the field of restitution and compensation arise from the German-Jewish negotiations on material claims. Since we reported about this matter two months ago, various incidents occurred which made it doubtful whether the Conference would resume its work at all. In the meantime, the prerequisites for the continuation of the talks have been established and, as this issue is going to print, the deliberations have been taken up again. We shall keep readers informed on further developments.

Considering the manifold external problems we have to face, it is particularly regrettable that, in safeguarding the rights of the former German Jews we also meet difficulties from Jewish quarters due to the attitude of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO) in the U.S. Zone. As readers know, JRSO has so far refused to recognise the rightful claim of the Jews from and in Germany for a share in the heirless and unclaimed former property of German Jews. In a communique issued after a Joint

Meeting in Duesseldorf and published in this issue, the "Council of Jews from Germany" and the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany have again expressed their strong disapproval of this attitude.

### Our Claim to our Heritage

The deported German Jews were the next-of-kin of those German Jews who have survived the catastrophe and who had helped to build up the Jewish communities in Germany. Their property is therefore the heritage of the Jews from and in Germany. It may happen that heirs renounce their rights, but it is unheard of that they should have no say if the distribution of their heritage is at stake. Nevertheless, so far the "Council" and the "Zentralrat" have not raised the matter from this legal point of view; they have also restricted their claim to a part of the heritage, realising the assistance rendered to German Jewry by the Jewish relief organisations between 1933 and 1945 and also recognising the needs now existing in other parts of the Jewish world. Yet if they claimed not even a share in the heirless property, they would not only act against the spirit of their deceased nearest ones to whom this property belonged, but also neglect their duty towards those in their trust. An impoverished community like the remnants of German Jewry cannot afford to renounce its heritage. Week after week, the AJR is faced with tragic cases of refugees who

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## BONN CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT

### Restitution Safeguards

One of the Conventions between the German Federal Republic and the Western Allies deals with matters arising out of the War and the Occupation. This Convention also contains clauses to safeguard the restitution and compensation claims of Nazi victims. It stipulates the obligation of the Federal Republic "to implement fully and expeditiously and by every means in its power" existing legislation on restitution. The Allied Powers have reserved rights of observation and inspection. The Federal Republic has also undertaken to insure the payment to restitutees of all judgments or awards which have been or shall be given or made against the former German Reich; this obligation of the Federal Republic shall be, if the Federal Republic so requests, considered to have been satisfied when the Federal Republic shall have paid a total of DM. 1,500,000,000. Furthermore, the Convention provides for the establishment of a Supreme Restitution Court, consisting of three divisions (Senate) with five Justices each (two Allied, two German and one of neutral nationality).

With regard to compensation, the Federal Republic undertakes, *inter alia*, that future legis-

lation shall be not less favourable to claimants than the legislation now in force and that legislation of the Laender shall be supplemented and amended to afford a basis throughout the Federal territory for compensation no less favourable than is afforded in the Laender of the U.S. Zone. Adequate opportunity for observation is to be afforded to the three Powers as far as claims of non-German nationals or non-residents are concerned.

The Chapter "Foreign Interests in Germany," *inter alia*, stipulates that persons who claim or have claimed restitution shall be exempted on the first DM. 150,000 which would be taxable under the provisions of the "Soforthilfe" or "Lastenausgleich." This exemption is, in the Convention, limited to a 6-year period from April 1, 1949, to March 31, 1955. The Equalisation of Burdens Bill (Entwurf des Lastenausgleichsgesetzes), which so far has only been adopted by the Lower House but not by the Upper House of the Bonn Parliament, does, however, in its present wording not restrict the exemption for victims of Nazism to a period of 6 years.

## FROM GERMANY

### WRITERS AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

The Congress of Berlin Writers has passed a resolution against the production of Nazi literature. The State Attorney of the "Bundesgericht" is requested to look into publications which are apt to spread new Nazi and anti-Semitic tendencies. Literature of this kind included memoirs and so-called reports of facts which commemorated persons and circumstances during the Nazi regime, "thus creating the psychological condition for the return of Nazism."

### DEATH OF CARDINAL FAULHABER

Cardinal Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich, died, 83 years old. He always took up a courageous stand against the Nazi doctrines. In a series of sermons which he preached in 1933 and on many other occasions he publicly denounced the racial theories of Nazism and the anti-Jewish measures of the regime.

### IMPRISONMENT FOR CONCENTRATION CAMP COMMANDANT

The former Commandant of the Concentration Camp Hamburg-Fuhlsbuettel, Paul Ellershausen, has been sentenced to 12 years penal servitude by the Hamburg District Court.

### AGAIN "BERLINER MORGENPOST"

The Ullstein-Verlag, Berlin, will resume the publication of the "Berliner Morgenpost." The licence has been granted by the U.S. High Commissioner to Herr Ernst Strunk and Herr Karl Tuch. The "Morgenpost," founded in 1889 by Leopold Ullstein, was once one of the most popular newspapers.

### RUDOLF UND EMILIE MOSSE-HEIM

During the "Woche der Bruederlichkeit" a celebration took place in the Rudolf und Emilie Mosse-Heim, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, to commemorate the generous founders of the Home. The portraits of the Mosse couple, which had been hidden when the Nazis were in power, were again displayed in the dining room.

### RABBI RECALLS HELPFUL GERMANS

In the "Auslandswarte," Rabbi Dr. M. Freier (Berlin) suggests that Jews all over the world should send to the Jewish Community in Berlin names and addresses of German Christians who at one time or another have been helpful to them during the Nazi regime.

**Berlin.** The result of the recent elections to the Berlin Repraesentantenversammlung is as follows: Liberal Jewish Group: 14 seats; National Jewish Group: 11 seats; Group for Reconstruction: 1 seat.

**Stuttgart.** The new Synagogue of the "Israelitische Kultusvereinigung Wuerttemberg-Hohenzollern" at Firnhaberstrasse was consecrated recently by Landesrabbiner Dr. S. J. Neufeld. An address was also given by Minister President Dr. Reinhold Maier.

### German Jewry's Hopes and Requests — Contd.

have lost their working capacity and have nothing to fall back upon. The establishment of Old Age Homes would, at least to some extent, relieve them of their sorrows. There are also many other schemes which urgently call for realisation. What holds good for this country also refers to the position of refugees from Central Europe in other countries of immigration. It also applies to the Jews inside Germany whose social standard is, on the average, very low, and many of whom are destitute. If the joint resolution passed by the "Council of Jews from Germany" and the "Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland" contributes to a speedy and satisfactory amicable settlement of the claim to our heritage without necessitating further public discussions and other steps, it will have served its purpose. At the same time it will help to have justice reinstated.

# RESTITUTION NEWS

## FESTSTELLUNG VON VERTREIBUNGS-SCHAEDEN UND KRIEGSSCHAEDEN

(Assessment of damages due to expulsion or war)

Am 21. April 1952 hat die Deutsche Bundesrepublik ein Gesetz erlassen (Feststellungsgesetz), auf Grund dessen auf Antrag Vertreibungsschaeden, Kriegsschaeden und Ostschaeden festgesetzt werden koennen. Waehrend Vertreibungs- und Ostschaeden fuer im Ausland Lebende nicht festgestellt werden koennen, kann die Feststellung von Kriegsschaeden ohne Ruecksicht auf Wohnsitz und Staatsangehoerigkeit beantragt werden. Ausgenommen von der Feststellung sind Kriegsschaeden, die ausserhalb des Bundesgebiets und von West-Berlin entstanden sind, sowie Hausrat (wenn nicht mehr als 50% verloren gegangen ist), Bargeld, Edelmetalle und Kunstgegenstaende.

Sobald die Durchfuehrungsverordnungen ueber das Antragsverfahren und die sonstigen Einzelheiten ergangen sind, wird hierueber berichtet werden.

## HAFTENTSCHAEDIGUNG SHANGHAI

(Compensation for Shanghai Ghetto Inmates)

Wie bereits in No. 5 von "AJR Information" berichtet wurde, ist der Senat der Stadt Berlin vergleichsweise bereit, eine EntschaeDIGUNG fuer die Haft im Ghetto Shanghai in Hoehe von 3000 DM zu zahlen, wenn dieser Vergleichsvorschlag bis zum 30 Juni 1952 angenommen wird. Diese Frist zur Annahme des Vergleichs ist jetzt bis 31. Oktober 1952 verlaengert worden. Zur Vermeidung von Missverstaendnissen wird darauf hingewiesen, dass sich diese Regelung natuerlich nur auf solche Geschaedigten bezieht, fuer die das EntschaeDIGUNGSGESETZ Berlin zustaendig ist.

## HAFTENTSCHAEDIGUNG FUER ZWANGSARBEIT IN BAYERN

(Compensation for forced labour in Bavaria)

Nach der bisherigen Fassung des EntschaeDIGUNGSGESETZES fuer Haftentschaedigung in Bayern wurde Zwangsarbeit nicht der Haft gleichgestellt. Der Bayerische Landtag hat in seiner Sitzung vom 15. Mai 1952 beschlossen, dass das Tragen des Judensterns in Verbindung mit geleisteter Zwangsarbeit als politische Haft im Sinne des EntschaeDIGUNGSGESETZES anerkannt wird.

## OFFICIALS OF DRESDENER BANK

According to information recently received by the AJR, the Dresdener Bank has transferred its Headquarters to Frankfurt/Main, Gallus Anlage 7. Persons who think they have claims arising from their previous employment with the Dresdener Bank are therefore advised to send their inquiries to this address.

## PENSION CLAIMS OF AUSTRIAN BANK EMPLOYEES

An "Association of former Austrian Bank Employees in Great Britain" has been formed to undertake steps to obtain satisfaction of pension claims of its members. The chairman is Mr. R. Hitchman, the Hon. Secretary Mr. W. Augenfeld. Inquiries have to be sent either to: World Jewish Congress, 55 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1. or to: W. Augenfeld, 71 Avondale Avenue, London, N.12.

## "COUNCIL" AND "ZENTRALRAT" MEET IN DUESSELDORF

On May 28 the Executive Committee of the "Council of Jews from Germany" and of the "Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland" held a meeting in Duesseldorf. The "Council" was represented by its President Dr. Leo Baeck, its Vice-President Dr. Walter Breslauer (London), and its Hon. Secretary Dr. Hans Reichmann (London). Throughout the years both the "Council" and the AJR have considered it one of their duties to strengthen the contacts with those German Jews who, under terrible conditions, have survived the War in Germany or in the concentration camps. There have been repeated mutual consultations whenever leading emigrated Jews came to Germany or when representatives of the Jews in Germany visited England. The recent meeting in Duesseldorf was, however, the first session at which the central organisations of the German Jews inside and outside Germany formed a platform to discuss their problems on a wider basis. All those who were present realised the strong bonds between the Jews in and from Germany arising from their common past.

### Cultural Tasks

It is a significant symptom that the first subject of the agenda referred to the cultural efforts of the Jewish Communities in Germany. It is easily understandable that the remnants of these Communities, having lost many of their previous leaders, are anxious to strengthen their self-respect and to overcome their feelings of isolation by being brought into touch with the spiritual heritage of Judaism and with the current cultural trends of Jews all over the world. It will be one of the tasks of the "Council" and of the AJR to meet these vital demands by sending experienced lecturers and speakers to the Jewish Communities in Germany.

The Duesseldorf Conference also dealt with various aspects of the restitution and compensation problem. In view of the fact that many questions which in the past were dealt with by the Occupying Powers will in future be decided by German Authorities, an exchange of experience between the "Council" and the "Zentralrat" was particularly important in the interest of Jewish Nazi victims inside and outside Germany. The claim

of the Jews from and in Germany for an adequate share in the heirless and unclaimed formerly Jewish property in Germany played a prominent part in the discussion. After the Conference Rabbi Dr. Baeck was received in audience by Federal President Heuss, whom he has known for a very great number of years.

### Common Aims

The outcome of the Session is laid down in the following Communiqué:—

"The Conference expressed the hope that all compensation claims put forward by surviving Jews from and in Germany, and acknowledged by the German delegation at The Hague, will be settled without delay. Those persecuted Jews, who because of their age, are in greatest need and who have been waiting 19 years for compensation to be made, suffer new and heavy damage from any further delay in the settlement of their legal claims."

"The Conference was of the unanimous opinion that heirless and unclaimed properties of Jews who were resident in Germany before they were murdered, should be assigned for specific purposes only."

"For ethical and legal reasons, social institutions of Jews now in Germany as well as the social needs and projects of Jews expelled from Germany and now resident abroad must be given first attention and maximum consideration in the use of these properties."

"All delegates at the Conference expressed their disapproval of the attitude which the executive of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation in the United States zone has adopted on this question which is of such vital importance to Jews in and from Germany. The Conference has decided to initiate steps which seem appropriate in order to secure the realisation of this essential claim."

"The Council of Jews from Germany, representing all Jews who emigrated from Germany, and the Central Council as the representative body of Jewish communities in Germany, have decided upon close future co-operation."

"Representatives of the Working Committee of Jewish Lawyers in Germany, as well as three rabbis officiating in Germany, also participated in the Conference."

# Alfred Joachim Fischer : THE JEWS OF CYPRUS

Cyprus, which can be reached within one hour by air from Israel or within half a day by boat, spells tragic memories for the Jewish world. Here altogether 50,000 Jews who failed to reach Palestine illegally, were interned during the last period of the mandate.

According to legend, this third-largest island of the Mediterranean had a large and prosperous Jewish community many centuries ago, which after persecutions and pogroms was completely annihilated. Around 1895, ICA experiments of the philanthropist Baron Hirsch were started there. He bought soil in Cyprus and put it at the disposal of Russian Jews, who had escaped from pogroms in their homeland. These first Jewish immigrants tried their hand at farming on co-operative lines. Although they had been well furnished with money and nice houses were put at their disposal, they did not make the grade. They lacked basic knowledge about farming and even more adaptability to the demands of a soil badly lacking in water and not suitable for extensive agriculture. The new settlers also had difficulties in getting used to hard agricultural work, which only shows results after many years of toil, without the ideological background, which Palestine doubtless offered, but not Cyprus.

Gradually, most of the Jewish settlers left again, the greater part for Palestine and a smaller for the Argentine. None of them remained in the ICA villages, whose houses went to ruin and whose soil was sold to native Greeks.

In 1920, a second Russian ICA wave was washed on to the island, but was also unable to take root. Of this group only fifteen families remained, who are living mainly in and around the harbour town of Larnaka. They are not only traders, but also owners of some large and remunerative orange and olive plantations and vineyards.

## Immigration of Nazi Victims

The Hitler emigration from Germany brought new Jews to the island, of whom only one Jewish family (Georg Hirsch) from Cologne remained. He owns to-day the largest textile store of the capital Nicosia. Diplomats from as far as Ankara and Istanbul fly out here to do their shopping. A greater number of Jewish immigrants arrived later from Austria. Until 1936 there were no regulations whatsoever concerning settlement. In fact, the government was happy about anyone wanting to take up residence here. After 1936 it refused to grant labour permits and the residence permission issued by the police had to be extended every three months. Some pressure was exercised upon the owners of the so-called permits—without, however, leading to any deportations. Naturalisation is granted with much greater reluctance than in England.

In 1941, when the German radio already advised the Cypriots to behave peacefully and quietly during the anticipated Rommel invasion, the government evacuated all English women and children. An offer was made to Polish refugees and the Jewish community to participate in this evacuation, which was gratefully accepted by all but twelve families. Some managed to get ashore in Israel and in 1945 were put before the alternative of either returning to Cyprus or to be treated as illegal immigrants. Almost all, however, took part in the evacuation to Africa (free first-class passage).

After the war, whoever wished to, could remain in Tanganyika. Some Jews obtained high-ranking and well-paid civil service posts. A Jewish doctor from Germany to-day owns a castle and has a practice which for European standards is unbelievably large and remunerative. His colleague (originally from Austria) returned to the island and works to-day for one of the large mining companies. He is now the only Jewish doctor in Cyprus.

So far, Cyprus had not known a Jewish question. Through the interned masses, the people became Jew-conscious. Greater demand brought a slight increase of food prices and some resentment amongst the Greek middle classes. Only later, when an economic crisis started after the dissolution of the camps, whose only remaining witnesses are the 150 tombstones in Margo, these short-sighted elements recognised the profits they had derived from some ten thousand paying, i.e. paid-for, guests. The overwhelming majority of the Cypriot people was sympathetic towards the unhappy camp inmates.

To-day the relations between the Jews, whom no one regards as serious competitors, and the non-Jewish population are again quite normal. Practically, there is no anti-Semitism: neither in the British colonial administration, nor amongst the various nationalities. The Greeks have no anti-Semitic traditions. Turks and Armenians, however, feel outnumbered by the 80 per cent. Greeks with their radical ENOSIS (Union with Greece) slogans, and welcome any additional minority, irrespective of whether they be Arab Maronites or Jews.

The economic situation of the Jewish community on the island is above average. Significantly, there is only one—and, therefore, well looked after—recipient of public assistance. In addition to the returnees from Africa and Israel some Egyptian and Iraqi Jews (holders of British passports) arrived recently. They brought with them ample funds, and are therefore quite independent. Some Jewish artists (country of origin: Hungary) are much acclaimed in the many cabarets of the island.

Sometimes it is difficult to collect a Minyan in Nicosia. Temporary hotel guests from Israel have to fill the gap in such cases. On high holidays the Jews of the whole island come to Nicosia. A hotel hall is rented and a synagogue improvised. Since Mr. Weiner became president, social functions have taken place about twice monthly. The committee even plans to build a synagogue with club-house attached.

## Close Contacts with Israel

Last, not least, the existence of Israel and the high prestige she enjoys in Cyprus have activated Jewish life on the island. Recent collections for the victims of the floods have brought excellent results. In any case, the proximity of Israel leads to a magnetic attraction. Many Cyprus Jews fly over almost every fortnight and feel themselves as half-Israelis.

This development has been further enhanced by the establishment of an Israeli consulate. Yerachmiel Ram Yaron, alias Lustig, the first consul, succeeded in strengthening the formerly loose contact between the Jews on the island (he managed to enlist some 170, total population: 450,000). Yaron, who has now become Consul in Chicago, hails from Vienna. Already during the mandatory regime, he was the highest Jewish official in the Criminal Investigation Department and later became vice-chief of the Tel-Aviv Police. The present acting consul, Vice-Consul Eliezer Marom, enjoys great popularity amongst Jews and non-Jews on the island. Cyprus is the first post of this almost Zabre, who came to Palestine when he was three months old.

Cyprus is of considerable importance for the Jewish state. Israel is greatly interested in changing her unfavourable trade balance. In 1951 her imports from the island amounted to £1,000,000, while her exports totalled only some £55,000. Israel is hoping to sell Kaizer-Frazer cars here, but they are constructed for right-hand drive, while there is left-hand driving on the island. As Nicosia became the main supplier of individual and collective food parcels, even for Swiss companies, Cyprus's exports to Israel exceeded the direct orders from Tel Aviv. They have considerably enhanced the general prosperity and enlarged the premises of many shops.

Lastly, there are also some direct Israeli interests in Cyprus. The largest orange plantation, which represents one third of the whole citrus export of the island, has, in addition to Egyptian and local Greek shareholders, also many Israeli ones and employs three Jews in prominent positions.

Artificial teeth are produced with Israeli capital, amongst them also black teeth, which go to Siam's beetle-nut chewing population. Other examples of the industrial initiative of the local Jews are found in their manufacture of soap, jute, nails, etc.

Solel Boneh, the contracting organisation of the General Federation of Jewish Labour in Israel (Histadruth), is a shareholder in a Nicosia company, which is doing a great deal of construction work for the British authorities. Its manager is an Israeli citizen.

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## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### The Anglo-Jewish Association

The new duties of the Anglo-Jewish Association were ably interpreted by the former Colonial Secretary, Mr. L. S. Amery, when he addressed the AJA's Annual Dinner recently. The Association had been founded, 80 years ago, as a counterpart of the Alliance Israélite Universelle, to alleviate Jewish suffering in unenlightened countries and promote cultural work among oriental Jewry. That would no longer be their business, Mr. Amery said. In the first instance, Britain simply lacked the power, and in the second, most of the communities had ceased to exist. The AJA's duty, therefore, must be to concentrate on work nearer home—as it recently announced, "to strengthen the communal life of Anglo-Jewry."

Inasmuch as it sought to do this by way of publishing a periodical, the effort was not blessed with success: the Jewish Monthly, in its sixth year, has just been forced to cease. The usual argument of the high cost of production was put forward, but, said the chiefs of the AJA, the only people who ought to be ashamed of themselves are the Jewish community: they simply were not sufficiently interested in their own cultural endeavours.

### Trade Depression

The economic position of a large number of British Jews has naturally been affected by the present slump in the clothing industry. In Leeds, which is probably the heart of the trade, about 2,000 Jewish workers used to be employed before the war at Messrs. Montague Burton's alone. Now, according to a report by Mr. W. Goldberg, Secretary of the Leeds Garment and Clothing Workers Union, the figure is approximately 300 out of a total number of about 1,500 Jewish clothing workers spread over some 200 factories in Leeds. Altogether Jews are only a small percentage of the total (about 40,000) employed in the Leeds industry. On the other hand, the percentage of Jewish employers is nearly 50 per cent, and there is a high proportion of Jewish managers and foremen in the trade.

### Honours

A number of British Jews received conspicuous distinctions. Among the Birthday Honours conferred by the Queen was a knighthood for Prof. L. B. Namier, Professor of Modern History at Manchester University, who was from 1929 to 1931 Political Secretary of the Jewish Agency. His latest collection of essays, "Avenues of History," has had an almost rapturous reception among younger historians.

Dr. Hersch Lauterpacht, Q.C., Professor of International Law at Cambridge, is to be Britain's representative on the International Law Commission. Last year he helped to present the British case against Persia at The Hague.

High tribute was paid to the outgoing Mayor of Hackney, Cllr. Lever, a prominent Jewish trade unionist. He did much, said the *Hackney Gazette*, "to cement the good relations between the Jewish and Gentile communities in a borough which has been made a battleground for racial strife by certain political parties." Another East End borough, Stepney, is having a Jewish Mayor this year, so is the city of Hull.

The Jewish congregation of Plymouth celebrated its 200th anniversary by reconsecrating the synagogue which, built in 1761, is the oldest synagogue in England after Bevis Marks. Most of the founders had immigrated from Germany, by occupation generally naval agents, silversmiths, grocers, cap-makers and merchants. C.C.A.

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# PROFILES OF AN EPOCH

## KURT HILLER'S PORTRAITS

About ten years ago, in London, Kurt Hiller had a public "Streitgespräch" (discussion) with me on the Jewish question. We both were agreed in our dislike of assimilation, but he favoured complete absorption of the Jews in the lands of their adoption, and I advocated their national regrouping in Palestine. I have always respected his point of view, and in the intervening years he came to respect mine. I regret all the more, therefore, that in his latest book "Köpfe und Tröpfe, Profile aus einem Vierteljahrhundert" (Rowohlt), he has included an essay on "Tucholsky and the Jewish self-hatred," written in 1936, before, to some limited extent, he had revised his attitude towards Zionism.

However, this should not mar one's joy at reading what is no doubt the best prose written since Karl Kraus and Alfred Kerr—to both of whom he feels related and indebted. Indeed, these two lifelong irreconcilable foes have found in Hiller not only an heir but a synthesis of their style and spirit.

The publisher says in his blurb: "Polemics reach here the highest degree of art." Not only polemics; but Hiller reveals greatness and beauty as much as he despises stupidity and lies: he loves with the same fervour as he hates. As an apostle

of Ratio and a fighter for humanism, he is of European calibre. Hiller has called himself a "Politosoph," which means that he is at home in the regions where politics and philosophy mingle.

One of his greatest merits is the re-definition of "democracy" (re-formulated in the essay "The Prejudices"). He distinguishes between the liberal element in democracy and its principle of majority. The one—discussion, rights of the individual, maximum of freedom—is a development of Plato's ideas; the other—absolute rule of majorities—has, again and again, led to victory of stupidity and, in the case of Germany, to barbarism. Many of Hiller's former works are devoted to finding a constitutional way of "selecting the most suited."

"Köpfe und Tröpfe" are profiles of public figures; most of them are not meant to portray total pictures but to sketch a few relevant features of a personality. Under the microscope of Hiller's analysis appear philosophers and publicists, poets and politicians, thinkers and dilettantes—Heinrich Mann and Hindenburg, André Gide and Otto Strasser, Magnus Hirschfeld and Wilhelm Frick, Benes and Jules Romains. In his "Mausoleum for Martyrs" he has built niches for Theodor Wolff, Rudolf Olden, Erich Mühsam and Carl v. Ossietzky. Among his "Teachers and Friends" are Ludwig

Quidde, Helene Stöcker, Romain Rolland, Alfons Goldschmidt and Ernst Toller.

The socialist Hiller has been denounced, abused and insulted by Communists, yet he has never wavered in his struggle against despotism, including its red brand. In the 18 pages of his essay "Marx critique in the nut-shell," he gives one of the finest studies of Hegel and the Marxian materialism.

Hiller's essays are like diamonds—transparent, glistening, highly polished; like genuine jewels, built with precision and mathematical exactitude but, at the same time, colourful and beautiful. "Dissecting and constructing are a contrast only as long as there is no creator who cancels it." Hiller is such a creator.

HERBERT FREEDEN

## EUGEN SCHIFFER'S MEMOIRS

Eugen Schiffer, whose reminiscences have been published under the title "Ein Leben für den Liberalismus" (Berlin, Grunewald, Herbig), is now more than 90 years old. Almost half a century ago he entered the Prussian Chamber of Deputies, where he became by his political capacity and his debating power one of the leaders of the National liberal Party. When war broke out in 1914, he was not only a Prussian deputy, but also a member of the German Reichstag. Here he belonged to the minority of his party, who kept clear of the rampant annexationism and were unbiased enough to see that a new age was coming which would deeply change the old order. He was one of the first parliamentarians to enter the government in the last years of Wilhelm II. After the revolution he joined the Democratic party, although he formerly had been a convinced monarchist. As a Democrat he was repeatedly Reich Minister of Finance and Justice and Deputy of the Chancellor. In 1921 he became the German member of the International Commission which composed the German-Polish Convention about Upper Silesia (of May 15, 1922). Shortly afterwards he retired from Parliament in consequence of differences with the majority of the Democratic Party. During the Hitler regime he had to suffer on account of his Jewish descent, although he belonged to the Protestant religion. But he survived and became, at the age of 85, Minister of Justice for Eastern Germany and held this post for some years.

A man like that has seen and heard a lot. But as a source for contemporary history his book is disappointing. He writes only superficially about the problems he had to deal with as a parliamentarian, a minister or international negotiator. There is not a word about his personal experiences under the Nazi regime. But he shrewdly characterises some of the political personalities of his time and tells many very significant anecdotes. Solf, the Colonial Secretary, exclaimed immediately after England's declaration of war in August, 1914: "This war is lunacy. A war against England is no better than a war against the moon." In 1917 Stresemann advised Schiffer to enter the government, but added that he himself would not be able to do so, because as the son of a small Berlin innkeeper he would be treated ignominiously by the haughty gentlemen of the Emperor's court. This obstacle was removed by the revolution, but Hindenburg, too, kept Stresemann at arm's length while he gave to von Papen his portrait with the inscription: "Ich hatt' einen Kameraden." A good part of the book is filled with reflections about Bismarck and Wilhelm II, which are interesting but not particularly original. It is, however, remarkable that Schiffer, the old National liberal, confesses he had in later years to modify his traditional judgment about Bismarck as the hero of German unity, and that he considers the premature death of Emperor Frederick III as one of Germany's greatest misfortunes.

ERICH EYCK

The death of Dr. Karl Wolff, President of the London "Club 1943," means a grave loss for the refugee community. Until 1933, Dr. Wolff was producer with the "Staatstheater," Dresden. He was also widely known as an author and lecturer on literary and philosophical subjects and as an authority on Goethe. His lecture at London University during the Goethe Festival Year was considered an outstanding event. In the "Club 1943" he was the leading personality. His numerous talks revealed a widespread knowledge, wisdom and experience. It is in the first place due to his devotion that the Club acquired its position as an intellectual centre for refugees.

W. B.

# LAW and LIFE

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

## A WORTHY SEQUEL TO AN OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

Foreign Office: *Manual of German Law, Vol. II, Private International Law, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure.* H.M. Stationery Office, London, 1952. xv and 167 pages. (£1 1s.)

Two years ago I had the privilege of paying tribute to Vol. I of this important publication. I then discussed the background, character, and purpose of the Manual and its special significance for refugee lawyers.

International lawyers will, of course, be particularly attracted by the 30 pages on *Private International Law (P.I.L.)*, all the more as their author is the editor, E. J. Cohn, himself. It certainly requires the hand of a master to give a comprehensive and scholarly outline of German P.I.L. in the framework of so little space.

*Civil Procedure* has been dealt with by E. J. Cohn in conjunction with G. Meyer, whereas *Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure* has been presented by K. Neumann.

Refugee lawyers may feel that these chapters are of less concern for them than the treatise on P.I.L. It is the English lawyer rather who should find them of absorbing interest. Especially as to procedure, he is shown a picture fundamentally different from what happens in English courts. If I may insert a personal experience from the reverse point of view, I realised the difference between English and German procedure very vividly when serving as a court interpreter with the Hamburg Control Commission Courts. Even disregarding linguistic handicaps, which I hope I helped to overcome, defendants (and particularly those previously convicted by German criminal courts) were bewildered by the strangeness of English procedure. Even German lawyers hardly ever mastered the technique of interrogating and cross-examining defendants and witnesses themselves and often blundered when deciding whether or not to put the defendant into the witness-box.

However, refugee lawyers, too, will find interesting material in these chapters. In the field of civil procedure, they will see that at present British citizens are entitled in the Federal Republic to being granted legal aid (Armenrecht), while stateless British residents may be granted Armenrecht at the discretion of the German courts. In the field of criminal law, refugee lawyers will be interested in the appendix devoted to Crimes against Humanity. The War Crime Trials at Nurnberg, at Hamburg (Manstein trial), and elsewhere in the Western Zones, have recently incurred much scathing

criticism in this country (see Lord Hankey, Paget and others, not mentioned in the Manual). It is noteworthy that the Manual contains a balanced and scholarly discussion of this thorny problem, mainly vindicating Control Council Law No. 10 and the verdicts rendered, though not blind to certain objections. German courts, too, have punished crimes against humanity.

It follows from the subject-matters of Vol. II that restitution, that mainstay of consultants, is hardly broached. In the chapter on civil procedure, restitution is mentioned as one of the subjects of "non-contentious litigation." While discussing the German notion of "Rechtskraft," the effect of final judgments, it is pointed out that in restitution cases final court decisions can be set aside under Art. 2, Law 59. Similarly, it should have been mentioned in the chapter on criminal procedure, that final verdicts in criminal cases, too, may be rescinded according to post-war laws on rehabilitation in criminal proceedings.

Altogether, Vol. II should again make attractive reading for refugee lawyers. The very fact that the subject is presented in English lends a surprising newness and freshness even to well-known branches of German law. We should be grateful both to the F.O. and the authors for having embarked on this joint venture.

## STRANZ "WECHSELRECHT" RE-EDITED

"Wechselgesetz," 14th ed., by Martin Stranz. Walter de Gruyter & Co. Berlin, 1952.

It has been said that lawyers are especially bad "export risks." Obviously, it is easier to continue working in a foreign country, say, as a scientist, than as a lawyer. Nevertheless, quite a few refugee lawyers have shown that it is possible to overcome the difficulties caused by their forced emigration, and some are doing outstanding legal work in their new country. Martin Stranz, however, appears to be the first one who, whilst continuing to reside in England, has successfully managed to resume the old work on German law on a large scale.

The commentaries on the Law of Bills of Exchange by three successive members of the Stranz family, the big "Staub-Stranz" as well as the smaller book by Josef, Moritz and Martin Stranz in the Guttentag collection were always the leading German books on the subject-matter. This new edition of the smaller work has considerably grown in size and will certainly be acknowledged to be a most lucid and reliable up-to-date guide to all the intricacies of a legal province which is of particular importance to the business community all the world over.

# GERMAN JEWS ACROSS THE SEAS

Shortly after the appearance of "Britain's New Citizens," the Organisations of Jews from Germany in the United States and in Israel with which the AJR is closely co-operating under the auspices of the "Council of Jews from Germany," also edited special publications to mark the anniversaries of their foundation. The American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, founded in the same year as the AJR, issued a brochure, and the Organisation of the Immigrants from Central Europe in Israel, the Irgun Olej Merkas Europa (IOME) reviews its activities during the past two decades in a special and considerably enlarged edition of its excellent weekly "Mitteilungsblatt."

Like "Britain's New Citizens," the American publication is centred not around the activities of the "Federation," but around the wider issues involved. Whereas, however, the booklet of the AJR in the first place deals with the relationship between the former refugees and their new environment, the American brochure lays more stress on the special position of German Jewry within the framework of present-day Jewry. Such an approach is highly gratifying at a time at which the merits and the spiritual heritage of German Jewry are in danger of being distorted or of falling into oblivion. In his introductory article Leo Baeck writes that by its widespread achievements German Jewry had left its indelible impact on the history of mankind.

In his interesting essay "The Forgotten German Jew," Max Gruenewald regrets that the attitude towards the Jews from Germany, many of whom hold important positions and do important work, may sometimes be summarised by the formula "For the German Jew everything, for the German Jew nothing."

## Record of the Past

Kurt R. Grossmann writes a statistical survey of the fate of German Jewry after 1933. A glimpse into the past is given by Adolf Kober's illuminating article about "Juedische Gemeinden in Deutschland seit dem 19. Jahrhundert." It brings back to our memory the spiritual and organisational strength of the Jewish Communities in Germany which, unlike those in the English-speaking countries, did not depend on a voluntary membership. We are reminded of the intense and widespread social work of German Jewry. It is hardly believable, Dr. Kober writes, that the Jewish Communities in Germany with not more than altogether 564,000 members maintained the follow-

ing institutions in 1925: 58 Old Age Homes, 15 Convalescent Homes, 25 Children's Homes, 28 Sanatoria, 32 Hospitals and Homes for Invalids, 5 Maternity Homes, 31 Orphanages, 25 Homes for apprentices and girls, 3 Institutes for deaf and dumb and for mentally arrested children, and 67 Crèches and Kindergartens.

## Integration into the "New World"

Adolf Leschnitzer deals with the birth of "modern" anti-Semitism, and Manfred George, in his article about the spiritual integration of the immigrants into the New World, states that the number of immigrants who have been successful in all fields of public and private life is considerable. "Genuine assimilation to the new Homeland takes its way through the medium of the group to which the immigrant belongs. It is a process of generations."

The work of the Federation is related by the Executive Vice-President Dr. Hermann Muller. Like in England, the first phase of this representative organisation of German Jews in the U.S. was dominated by the problems resulting from their status as "Enemy Aliens." Whilst in substance many tasks of the Federation run parallel to those of the AJR in England, there is an organisational difference, because the Federation is not based on the membership of individuals but of congregations, clubs and other organisations built up by Jewish refugees.

The President of the Federation, Professor Nathan Stein, stresses the duty of German Jews to have the history of German Jewry put on record before it is too late. The position of German Jews in Israel is described by Dr. Georg Landauer, and Mr. Rudolf Callmann pays tribute to the unforgettable services of German-Jewish leaders such as Otto Hirsch, Julius L. Seligsohn, Max Warburg and Georg Hirschland.

The Federation and the editor of the booklet, Mr. Kurt R. Grossmann, have by this publication rendered a most valuable service not only to the members and friends of the Federation in the United States, but to the entire world-wide Community of German Jews.

## Achievements in Israel

The special issue of the "Mitteilungsblatt" (Tel Aviv) is a fine record of the achievements of the Jews from Central Europe and their Organisation in Israel. There is a wide range of activities from the establishment of settlements and Old Age Homes to the maintenance of an Employment Exchange and many other social schemes. The local groups hold regular meetings and are active in the cultural field. Like the AJR, the IOME is closely inter-related with the United Restitution Office which maintains branches in Israel and is integrated into the "Council of Jews from Germany." It also issues the weekly "Mitteilungsblatt," conspicuous by its undogmatic approach to the current problems of Jewry and Israel.

The AJR extends its most cordial congratulations to its two corresponding organisations abroad with which it has successfully co-operated throughout the years.

W. ROSENSTOCK

## BARNETT JANNER 60 YEARS OLD

Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P., recently became 60 years old. By his widespread Jewish activities he has won the respect and recognition of the Anglo-Jewish Community. As the Vice-President of the Board of Deputies and as President of the Zionist Federation for Great Britain, he is one of the leading figures of Anglo-Jewry. The refugees from Germany and Austria have added reason to express their gratitude to Mr. Janner on this happy occasion. He has always had an open mind for our problems and, on innumerable occasions, put himself at the disposal of representatives of the AJR. Just in these days when Jewish claims against Germany are under discussion, his attitude has proved a great asset in the efforts to safeguard the position of Anglo-Jewry and the interests of Jewish refugee claimants. The AJR conveys its sincerest congratulations to Mr. Janner and expresses the hope that for a very long time to come the Community may benefit from his loyalty, devotion and vigour.

# Old Acquaintances

**Milestones** :—Three birthdays, and the men who celebrate them have one thing in common: they survived Hitler. Werner Finck is 50 years old these days, Fritz Kortner 60, and Willy Prager 75. The latter stayed in Germany throughout the time, being the partner of a mixed marriage. He acted his own fate in the unforgettable picture "Ehe im Schatten." Kortner lived as an emigrant in London and in the States; he returned to Germany shortly after the end of the war—still the same unique and gifted personality he always was. Finck, a non-Jew went through prisons and concentration camps because he opposed the Nazis; he is again in trouble with his fellow-countrymen because he dares to say what nobody wants to hear about the new democracy. Many happy returns of the day for all three of them.

**Lilly Freud Lecture** :—Twice during the last month the "Marie Schmolka Women's Zionist Society" appealed for new funds for charity. First Elsa Herzog compered a fashion show, and later on Lilly Freud-Marlé gave a talk about her personal memories of her uncle, the great Siegmund Freud. It was more than interesting, it was a real pleasure to listen to Mrs. Freud, who expressed beautifully what she wanted to say.

**"The Winner"** :—A few weeks ago a British football team went to Vienna and won a match against the Austrians. On the next day, a newspaper in Salzburg wrote: "Just like the war. We were better and they won."

**This and That** :—Friedrich Hollaender scored "Androclus and the Lion" in Hollywood.—Max Opuls will direct his next film in London with Anton Walbrook in the lead.—Ilka Gruening went from Hollywood for a visit to Germany.—In Berlin Egon H. Strassburger died, aged 75.—Lion Feuchtwanger's new Goya novel, "This is the Hour," has been published by Hutchinson in London.—Martin Miller scored a personal success in "Sweet Madness" in London.—S. Breslauer of Buenos Aires, "Freie Buehne," opened with "The Heirress."—Arthur Hellmer has gone on a visit to the States.

PEM

## TEN YEARS

### COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

The March-April issue of "Common Ground," the bulletin of the "Council of Christians and Jews," reviews the work of the Council during the first decade of its existence. In his message the Chairman of the Executive, Dr. Charles E. Raven, recalls the sufferings of the Jews under the Hitler regime and the relationship between the refugee work during the first war years and the creation of the Council. "There are still strata of society, even in Britain, where the old enmities smoulder," he says. The activities of the Council during the past 10 years include inter-denominational meetings in schools and universities, and attempts of checking actual prejudice or stopping its spread. The Council has also a number of notable publications to its credit. Recent activities include a survey to discover whether history text books in general use in schools were likely to increase understanding or create prejudice among members of different religious and other groups in the country. Rightly, the Council appeals for support to "all those people who see not only the danger to civilisation involved in any form of religious or racial intolerance but the opportunities and possibilities of co-operation" by those "who have so much in common about which they are agreed and who have learned mutual respect in matters about which in conscience they differ."

## "BRITAIN'S NEW CITIZENS"

"A Symposium of Brilliant Articles"  
(New Statesman, June 21, 1952)

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# OUR "GALLUP POLL"

The great number of replies to Mr. E. Schaefer's "Letter" in the previous issue again confirms the keen interest of the members in the aims and activities of the AJR. It would be premature to draw any final conclusions from the answers which have been received so far, because with every mail more comments are coming in. With this reservation it can, however, be stated that the majority seems to share Mr. Schaefer's views and is against a change of the AJR's name and of the language in "AJR Information."

One of the few who would favour a change of name writes: "... Should we earmark ourselves as refugees for the rest of our lives? ... If one wants to be a useful member of the Community one has to take root and should not be reminded all the time that one does not really belong to it."

## "A Name of Historical Value"

Some of the arguments for the opposite view run on the following lines: "... The raison d'être of the AJR is to represent and to work in the interest of those who have come to this country as refugees. However much their status may have changed, thanks not in the least to the efforts of the AJR, I can see no good reason why the term 'refugees' of quite 'honourable significance' should be dropped." And another one: "... Now the name of the AJR has acquired historical and sentimental value it should be retained." Another correspondent writes: "... Every Association with serious purposes should make it clear by its very name which are its principal aims. Drop the word 'Refugees' from the Association's style and you will not achieve this object."

With regard to a change of language only one correspondent is for an unqualified transformation of "AJR Information" to German. He writes: "... The paper is written as a channel of specific information by Refugees for Refugees of whom many do not master their new language. It is not a text-book in English or a showpiece for the admiration of 'Britain's Old Citizens.' Give the older refugees a treat and no headache."

## "No wholesale change but . . ."

Amongst those who are in principle against a change of language some would not mind if occasionally a "Kurzgeschichte" or other items were published in German. One correspondent writes: "... It would look funny after so many years now to change wholesale into German. But could we not have a little corner in German every now and then, just to remind us from time to time of our origin and our spiritual inheritance and, last not least, for the benefit of those elderly and lonely people who—alas—have nothing to look forward to and would love to have some stray glimpses at

the sunny past." The announcement of some restitution news in German is generally approved. The reasons for which most readers would, however, not favour a general change of language are given in letters such as the following ones: "... We are not a German Community living in this country, but Jews expelled from Germany who have found refuge and try to integrate in the British Community. . . . There is hardly any member of the AJR who has been in this country for a period shorter than 13 years, which is quite a sufficiently long period to acquire at least the necessary knowledge to read English. I was very disappointed that you made this—in my view—quite unnecessary concession and printed part of the news in German. . . . In the beginning when most of us were not able to read English very well we had to work through the contents of 'AJR Information.' Is there any reason to start now to print in German?" "... It seems to be very important that your publication can also be read and judged by those who do not understand German but who are interested in our problems."

The correspondence is not yet concluded and further comments would be greatly welcomed. If any alterations of the present position should after all come under active discussion by the Board and Executive of the AJR, no final decision would be made before further thorough consultations of the members.

## Letter to the Editor

### THEODOR HERZL SOCIETY

Dear Sir,

*We were a little disappointed that your excellent Anniversary Publication contained no more than the very briefest reference to the Theodor Herzl Society which, now in its 15th year, is the oldest Zionist body of refugees in this country. We meet twice a month at 57 Eton Avenue, Swiss Cottage.*

*Like other Zionist societies we have suffered from the establishment of the Jewish State. Some of our members have settled in Israel, others have ceased to be interested, fancying that with the establishment of the State all problems were more or less resolved.*

*We should like to take this opportunity of calling upon our fellow-refugees not to flag in their interest in the national Jewish movement which has achieved one great consummation but is destined to bring off many more.*

*Let those, who once dismissed Theodor Herzl's ideas as an absurd Utopia, beware lest they now take too much for granted. We urge them to show their interest by supporting and joining the Theodor Herzl Society.*

Yours faithfully,

C. C. Aronsfeld,

Chairman.

57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3.

## PERSONALIA

The famous Art Historian Professor Dr. Max Friedlaender, who now lives in Holland, recently became 85 years old. Until 1933 he was Director of the Kaiser-Friedrich-Museum, Berlin.

Professor Otto Heinrich Warburg has been elected as one of the 15 new members of the "Friedensklasse" of the German Pour le mérite order. Professor Warburg, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology in 1931, is of Jewish origin.

Professor Adolf Leschnitzer, of the College of the City of New York, has accepted an invitation of the Berlin Free University to lecture during the Summer term as guest professor about "Geschichte und Problematik der deutsch-juedischen Beziehungen." Prior to his emigration, Professor Leschnitzer was Head of the School Department of the "Reichsvertretung," Berlin.

The Orientalist Professor Gotthold Weil recently became 70 years old. He was Director at the Berlin State Library and later on Professor at Frankfurt University. He is now Head of the library of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Mr. Julius Bloch, formerly Frankfurt, Main, became 75 years old on June 29. For a great number of years Mr. Bloch was a Board member of the Frankfurt Jewish Community. In this capacity he initiated many constructive social schemes, especially during the emergency years after 1933. In this country Mr. Bloch has also put his experience at the disposal of the Jews from Germany and their organisations, such as the Leo Baeck Lodge, the New Liberal Jewish Congregation and the AJR. The organisations with which Mr. Bloch is associated and his numerous friends wish him many happy years to come.

Mr. Heinrich Michel, formerly Cologne, died in London at the age of 78. In his home town Mr. Michel was well known as partner of the firm Katz & Michel. In this country Mr. Michel took throughout the years an active interest in the work of the AJR and of the Leo Baeck Lodge. The AJR expresses its sincerest sympathy to his wife and his daughter.

## THERESIENSTADT DEATH ROLL

The 35th volume of the "Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv," published in Munich by the German Statistical Society, contains a monograph about the mortality in Theresienstadt; the author is Dr. Gutfeld, who himself was an inmate of the Camp. The article reveals that of 200 children who were born in the Ghetto, 50 died before they were one year old. The mortality was higher amongst inmates from Germany than amongst those who came from Czechoslovakia; the writer attributes this to the fact that the German Jews had already suffered for a longer period under the Nazi régime.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 18th of the month.

### Births

**Kingsley.**—A son, Steven Michael, was born on June 1 to Ursula, née Bochenek, wife of E. Kingsley, of 6 Richmond Hill Road, Gatley, Manchester.

**Lucas.**—A son (Edwin Roger) was born on June 11th to Lore née Lindenbaum and Ronald J. Lucas of 32 Southlea Avenue, Thornliebank, Glasgow.

### Death

**Mrs. Selma Isaak, née Friedmann,** wife of Dr. Bernhard Isaak, peacefully passed away on June 11, after a very long and bravely borne illness. Deeply mourned by the loving and sorrowing husband, brother, stepmother, many relatives here and abroad, and a large circle of friends. 78 Ashridge Drive, Oxhey, Watford, Herts.

## CLASSIFIED

### Employment

**OFFICE EXPERT** (female), Book-keeping (compl.), Shorth. Typ. (Engl., Germ., French), Wages, Income Tax, etc., requires occupation for 2-3 afternoons weekly or home work. Box 1350.

**KUNSTGEWERBLERIN:** Manufacturers require experienced lady to design and make Lace Neckwear at home. Box 1349.

**ASSIST. PASTRYCOOK/Confectioner,** man of 39, requires position. Box 1352.

**ELDERLY MAN,** reliable, honest, wants part-time or full-time job as messenger or filing clerk. Box 1353.

**EXPERIENCED BOOK-KEEPER,** male, wants part-time job. Box 1354.

**ASSIST. BOOK-KEEPER,** responsible, female, wants suitable work. Box 1355.

### Accommodation

**BED-SITTING ROOM** to let. First floor front room Golders Green. Suit single gentleman. Speedwell 6968.

**TO LET** to business lady (middle-aged) nice furnished room, with use of kitchen and bath, in modern Court with lift, centr. heat. and garden. Box 1357.

### EXCHANGE

s/c 1st floor 3 rm flat, c.h., c.h.w., fridg. £18. 16 0. p.m. N.W. for similar 1 rm flat £2. 10. 0. p.w. any district. Many other exchanges. Some furn. & unf. flats available.

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**ESTABL. CHILDREN'S DRESS-MAKER** wants to share her workroom, teleph. and nice showroom in Dollis Hill Ave., N.W.2 (nr. bus) with dressmaker, milliner, corsetiere, etc. Box 1358.

### Miscellaneous

**DEUTSCHE BUECHER GESUCHT!** R. & E. Steiner, 64 Talgarth Rd., W.14. FUL 7924.

**CONTINENTAL Dining- and "Herzenzimmer"-Suite** wanted. MAI 4145.

**BAKING,** in- and outdoor, by experienced woman. Box 1356.

**MONTEVIDEO.**—Well-to-do Continental family going to Montevideo wishes to contact other immigrants or people knowing about conditions. Box 1351.

**FOR SALE**—Modern new cutlery (Chippendale), German silver, for 6 persons a set of 60 pieces, reasonable. B Mann, 47 Grange Ave., Leeds, 7.

### Personal

**BRITISH FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY,** 231 Baker Street, N.W.1. Introductions to new friends everywhere. No age limit. Write for particulars.

### MISSING PERSONS

**Enquiries from AJR**  
**Silberstein, Miss Fanny,** from Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Kaiserallee 194, for Max Wegmann, Berlin.

**Abeles, Mr. and wife Else,** from Frankfurt, for Maria Georgacopoulos, Baden-Baden.

**Cahen, Annelies Lia,** last known address: Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, for Bayerisches Landesentschaedigungsamt.

**Cohen, Lotte, née Steiner,** last known address: Ilford, Essex, same enquirer.

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# THE AJR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

One of the most popular ways of attacking communal institutions is to say that they duplicate work which is already adequately undertaken in the community at large. The AJR Employment Agency is no exception and is also liable to such a charge. After all, does not the Ministry of Labour provide a nation-wide cover of Labour Exchanges which are open to employer and employee alike? Is there not also an absolute spate of commercial employment agencies of all kinds which cater for each and every section of the community?

Yet experience has shown that the AJR Employment Agency fills a unique position and offers a special service which no other organisation or agency can provide.

It would be idle to suggest that the bulk of the Agency's applicants for employment can as easily be found jobs as British-born residents of this country. Many of them are getting on in years, some still have difficulty with the language and others can only offer skill or knowledge which it is difficult to apply in a foreign country. The AJR Employment Agency is, however, used to these difficulties and has learned to surmount them. We know how to draw the best from our applicants and sometimes even show them hidden potentialities of their own which they themselves have hardly recognised. For instance, it is not much use for an elderly ex-shopkeeper to apply for a job as a shop-assistant or manager, but on examining his knowledge of commercial life it is discovered that he has valuable experience of book-keeping and stock control which can frequently be put to good and profitable use.

## Increasing Demands

In the same way the AJR Employment Agency has a different approach to employers. It is gratifying to note that the number of employers who regularly turn to the Agency for staff is increasing, but the need is so great that a claim for special consideration must be put forward at every possible opportunity. It is not enough, however, to persuade employers to give the Agency a chance to supply their needs, they often need persuading that the employee they want is the one that the Agency has to offer, even if he is not the acme of all the perfections whom they think they require. For instance, some employers cannot imagine a book-keeper or stockroom assistant other than as a beardless youth or as a shapely young female. It is for the Agency to persuade them that Mr. X, at the age of 52, who used to have his

own department store on the Continent, can make up in experience and reliability for what he lacks in youthful vigour.

The difficulties are immense and the experiments are not always successful, but in many cases it can fairly be said that once the initial strangeness has worn off, the new relationship becomes assured and long-lasting and to the mutual advantage of employer and employee.

And yet the work of the Agency is not completed when jobs have been found for all its applicants, both male and female, who seek full-time employment as waiters, cooks, storekeepers, counterhands, book-keepers, machinists, travellers, clerks, secretaries, nurses, etc. There are many applicants, mainly women, who badly need additional earnings but who are not available for full-time work. For these people jobs have to be found either at home doing sewing or other outwork for industry or in factories, shops or private houses for a few hours daily or weekly. Many of these women are skilled in handicrafts and use their spare time to manufacture articles for sale. The Agency encourages such work and has arranged a permanent exhibition of hand-made articles for sale in Room 3 at 8 Fairfax Mansions from Monday to Thursday between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., and on Fridays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and have a look.

## Your Help is Wanted

This survey of the work of the Agency is necessarily short and does not describe and discuss every aspect of its work. The Agency does not work for profit and its sole aim is to help people in need to find gainful employment and to provide them with the opportunity to maintain themselves as good citizens of the country of their adoption. The success of the Agency's work depends upon the goodwill that it engenders. It is only if every opportunity is followed up that sufficient jobs will be forthcoming. Please get in touch with the Agency if you have any ideas or suggestions. A representative will gladly call on you at your convenience.

A. S.

## OLD COPY OF AJR INFORMATION WANTED

The library of a British institution to which AJR Information is being regularly sent, is short of the March issue, 1947. It would be greatly appreciated if any member could spare this copy. Kindly send it to AJR Headquarters.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME GUARD

A London paper recently published a note according to which only men of British birth were eligible for the Home Guard. The AJR contacted the War Office and was informed that this announcement was not in accordance with the facts. The Home Guard, the reply of the War Office says, is indeed open to all British subjects, whether they are British by birth or by naturalisation.

## ALIEN EMPLOYEES OF B.B.C.

In a written reply the Postmaster-General gave a statistical abstract about the number of aliens employed in the Oversea Services of the B.B.C. It reveals a total number of 272 and includes 3 Israelis, 4 Palestinians, 17 Germans and 4 Austrians. Altogether aliens of 50 different nationalities are employed.

## REMINDER TO TELEPHONE CALLERS

Members and friends of the AJR are again reminded that different telephone numbers are in use for the different Departments at 8 Fairfax Mansions. As callers who use the wrong number cannot be connected with the Department to which they actually want to speak, they should kindly keep the following details in mind:—

The numbers *Maida Vale* 9096/7 refer to the General Offices of the AJR (but not to the Social Services Department and the AJR Employment Agency) and to the United Restitution Office. The number *Maida Vale* 4449 should be used for any enquiry with the Social Services Department and the AJR Employment Agency; other Departments are, however, not obtainable under this number.

## AJR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain herewith invites its members to a Special General Meeting on *Thursday, July 10, at 6 p.m.* at the office of the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, Room No. 3.

The only item of the Agenda is the election of two new trustees. It is proposed to appoint as trustees the two Executive members, Mr. Simon Bischheim and Mr. Arthur Wechsler, instead of Mr. Hans Capell and Mr. E. G. Loewenthal who have resigned.

## AJR EXECUTIVE

In succession to Dr. H. Capell, who emigrated to Israel, Dr. Frank E. Falk, A.C.A., has been co-opted to the Executive of the AJR.

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