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ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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Dr. Leon Zeitlin :

A TRAGIC APRIL FOOLS DAY

APRIL 1st, 1933

The author of the following recollections is the former Director of the Association of Large High Quality Shops in Berlin.

The thoughtful remark that "not a single day of Hitler's shortlived 'millennium' deserves to be remembered," made by one of those Germans who, even if small in number, may nonetheless justify the belief in a truly democratic Germany to come, could easily be misinterpreted. No chapter of human history, however distasteful to the human mind, could or should be removed from man's memory. But there are, indeed, innumerable pages to be found in the volumes of world history which ought to be read time and again, but silently, and with a firm determination that the events which they record must never repeat themselves. Keeping this in mind, the Berlin case-history of the anti-Jewish boycott, staged by the Nazis throughout Germany on April 1st, 1933, will be told. And my claim to present myself as the historiographer of this black day rests on the fact that this was also the very day when the modest part I was privileged to play in pre-Hitler Germany's public life came to an end—not without a feeble, though hopeless, attempt of political resistance.

Forebodings of the Blow

There was no secret that a violent and drastic outbreak of brutal anti-Semitism had to be expected at not too distant a date after the drama of the "Reichstags-Feuer." Goebbels' both formidable and efficient propaganda-machine had seen to that. There was, however, a strange contrast between an atmosphere fraught with ominous portents of imminent catastrophe and an unrealistic optimism even in some politically well-informed Jewish quarters who thought that the storm would blow over without causing too much harm. What Hitler was obviously aiming at was to persuade the growing number of his staunchest followers from the ranks of embittered and discontented small shopkeepers and tradesmen that he meant "business." Therefore he embarked upon a "middle class" policy whose "keynote" was the fight against the competition of the big Jewish Departmental and Chain Stores, Multiples and High-Class Quality Shops ("Spezialgeschaeft").

Although originally the campaign against Department Stores had nothing to do with anti-Semitism—as a matter of fact some Jews were among its first leaders—this purely economic middle-class movement completely changed its character during the years of the economic crisis and succumbed to the anti-

Jewish propaganda of the Nazis. Nevertheless, it sometimes happened that the large shop windows of some unpardonably successful but unquestionably "Aryan" retailers were also smashed.

Jewish Precautionary Measures

Before setting out to take precautionary measures against any complications which might arise during the Boycott Day I had to obtain the permission of my "Kommissar," a former Captain of the German army, but now a high-ranking Nazi official appointed by the "Gauleiter." At first he refused to comply with my request that a meeting of the Jewish members of the Big Retail Shops Association should be convened and proposed that, if necessary, each member should rather be contacted individually; but finally, he approved of my suggestion, not without adding a stern warning that any plotting against the Third Reich would be punished most severely. At our meeting, some of the members, especially those belonging to the younger generation, were still doubtful that there would be really a large-scale anti-Jewish boycott or cherished the hope that, even if this should happen, their own firm would not be affected. However, with the approach of the dreaded date this optimism faded, and I still remember the almost tragi-comic indignation of the baptized junior partner of a famous textile retail store who furiously exclaimed: "And I have paid Church taxes all my life." Well, there was not much to be done, for any concerted action without the collective support of the Association's non-Jewish members was out of question, and this support—needless to say—was out of question as well. It should, however, not be forgotten that at least a few of these non-Jewish members assured me that they were prepared to stand by their Jewish colleagues. Finally, we decided at our meeting to establish on Boycott Day a special office at an inconspicuous place where we could be quickly informed about any unexpected developments. Picketing (that could not be helped) would have to be tolerated. But it was vital not to yield to whatever unjustifiable demands the Nazis might raise in the course of the boycott. In such cases the respective firms were to communicate at once with headquarters and wait for further instructions. As we know that the boycott had been prepared by the small retailers associations, which had turned Nazi, and would also be directed by them, I got in touch with their secretaries, now openly and

proudly wearing the formerly hidden "Hakenkreuz." They were in a somewhat vacillating mood. On the one hand, they were taking great pains to make, with professional efficiency, this fantastic anti-Jewish demonstration a full success; on the other hand, they were most anxious not to be identified with a steadily increasing number of Nazi hooligans, who hailed the boycott of Jewish businessmen, doctors, lawyers, etc., and its potential implications as a godsend.

The Boycott Starts

April 1st, 1933—significantly a Saturday—was, as far as I remember, a fine day with long bright intervals. But it is difficult to recall to memory the state of mind in which Berlin Jewry, and German Jewry in general, faced the shameful happenings. We were still so stunned by this prelude to the unparalleled crimes of Hitler's racial madness that we completely failed to visualise its unspeakable consequences. It is true, Berlin's most fashionable and popular shopping centres, Leipziger Strasse, Unter den Linden, Friedrich Strasse, Kurfürstendamm, Tauentzien Strasse, looked appallingly and grotesquely disfigured. About half of the always exquisitely decorated shop-windows, which had gained Berlin abroad the name of "The Town with the beautiful Shop-windows," had been plastered by the Nazis with bill-posters, abounding in coarse and sickening anti-Jewish slogans. Yet daily life in Berlin, at least outwardly, seemed to remain unchanged. There was hardly any sign of that mass-hysteria whose era Hitler personifies. The attitude of the ordinary Berliner toward this scandalous act of racial defamation was rather one of frightened people, who were anxiously trying to avoid taking sides. Yet

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(Continued from front page)

it is only fair to recall that the rows and clashes, caused by the "brown-shirts," were often compensated by unmistakable manifestations of "civil courage" and loyalty to Jewish friends, and by expressions of contempt and disgust for these outrages. Of course, not much of such spirit of opposition came to the public's knowledge, for at that time the German newspapers were almost completely "gleichgeschaltet" and had to follow Goebbels' instructions. Had it not been for the truthful reports sent by the foreign newspaper correspondents, for whom these shameful doings were big news, the happenings of this day would not have been recorded for the annals of history.

However, if the boycotted Jewish retailers had believed that the Boycott Day would mean for them only an involuntary, though somewhat troublesome, "holiday," they were mistaken. It was about noon when the 'phone at headquarters began to ring. There were urgent messages from the big department stores saying that they had been presented with an ultimatum, demanding the dismissal without notice of all their Jewish employees. Otherwise the boycott would be continued. In order to bring pressure to bear upon these firms they were told that one or other of the department stores with great numbers of Jewish employees had already given way to such threats coupled with blackmail. This was grave news, indeed. Fortunately, we could check the correctness of these statements and find out that, so far, none of our members had yielded to a proposition which turned out to be a cunning piece of Nazi trickery. Now everything depended on gaining time. It had to be prevented at all costs that the resistance of the threatened firms should be weakened.

The End of the Day

Then the good news reached me that the damaging effect in which the boycott had resulted abroad had come to the notice of the German Foreign Office through diplomatic channels. On second thoughts, the Nazis therefore deemed it advisable to call off the boycott, but at the same time they were anxiously determined not to lose face. Accordingly, we were summoned to appear at 4 p.m. at the small retailers associations office in order to hear the terms for the settlement of the boycott. After having begged the firms under pressure to stand firm for another few hours, a small delegation consisting of the owner of a well-known hire-purchase firm, whose name I have forgotten, a junior secretary of the C.V. ("Central-Verein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens"), Dr. Matzdorff, and the writer of this article, went to attend the last phase of this distressing and exciting day. After some waiting and much heel-clicking and "Heil-Hitlering" we were told that this one-day boycott had fully served its purpose and could be called off at once—but only if the dismissal of Jewish employees, as far as it had been agreed upon up to this hour, would remain valid. Needless to say that we indignantly protested against this wily demand; knowing, however, that in fact none of our members had given way, we finally signed without qualms a document which is probably unique as far as Jewish-

RESTITUTION NEWS

KRIEGSVERSORGUNGSRENTEN

Die Rechte der Kriegsbeschädigten und ihrer Hinterbliebenen sind durch das Bundesversorgungsgesetz geregelt. Im Ausland lebende Verfolgte des Nationalsozialismus konnten nach diesem Gesetz Ansprüche nicht geltend machen, da das Gesetz sich nur auf deutsche Staatsangehörige bezieht und bestimmt, dass die Renten bei Auslandsaufenthalt ruhen. Der Bundesminister fuer Arbeit war nach dem Gesetz berechtigt, in Haertefaelen Ausnahmen zuzulassen. Er hat auf Grund dieser Bestimmung angeordnet, dass Verfolgte des Nationalsozialismus, die im Ausland leben, eine Leistung erhalten koennen, wenn es sich um Schwerkriegsbeschädigte oder Hinterbliebene von Kriegsbeschädigten handelt, die auf die Rente zur Bestreitung ihres Lebensunterhalts angewiesen sind. Wir haben hierueber in AJR Information No. 9, 1952, Seite 2, berichtet.

Nunmehr hat die Bundesregierung dem Bundesrat den Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts in der Kriegsversorgung fuer Berechtigte im Ausland vorgelegt. Dieses Gesetz bezieht sich auf Personen, die wegen ihrer politischen Ueberzeugung oder aus Gruenden der Rasse, des Glaubens oder der Weltanschauung durch nationalsozialistische Verfolgungs- oder Unterdrueckungsmassnahmen geschädigt worden sind und ihren Wohnsitz oder dauernden Aufenthalt im Ausland haben. Diesem Personenkreis steht ein Anspruch auf Wiedergutmachung zu, wenn sie ihren Wohnsitz oder dauernden Aufenthalt bis zum 23. Mai 1949 im Ausland genommen haben. Voraussetzung ist, dass der Staat, in dem sich die Berechtigten aufhalten, mit der Deutschen Bundesrepublik diplomatische Beziehungen unterhaelt. Hiervon koennen Ausnahmen zugelassen werden.

Der Gesetzesentwurf bezieht sich auch auf die aus dem Osten Deutschlands Ausgewanderten und bestimmt, dass ein Ruhen der Rente bei Auslandsaufenthalt nicht eintritt. Dem Anspruch steht auch nicht der Umstand entgegen, dass der Berechtigte nicht mehr die Deutsche Staatsangehoerigkeit besitzt. Der Gesetzesentwurf beschaenkt die Ansprueche auf die Zeit vom 1.4.1951 ab. Fuer die zurueckliegende Zeit gelten die Laenderentschaedigungsgesetze. Ansprueche koennen natuerlich erst geltend gemacht werden, wenn dieser Gesetzesentwurf als Gesetz veroeffentlicht ist. Sobald dies geschehen ist, werden wir ueber den Inhalt des veroeffentlichten Gesetzes ausfuehrlich berichten.

Nazi "relations" are concerned.

Although in those days even the slightest ray of light meant infinitely much to the hapless German Jews, this small success turned out to be but a short-lived "Pyrrhic victory" which could not delay the advent of a tragedy without precedent. Still, insignificant as the anti-Jewish boycott day may appear compared with what happened soon after, it nevertheless retains a significance of its own. Under a wider historical aspect this effort to eliminate the impact of the Jewish contribution to Germany's economic life has proved as futile as the foul attempt to obliterate the outstanding cultural achievements of German-Jewish scientists, writers, poets, artists and musicians by burning their books a few weeks later. Like other attacks the Jews had to endure in their long history, these senseless actions have failed and the memory of Jewish achievements in Germany is still alive as a perpetual light. There are still deep shadows between this light and the German people. But the German people should—and we dare to hope, will—finally realise that only by their own exertions these shadows can gradually fade.

ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSGESETZ BERLIN

Beim Entschädigungsamt Berlin sind so zahlreiche Dringlichkeitsantraege gestellt worden, dass eine bevorzugte Bearbeitung dieser Antraege nicht mehr moeglich ist.

Das Entschädigungsamt will daher nunmehr grundsätzlich die Antraege nur nach der Registrierungsnummer erledigen. Ausnahmen sollen nur dann gemacht werden, wenn die Antragsteller ueber 70 Jahre alt sind und ihre Antraege bis zum 8. Februar 1952 eingereicht hatten, oder wenn die Antragstellung nach diesem Datum erfolgt ist und die Antragsteller ueber 75 Jahre alt sind.

Bei anderen Antraegen muesste eine ganz besondere Dringlichkeit nachgewiesen werden, um bevorzugte Bearbeitung zu erreichen.

Wie vor Ablauf der Antragsfrist (31. Oktober 1952) in "AJR Information" mitgeteilt wurde, ist die Antragsfrist gewahrt, wenn die Antragsteller bis zu diesem Zeitpunkte eine formlose Anmeldung eingereicht haben. Eine Registrierungsnummer wird jedoch erst gegeben, wenn eine Formularanmeldung erfolgt ist. Es empfiehlt sich daher, in Faellen der formlosen Anmeldung die Formulare sobald wie moeglich nachzureichen.

STEUERFREIHEIT FUER ENTSCHAEDIGUNGEN

Eine am 20. Februar 1953 beschlossene Empfehlung des Bundesrats an die Bundesregierung sieht die Steuerfreiheit von Zahlungen auf Grund der Entschädigungsgesetze vor. Es wird betont, dass diese Empfehlung sich lediglich auf Entschädigungs- nicht aber auf Rueckerstattungsansprueche bezieht.

JUEDISCHE GEMEINDEBEAMTE

Die Verhandlungen ueber die Zahlungen an fruehere juedische Kultusbeamte sind nunmehr zu einem Abschluss gekommen. Ihre Ergebnisse beduerfen nur noch einer formalen Bestaetigung, die jedoch in diesen Tagen zu erwarten ist. Alle Anspruchsberechtigten, die ihre Personalien der AJR benannt haben, werden verstaendigt werden, sowie die endgueltige Regelung erfolgt ist. Es wird gebeten, bis dahin von Rueckfragen abzusehen.

GERMAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT

When ratifying the Reparation Agreement with Israel exception was taken to one clause of the Agreement, according to which goods should not be unloaded in Israeli ports by ships sailing under the German flag. This clause has now been abandoned.

AUSTRIA

Delay in Negotiations

According to reports from Vienna, the outcome of the General Elections may lead to a delay in commencing negotiations between Austria and the international Jewish organisations. The Christian People's Party offered the Socialists a continuation of the Coalition only on condition that the "Independents," who are in fact the successors of the former "Deutschnationalen," would be allowed to join the Coalition. It is unlikely that the Socialists will accept this condition and at present therefore it cannot be seen how the crisis will be solved. This means that the invitation to the Jewish organisations may not be issued for some weeks.

Pensions

According to a report from Vienna, in his conversation with the representative of the British Ministry of Social Insurance the representative of the Austrian Ministry of Social Administration did not agree to a treaty provisionally providing for the payment of old age and widows' pensions, but insisted on an agreement covering the whole field of social insurance. Consequently a draft convention was laid down which, *inter alia*, would secure the payment of old age and widows' pensions. However, a treaty covering all problems of social insurance must be adopted by the Austrian Parliament and cannot be expected to come into force before the end of 1953. It is further learned that the problem of the payment of pensions due since 1945 is still under consideration.

An announcement on Transfer of Blocked DM Accounts is published on page 5.

A LIFE FOR GERMAN JEWRY

TRIBUTE TO HERMANN BERLAK

When, within a few hours, the news of the sudden death of Hermann Berlak spread all over London, it seemed unbelievable. To all of us this robust man who could cope with so numerable and diverse duties appeared as the personification of health and energy. At the age of 56 he was taken from us.

The roots of his Jewish activities were in the German-Jewish Students' Movement "K.C." Here, his qualifications for leadership became evident from the outset. Those of us who, after the First World War, spent their formative years in a different kind of community, in the Jewish Youth Movement, were bound to have their reservations against the "Verbindungsstudententum" which we considered as "bourgeois" and antiquated. Yet this criticism could not apply to Hermann Berlak. I still remember, as if it was yesterday, his address at a K.C. Rally in Freiburg in 1930 which I attended as a guest. It culminated in the sentence: "Der K.C. ist keine Gemeinschaft der Satten." In his devotion to his Students' Fraternity he lived up to this postulate to the very last days of his life. To those who, after 1933, had to make a fresh start in a new and alien environment he was a trusted and helpful friend.

He himself became a student again after his emigration, though under circumstances different from those of his earlier carefree University years: With his boundless energy and diligence he used his spare time to read for his examinations and acquired the British qualifications of his accountancy profession. For many who benefited from his services the abrupt end of his career leaves a deep gap.

It has now turned out that this paper has had the sad privilege of publishing his last public utterance, the article he contributed last month on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the "Central-Verein." This article reflects two outstanding qualities of Hermann Berlak: a faithfulness to his origin and an open mind for the lessons of our recent history. Many of us are anxious to ignore their upbringing, others dogmatically cling to their past as if nothing had changed. Berlak, without making concessions for reasons of expediency, kept aloof from both extremes and, by virtue of his sincerity, was respected also by those who did not agree with him.

With the insight, vigour and eloquence which always marked his activities he took a leading part in many fields of Jewish life in Germany. When, in 1929, the "Jewish Agency" was reorganised as a co-operative between Zionists and non-Zionists, he belonged to that group of non-Zionists which advocated participation in the work for Palestine.

It was only natural that a man of his background and experience became one of the pillars of our community in this country. He was closely associated with the work of the AJR, of the Council of Jews from Germany, of the United Restitution Office and of the B'ne Brith Lodge, which bears the name of his distinguished father-in-law, Leo Baeck. To hold an office always meant

for him devotion to conscientious, hard work; he would strongly criticise any organisation which took a less serious view of the duties of an Honorary Officer. It was for him a matter of course that he sacrificed not only his leisure time but also his professional commitments when his services were required. He belonged to a type of Jewish communal workers whose number is dwindling in our midst. His inside knowledge of Jewish communal life was outstanding. His policy was solely determined by his convictions, which he would express in his straightforward manner without asking whether they might please or displease. If we now look round

and see the gaps he left we realise that he cannot be adequately replaced.

It may be some consolation that Hermann Berlak's life, short as it was to be, was a happy life. He was happy in his work, in his Jewish activities and, above all, his family life was blessed by happiness and deep harmony; the birth of his grandson was one of his last great joys. That Sunday afternoon in Golders Green, when many hundreds accompanied him on his last journey, testified to the deep feeling of mourning which has befallen our community. His premature death means a grave loss to the causes with which Hermann Berlak was associated and to innumerable people here and abroad to whom this upright and noble man was a trusted friend.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

BACKWARD GLANCES

BEFORE . . .

Ours was a "Kleinstadt," a very small provincial town, in the eastern half of Germany not far from the Polish border, and our Jewish community of about 250 souls was a well-respected and integral part of the town.

The "Gemeinde Vorstand" met on Sunday mornings to discuss the affairs of the community. In the 'twenties, when I was a small child, too young to understand the meaning of a committee or of a community, and when my father was one of the younger members of the committee, I used to wait for him coming home from the Sunday morning meetings. Then I was allowed to look into the mysterious big black book that he always carried with him to these meetings. I did not know then that it was a minute book, and I was not interested in what my father wrote in it. But I was attracted by the divers signatures in the book. They were utterly illegible to me. My father read them out and I pictured the people, whom I all knew, sitting at a long table and writing their names in the big black book.

There were few Jewish children of my own age, and during the years at school all my intimate friends were non-Jewish. We invited each other regularly to our birthday parties, and wherever I went, my supper consisted of bread and eggs, cheese, sardines or something similar, while the others had the much preferred sausages and cold meats. When I visited any of my friends on Pesach, I would not even touch a biscuit in their homes. Yes, we were Jewish and we were German—at least, we thought so.

The birth-rate in our community began to fall. Very few young married couples set up homes in our little town. Most boys and girls left us for the big cities as soon as they were old enough. Thus we could only admire the sons and daughters of our people when they came home to spend the festivals with their parents. They seemed to have altered such a lot! And all for the better—or so it seemed to us.

. . . 1933 . . .

In spite of the political changes in the early months of the year, exactly twenty years ago, life in our town continued as before. Surely, the dog's bark was worse than his bite!

The first of April arrived. We had been used to harmless pranks on this day of previous years, and for weeks to come they had formed the topic of conversation for everybody in the town. Early this morning there were knocks and loud strange men's voices. Before I had got completely dressed, they were in my bedroom, pulling all the bed clothes off my bed down to the mattress. The sense of shame, the feeling of disgrace, of a young girl was greater than her anger, greater than her fear, greater than any other feeling at that moment. The searchers went through the house, leaving no room, no cupboard, no drawer untouched—and they took away a few letters dealing with Jewish communal affairs which my father had written the previous evening. These papers were returned a few days later. Somebody stood outside the house all day long with the official sign of the boycott. And still, a few loyal customers ventured inside.

The next day business returned to normal, for the

time being, until the incessant propaganda produced its inevitable effects.

I had left school and was working in our office. My father was no longer one of the junior members of the community council. He was now the third in order of seniority, and the mysterious minute book had passed into younger hands. Meetings no longer took place every Sunday morning. The three eldest members would visit each other in their offices during the week. It was less conspicuous.

. . . AND AFTER

Slowly our community began to lose its members. Berlin was still the most powerful magnet. Many would have liked to go abroad at the first opportunity, but only very few were fortunate enough to have friends or relations in other countries to facilitate their emigration.

The senior member of the committee had died, and my father occupied the second place. He was, however, the younger and the more active of the two, and the work and most of the responsibility rested on him alone. Official meetings ceased altogether. So few men were left to take an active part.

Responsible bodies in Berlin sent us speakers to lecture about affairs in general, about emigration, and about Palestine (then so called). We held small meetings in our houses to avoid drawing public attention to us. We still had our community centre, even if it was hardly ever used now, and we still had our Synagogue, until both were completely destroyed in 1938.

At the same time all, yes all, the men available were arrested, all the houses were searched once again. This time all that could be smashed, was smashed, and there was not a mirror left undamaged anywhere. Meanwhile, in this interregnum, my mother carried on the affairs of the community as well as she could. There was little left to do. The main task had become the support of those of our members who had been deprived of their livelihood and who were now destitute and helpless.

I, too, had left our town long before that time for a larger one and only came home for occasional week-end visits. But during this period I spent more time at home, and every day my admiration grew, my regard and respect deepened, for the courage, for the abilities when faced with danger, for the bravery and self-reliance, of the middle-aged and of the old Jewish women who constituted the remnants of a once prosperous Jewish community.

M. S.

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Lutz Weltmann:

LITERATURE AND HISTORY

The Work of Lion Feuchtwanger

Thirty works, some of which comprise two volumes, are contained in the list of titles on the last page of his latest book, "Narrenweisheit oder Tod und Verklärung des Jean-Jacques Rousseau." The Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt has started an edition of Lion Feuchtwanger's collected works, among them the three parts of "Der jüdische Krieg" in one volume, of which the last two must be unknown to German readers. I remember how a listener to my literary lectures smuggled a copy of the second to me from Italy, wrapped in a dust cover of a Fallada book. (And I devoured the third part, whilst in the army, in the instalments printed in "Der Aufbau.")

I have "devoured" Feuchtwanger's books ever since I read his "Jud Süß," which was before its great success, and I still recall how I told the late Moritz Seeler about my "discovery" and how it happened the same evening that he introduced me to him, when he was just sitting in front of me at a Volksbühne First Night, with the words: "Here is somebody who admires your 'Jud Süß'!"

Success in Britain and U.S.

Feuchtwanger's success came earlier in Anglo-Saxon countries than in Germany, "Jud Süß" making literary history in two ways: it dispelled, after the first world war, the prejudice against German books, and, at the same time, it caused a change of Feuchtwanger's style. There has been nothing "magical" about his prose since the world success of "Jud Süß"; he developed a more functional prose instead. He once told me one of his reasons: the foreign editions, above all in the United States and in Great Britain, were published simultaneously with the original, and he was anxious that his books should be translated comparatively easily without losing much of their message in the process. Another reason is, in my opinion, Feuchtwanger's long-standing affinity to the Anglo-Saxon world of letters, so that, after becoming personally acquainted with the countries and their peoples, his receptibility and thoroughness profited from this experience: he knows the readers he is addressing in his books.

Consummate craftsmanship is the hallmark never absent in Feuchtwanger's books. This grand old man of letters—we can hardly imagine him as a nearly septuagenarian—holds a somewhat unique position in contemporary literature. He combines

a poetic conception with an educational purpose: his fight for the final victory of reason and humanity. But nobody knows better the powers of resistance: human impulses and superstition. His psychological insight is unsurpassed—and is linked up with the unmasking of sociological mechanism. He never allows modern knowledge of the working of the subconscious to get the better of him, nor to interfere with the coherence of the narrative.

The realities through which his characters are being formed and their minds shown in action, that is what Lion Feuchtwanger is concerned with. Among the teachers of his epic craft is one of the oldest story-tellers: Homer. Did he get the element of drama from him, too? I had expected that Feuchtwanger, after turning the magical prose of his novel "Die hässliche Herzogin" into the functional one of his play "Die Petroleuminsel"—changing, at the same time, a novel into a play and a German medieval background into a modern American one—would have contributed more richly to the contemporary theatre: the first essay I wrote about him a quarter of a century ago introduced a series about Modern Drama. But his exile was the cause of his becoming mainly a novelist.

His novel "Erfolg" was the story of Germany's emerging nationalism in the twenties. But he dug deeper into the problem of nationalism, and treated Jewish nationalism, among other topics, in his novel trilogy about Flavius Josephus. The problem of leadership and intellectuals comes up as well—and Feuchtwanger stood the test for himself and others in his escape from France.

An "objective" Author

Feuchtwanger is an "objective" author, but his works have a world of their own. The relationship between Vespasianus and Josephus reminds us of that between Jud Süß and his Duke. Tüverlin, in his roman à clef, "Erfolg," was a self-portrait, and so is, in a way, his "Goya": courageous, outspoken, nothing human alien to him, possessed by truth in his art, and yet careful, dissimulating in order to foil tyranny, and using no heroic means to achieve this end. The events taking place at the doorstep from the Middle Ages to modern times (no break functioning in Spain), the Inquisition still, or rather again, being a powerful institution, this novel (English: "This is the Hour," Hutchinson) conveys the loss of beauty, which the coming of a

new order involved, and the trochaic verse concluding each chapter is more than local colour, it is both a tribute and an epilogue to it. Thus Feuchtwanger himself sacrificed his propensities as a dramatist, who had set out with adaptations from Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Kalidasa and Calderon, in order to interpret and make his muddle-headed contemporaries learn from history.

"Goya" belongs to the world of the French Revolution, the prelude to which he plays in his great novel, "Die Füchse im Weinberg," impressing upon us the character studies of Franklin, Beaumarchais, and Louis XVI, the latter being by no means a fool, but a man who fully understood what was on and who knew why he resisted the queen and her clique and did not wish to receive the emissary of American Democracy or to permit the performance of "Figaro" at his Court. It is a sympathetic portrait of the king, but, for all his objectivity, we feel, in this historical panorama, Feuchtwanger's love for the writers Franklin and Beaumarchais, intellectuals who became men of action through the forces they unleashed.

In his latest work such a man is the real hero, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, whose unheroic life, however, comes to an end in the first part of the book. There he is, moving and funny, candid and theatrical, the power emanating from his writings being of more consequence than the man. The larger part of the book deals with Rousseau's glory and the rise of the Rousseau legend, the terror committed in the name of "Reason," though Rousseau became the begetter of the French Revolution by his strong appeal to the emotions, a romantic whose most passionate disciple was Robespierre! Voltaire plays but an episode in "Narrenweisheit"—leading up to the king's execution—and in "Die Füchse im Weinberg" (Querido, Amsterdam).

And yet, both Romantics and Revolutionaries can rightly call on the author of "La Nouvelle Héloïse," "Emile" and "Les Confessions," just as educationists of today embrace both the teachings of Plato and of his opposite, Rousseau. One of the foremost educationists of our time, Sir Richard Livingstone, holds that History and Literature are indispensable studies for the training of character. Lion Feuchtwanger lived up to this postulate before it was made. It is this creative educationist's secret how to reconcile the claims of the "highbrow" with the demands of those readers who take delight in a thriller.

BRUNO WEIL 70 YEARS OLD

On April 1, Dr. Bruno Weil, formerly Berlin, now in New York, will be 70. Since his student days, Dr. Weil has been active in German politics and a fervent advocate in the fight for an equal status of the German Jews. He was one of the Vice-Presidents of the "Central-Verein" and one of the most popular public speakers on Jewish platforms. Born in the Saar, he knew France as well as Germany, and in his literary work dealt with the crises of the French Republic. His books, "Die Affaire Dreyfuss" and "General Boulanger," were meant as warnings against the threatening danger of National Socialism. Even after Hitler had come to power, he courageously tried to continue his fight by publishing "Der Weg der deutschen Juden," which was to become a necrology on German Jewry. His political career in Germany was ended by a Gestapo Order prohibiting him to pursue any further public activities as a speaker and writer. Abroad, he very early took an interest in the problem of restitution. On the occasion of his birthday, it is the wish of his friends that he may retain his energy and fighting spirit and good health.

On the occasion of his retirement the University of Washington (Seattle) honoured the Authority on Roman Law, Professor Dr. Ernst Levy (formerly Heidelberg) by dedicating to him the latest issue of the Washington Law Review. Honorary Doctor titles were bestowed on Professor Levy by the Universities of Frankfurt and Heidelberg.

The publisher Adolf Neumann died in Stockholm at the age of 75. He was a partner in the well-known publishing firm Ruetten & Loening and a personal friend of many authors, such as Gustav Landauer, Romain Rolland and Sigrild Undset.

Mr. Nathan Roberg (formerly Cantor and Teacher in Hanover), passed away in Johannesburg (South Africa) at the age of 86.

LAW and LIFE

Legal Advice (for persons with limited means only) may be obtained through the AJR Social Services Department

ON INTESTACY

The property of a person who dies intestate, that means without making a will, is distributed according to a new scheme which came into force on January 1, 1953.

The exact division of the estate among the members of the deceased's family is complicated. We wish to explain some essential principles only, in a simplified form, which will cause everyone who should have definite wishes for the disposal of his property in a manner different from the new intestacy law, to obtain professional advice for making a testament.

The first claim on the intestate's estate, remaining after payment of the debts of the deceased and the funeral and administrative expenses, is that of the surviving husband or wife.

The spouse gets everything, if the intestate leaves no children or their offspring, and none of the nearest relatives, such as parent, brother or sister, or their offspring.

Where the intestate leaves in addition to a spouse children or their offspring, the estate is divided between the spouse and the children or their offspring. But before the estate is divided between them, the widow or widower is entitled to receive the personal chattels, such as furniture, motor-cars and articles of household or personal use or ornament, but not chattels used for business purposes; and in addition to these chattels the spouse receives a so-called statutory legacy free of duty and costs of £5,000—with interest at the rate of 4 per cent from the date of death until payment.

The remaining estate is divided between spouse and children as follows: The spouse gets the income for life on one half of the estate, or, if he or she prefers, the capital value of that life interest. All that remains goes to the children on so-called "statutory trusts." This means that—as a rule—they cannot enjoy that property before they obtain the age of 21 years or marry; but the income of that part of the estate can be used for their maintenance.

Should a spouse survive without children or their direct descendants but together with one of the above nearest relatives, the spouse is entitled to an increased statutory legacy, namely to £20,000—instead of the above £5,000—and to some other advantages upon which we do not want to enlarge.

Finally, the surviving spouse is always entitled to important rights as respects the matrimonial home, if this was a dwelling house in which the surviving husband or wife was resident at the time of the intestate's death.

It is clear that the overwhelming majority of estates will be exhausted by the payment of the spouse's statutory legacy when there is nothing left for the children. These, however, will find a certain remedy under a law which enables them to ask the court to exercise its discretion in favour of reasonable relief of any hardship; but such applications are restricted to children, who are incapable of maintaining themselves through mental or physical disability, and to unmarried daughters of whatever age and to sons under 20 years of age.

E. M.

GERMANY RATIFIES LUXEMBURG AGREEMENT

The German-Israeli reparations agreement was ratified by the Lower House (Bundestag) on March 18, and by the Upper House (Bundesrat) on March 20. After the Third Reading in the Bundestag, of the 358 deputies who were present when the vote was taken, 238 voted in favour, 34 against and 86 abstained; 44 deputies were absent, including about 30 who had been present earlier in the day. Among those who spoke in favour of the ratification were Count von Stretti (Christian Social Union), Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier (Christian Democratic Union) and Professor Carlo Schmid on behalf of the Social Democratic Party; all of them stressed the moral importance of the Agreement as a step towards the establishment of a new relationship between Germany and the Jews. Speakers against the ratification included Adolf von Thadden (German Rightist Party) and Oscar Mueller (Communist); some other speakers turned against the "new injustice" created by restitution legislation and announced that they would abstain because their concern was legislation on individual rather than on collective indemnification.

The First Reading of the Ratification Bill on March 4 was opened by an impressive statement in which Bundeskanzler Dr. Adenauer described the Agreement as the implementation of the pledge he had made with the unanimous approval of the House on September 27, 1951. "We thus want to undo the wrongs," the Chancellor said, "as far as this is humanly possible and as far as we are able to do so. We must clear the name of Germany and try to obtain for her again the reputation she deserves as the bearer of a proud cultural heritage." After recalling the Slansky Trial and other recent developments in Communist countries, Dr. Adenauer said at the end of his address: "Within the limits of our capacity we want to relieve the misery of refugees who had fallen the victims of a past German Government. The Federal Government hopes that the ratification of the Agreement in times like these will also be regarded as a German contribution towards the promotion of human and religious tolerance."

In a statement, issued immediately after the ratification, Dr. Nahum Goldmann paid tribute to Dr. Adenauer and described it as particularly satisfactory that not only deputies of the Coalition parties but also the Social Democratic Party had

voted in favour of its adoption. He expressed the hope that the second part of the Luxembourg Agreement, referring to unified legislation on individual compensation, would also be acted upon without delay.

Dr. E. Shinnar, Head of the Israel Purchasing Mission, said that the ratification signified the consummation of an historical act of state without precedent.

TRANSFER OF DM. FROM BLOCKED ACCOUNTS

Whilst, as a rule, blocked accounts cannot be transferred at the ordinary exchange rate, permission for a transfer up to 200 DM. per month may be granted by the Bank Deutscher Laender on application if the account owner is needy or old; a "Beduerftigkeitsnachweis," endorsed by a Jewish organisation, has to be attached in cases of neediness (due to small income, illness, etc.), but not necessarily in cases of advanced age. Decisions are taken on the merits of each case; preference is given to owners of small accounts. The transfer permission usually covers a period of six months and has to be renewed after this.

ISRAELI ADDRESSES GERMANS

At a meeting in Hamburg Dr. Chaim Yachil, head of the Israeli purchasing Mission, spoke to journalists, officials and merchants on "Current problems in Israel." The meeting had been sponsored by the Hamburg Press Club and its Chairman Erich Lueth, the initiator of the "Peace with Israel" campaign.

OLIVE TREES CAMPAIGN

Dr. Erich Lueth, the initiator of the "Peace with Israel" Movement, recently stated that the movement for the planting of olive trees in Israel was expected to yield 50,000 to 60,000 DM. With this fund it will be possible to plant about 10,000 olive trees in Israel.

WEEK OF BROTHERHOOD

During the Week of Brotherhood all larger German cities arranged public meetings which, according to press reports, were most impressive and dignified. At a meeting in Munich the Israeli Consul Dr. Eliahu K. Livneh stated that there were some signs in German life which justified the hope for a change of heart.

In Berlin the Week was opened by a meeting in the Municipal Opera House with Professor Reuter as the main speaker.

FORMER NAZI IN CHARGE OF EDUCATION

Schulrat Dr. Wilhelmsmeyer was appointed Head of the Department for Elementary Education in the Ministry of Education North Rhine, Westphalia. Under the Nazi regime, he was lecturer of the Dortmund Institute for the Training of Schoolmasters. In an article published in 1939 Wilhelmsmeyer criticised the "domineering influence" of Jews on German culture and described the language of German Jewish authors as "geheimes Juedisch."

SLANDER ACTION AGAINST "APOTHEKENFUEHRER"

The former Reichsapothekenfuhrer, Schmierer, who now owns a pharmacy in Duesseldorf, was sentenced to indemnify a Jewish pharmacist, against whom he had made slanderous attacks in the "Stuermer" before the war.

GERMAN SENTENCED FOR INSULTING JEW

In a restitution case in Cologne, a German chauffeur had threatened the custodian with bodily harm and declared: "All Jews should have been gassed and we would not now be pestered by the presence of Jewish scum." The chauffeur was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Help for Israel

Anglo-Jewry's alert interest in the Jewish State was demonstrated by its quick response to the Joint Palestine Appeal for 1953 which was launched in London by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, co-chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive. Towards the target of £2,000,000, the 1,000 guests present at the opening dinner contributed at once £470,000 (Sir Simon Marks' family alone £75,000 and Mr. Isaac Wolfson's £50,000). Another £178,000 was collected during the first week, in Manchester (£45,000), Leeds (£38,000), Glasgow (£30,000), Brighton (£20,000), Birmingham (£18,000), Liverpool (£12,000), and Cardiff (£5,500). A high proportion, £115,000, was raised by the furniture trade. Many contributions were twice the amount of 1952. The campaign was assisted by the Speaker of the Knesset, Mr. Josef Sprinzak, who addressed a number of meetings.

Under the auspices of the Jewish Agency and the Board of Deputies a Hebrew section was opened in the Westminster City Library.

Soviet Apologists

Russian policy towards the Jews was for the first time defended in public by the foremost of Anglo-Jewry's Communists, Mr. Phil Piratin, former M.P. for Mile End. Unruffled champions of Moscow's strategy are also Mr. Max Druck, Manchester and Salford Area Organiser of the Communist Party, and Mr. Jack Gaster, prospective Parliamentary candidate for Stepney, who told the British Soviet Friendship Society: "My father was a close friend of Theodor Herzl, and I was brought up to understand the meaning of Zionism. That is why I detest it."

Members of the Left-wing Workers' Circle Friendly Society unanimously condemned the "tendency to racial discrimination in the U.S.S.R." It is believed that several hundreds, particularly Jews, have left the Communist Party out of dismay at the new policy.

Education

The decline of Jewish life in the East End of London was revealed in a memorandum by the Secretary of the Federation of Synagogues who found that "most of our synagogues are closed during the week and a large number find it extremely difficult to get a minyan even on the Sabbath." He proposed that two young English-speaking rabbis be appointed for the East End, in order to influence and regain "the large and important sections who have become completely indifferent to everything Jewish." It was also recommended that "immediate steps be taken for the establishment of a Jewish day school in the East End."

Jewish educational problems were discussed in a Parliamentary debate on the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. Mr. Barnett Janner moved a clause to facilitate the religious education of Jewish children in schools where they have to withdraw during the main religious instruction. He said that a very heavy cost was already borne by Anglo-Jewry in providing education for their children. He wanted the Jewish community to be able to arrange for a teacher to visit a school and teach the children there. Mr. Janner explained that there were only 17 Jewish day schools in the country (including 13 in London), which catered for just over 2,500 Jewish children out of a probable total of 40,000.

An increase in the standards of Jewish education was noted by the Director of Jewish Education (Dr. I. Fishman) as he compared the results of this year's examination papers with last year's. He complained, however, of the lack of qualified teachers though adequate salaries were being paid.

The question of wages was an issue between the London Board of Shechita and the Agudas Hashochtim v Shomrim (Cattle Section), as the Shochtim demanded a weekly increase from £17 to £23. The dispute is now before the Beth Din.

Honours

Mr. Neville Laski, Q.C., was appointed an additional Judge of the High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man.

Alderman Sir Samuel Gluckstein, President of the Maccabees and chairman of the borough's Coronation Committee, was presented with the Honorary Freedom of the City of Westminster in recognition of his public services for nearly half a century.

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PELTOURS

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Hans Jaeger:

A NEW NAZI BIBLE

Perhaps it is more than a coincidence that at the same time as Nazi conspirators were arrested a book appeared in Germany which contains all the legends of the Nazi time, a glorification of the past and an "encouragement" for the future, more outspoken than it was ever attempted before. The publisher is Kurt Vowinkel in Heidelberg, who also revived the "Periodical for Geopolitics." The author, Peter Kleist, himself says that this book will be a nuisance to many. One gets a taste of his dialectics when he makes the sarcastic remark that the book would be resented by the 90 per cent "who were always against it" and the 90 per cent "who once said yes" (!) It is this contradiction to which Kleist is referring with his book title, "Auch Du warst dabei" (You too had a share in it). The title and all it implies would in itself provide sufficient matter for many articles because the author, though in every way an ardent nationalist, is just confirming what many critics of Germany said before on the high percentage of Nazi followers and their influence on public opinion in the question of guilt and responsibility. He is reversing the line of argumentation which might be expected from a nationalist. What Kleist is trying to say is this: "You are cowards! You deny you had a share in it! But you can never be dismissed from your share. All of us are sitting in the same boat." It is well known that this is exactly what the Nazi leaders wanted to achieve: by increasing the guilt and making as many people as possible jointly responsible, they intended to create a kind of solidarity which was to survive the catastrophe. "You had better explain why you followed Hitler, instead of denying that you followed him!" The implication is that there is nothing to be afraid of. On the contrary, Fascism is not any longer in the state of defence. It is raising its head again.

Of course on this point Kleist is expressing himself less clumsily. He would not mention the "Fascist International." We now know that though Fascists do not conceal any longer their ideas, their hatred and their longings, they still conceal their aims, their cross-connections and their ties of organisation. The last stage has not been reached yet. It may be observed that there is a development in various phases. For instance, when Peter Kleist, who was head of the Eastern Department of the "Ribbentrop Office" and, later on, deputy Ministerial Director of the Political Head Office of the Ministry of Eastern European Affairs (under Rosenberg), wrote his first book, "Zwischen Hitler und Stalin" (Athenaeum Verlag, Bonn, 1950), he was still moderate, and from his criticism of the policy of the German occupation authorities towards the Ukrainian opposition or towards Russians like General Vlassov, the wrong conclusion could have been drawn that he was an out-and-out anti-Nazi. Now we know better.

Distortion of Truth

The book is reviving the old grievances and accusations. When Kleist asks mockingly whether one could imagine that 80 million Germans clenched their fists only in their pockets on account of the Gestapo, then he repeats what the critics of Germany said for many years, and it might be food for thought for some people. But there is less food for thought if one reads the historical falsifications presented with the typical self-pity and persecution mania which were so often the stimuli as far as foreign policy was concerned. How Kleist distorts truth can be seen from a few examples which are sufficient. Though everybody knows that in 1914, Serbia yielded to Austrian pressure and that therefore the Kaiser suggested new demands which might be unacceptable, Kleist states that Serbia was unyielding because she was encouraged by Russia. Contrary to assurances given by Asquith and Lloyd George, Kleist maintains that, after 1918, the British Empire was increased by 3,755,053 sq. kilometres. How did he arrive at this figure? Not only by including the mandatory areas but also—Egypt!

Since we are recording falsifications, we have also to refer to Kleist's impertinence of denying the number of six million Jewish victims. He estimates a "potential maximum of losses" of 1,277,212. It sounds like mockery, and this kind of argumentation, which has already become part of the neo-Nazi

propaganda, is bound to raise indignation and disgust. Even without the help of statistics, one can find out rather quickly some, though not all, "mistakes" in this calculation: (1) Kleist estimates the figures of Jewish refugees between 1933 and 1945 at 1,440,000 and deducts it from the total number of European Jews in the pre-Hitler days. His figures, split up according to countries of reception, are so fantastically high (England 120,000, Canada 60,000, Central and South America 306,000, India 25,000, Africa 45,000) that one must suspect that, at least in the case of some countries, they include the indigenous Jewish population. (2) He states quite arbitrarily that among 1.3 million who lived east of the German-Soviet demarcation line of 1939 but outside of the Soviet Union one million escaped to the interior of the Soviet Union. (3) He makes a deduction of 1,559,000 Jews still living in Europe though part of this figure must be contained in the figure of refugees as far as they remained in Europe (England, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain). (4) He counts, even more arbitrarily, the number of Jews killed inside the Soviet Union at 90,000. And at the end of these "statistics" Kleist makes the remark that everybody who uses the "exaggerated" figures is exposed to the reproach that he serves hatred instead of truth. It does not occur to him that it is he who sows hatred. In view of this attempt to minimise the massacre one cannot believe that his "indignation" is genuine. Half-hearted criticism, combined with the inclination to admit only a small percentage (as if even a number of "only" 1,277,212 murdered human beings would not be exactly as bad as a higher figure) are part of a quite conscious propaganda campaign whose objects are to create the impression that "it was not as bad as that," to discredit the critics and, once this goal has been achieved, to deny everything. This target has to be reached step by step. In the end, the feeling of guilt, anyhow underdeveloped enough, is to be destroyed completely so that the propensities of a new era of "heroism" need not be afraid of its "weakening" effect. The most important means towards this end is to make the critics appear untrustworthy. Once the first doubts have arisen, it may be easier to disperse the last remnants of a bad conscience which are harmful for the "new spirit." Therefore, it is necessary to answer with a powerful counter-propaganda.

Everywhere, decent people are already forced on to the defensive. We need only think of the former inmates of concentration camps, or of the people of the 20th of July, 1944. Against such trends all friends of freedom, democracy, decency and justice have to stand together: one has to resist the evil in the beginning, before it is too late. It is more than a fight for statistics, more than a fight against a book. This book is a symptom. It must not find us asleep.

AN ANGLO-JEWISH QUARTERLY

It is one of the less favourable aspects of the Anglo-Jewish Community that it has, so far, not succeeded in establishing on a permanent basis a magazine which serves the cultural requirements of British Jews. The "Jewish Monthly," sponsored by the Anglo-Jewish Association, had unfortunately to be disbanded for the lack of means. Now efforts have been made to fill the gap and the first issue of the "Jewish Quarterly" (published at 11 The Park, London, N.W.11, 2/6 per issue) has become available. Most of the articles published in the first 100-page issue are devoted to subjects of literature and art. It would be commendable if future editions also dealt more thoroughly with other topical questions of present-day Jewry. The lay-out (many contributions are printed in rather small characters), too, leaves room for some improvement. All these are, however, minor points as compared with the fact that some courageous publishers have started the ball rolling and made another—we hope successful—attempt to initiate a magazine which tries to cater for the intellectual needs of the community.

W. R.

Old Acquaintances

He was Hitler's Prisoner:—The man who published the first anti-Nazi book ("I Was Hitler's Prisoner") in England is coming back to London to take over the illustrated weekly he once helped to found. Stefan Lorant, born in Hungary, made a name for himself when he became editor of "Muenchner Illustrierte" and made this paper great. When he came to England as one of the first refugees, he wrote his above-mentioned book, and with the help of a few friends founded the pocket magazine "Liliput." It was a success at once; later on, he sold it to millionaire Edward Hulton, and started "Picture Post" for him. After the outbreak of the war, Lorant left this country for the United States, where he started to edit American history books in pictures. To-day he is one of the biggest collectors of early photos, and his books are best sellers in America. As "Picture Post" could not find the right editor after Tom Hopkinson left, Mr. Hulton offered Lorant the job for a huge salary.

London News:—Anton Walbrook took the leading part in Sherwood's "Road to Rome," broadcast by the B.B.C.—Erna Lippmann left for Stuttgart to join the publishing company Tauchnitz; her job with a London agency was taken over by Mrs. Egon Larsen.—Leontine Sagan, who used to direct many plays before the war, adapted Heinrich Mann's "Madame Legros" for radio and acted in it when the B.B.C. broadcast the work.—Hugo Schuster will be in the forthcoming production of "Stalag 17."—Oscar Homolka will be in the A.B.P. picture "House of the Arrow."—At a combined meeting of the P.E.N. Club and Club 43 Dr. H. G. Adler spoke about the life and work of Franz Bearmann Steiner, who was born in Prague and died at Oxford two years ago.

This and That:—When Lilian Harvey married her agent near Copenhagen, the church was empty, and very few people showed interest.—Josef Gienel produced "Venus Observed" in Vienna's "Burgtheater."—W. Hoffmann-Harnisch has returned to Berlin; he recently gave a lecture on the theatre in South America, where he had lived in exile.—Fritz Kortner successfully directed "Rose Tattoo" in Munich and went to Vienna to read Thornton Wilder.—Robert Stolz is scoring a musical version of "The Piper from Vienna" after a libretto by Ulrich Becher and Peter Preses.—Eighty-three-year-old Oscar Strauss is writing the music for two pictures in Munich.—Peter Lorre will appear in "Beat the Devil" to be produced in Rome.

Milestones:—In New York Ossip Dymow celebrated his 75th birthday. The Jewish playwright who wrote all his life in Yiddish, turned to sculpturing, and is engaged in Television work now.—Actor Ludwig Stoessel in Hollywood is 70 years old; he got a cable from the city of Vienna on his birthday.—Also 70 is Lucie Hoefflich, who started her stage career in 1903 in Berlin. She belongs to the period of Max Reinhardt and was once Maeterlinck's "Melisande." We saw her last in "Madwoman of Chaillot," and she was as impressive as always.

Obituaries:—Oskar Neruda, aged 71, died in London after a stroke; he was the founder of "Buehnenvertrieb deutscher Autoren."—Art dealer Paul Graupe died in Paris after a long illness.—The Austrian agent Felix Herrlinger, married to a daughter of actress Frieda Richard, died in Chicago.—Aged 77, director Carl Froelich died in Berlin.

PEM

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ISRAEL IN STATISTICS

Israel, it must be admitted, is losing attraction for spinsters of all ages. In former years, Jewish Palestine suffered from a perceptible lack of females and many came to the country eager to marry. Gradually, the natural balance between the sexes is being restored. In the past year there was a further drop in the percentage of males among the Jewish population which fell from 52 per cent in 1949 to 50.9 per cent. But there is one compensation for Israel's women: they live longer than their male partners. While the average life expectation of men is 67.3 years, that of women is over 70.

Judging from figures, Jerusalem is the most dangerous city in the country. Eight per thousand of her inhabitants died, neither through lack of electricity, nor lack of municipal efficiency, but mainly because of a preponderance of aged people. In comparison, the kibbutzim, with a mortality rate of 2.9 per thousand, appear like a new form of life insurance. The capital, however, vindicated her reputation by having the highest birth rate in the country (34.8 per thousand), far above Tel Aviv with 26.1, let alone Haifa with 24.7. With so many old people among her inhabitants, this record is all the more commendable, although statisticians attribute it to her large Oriental community and the old Yishuv.

Though "Zena" might have helped to prolong the average life of the Israelis, it has not acted as "shadchan." In the past year, only 11.66 per thousand residents got married as compared with 14.64 in the year before. That the average age of the bridegroom was 29.7 and that of the bride 24.6, makes it clear that Ashkenasim in Israel enter marriage at a more advanced age, as Oriental couples under the "chupa" are, on the whole, far younger than the average. The divorce rate increased, though not alarmingly, from 2.12 to 2.78 per thousand.

The decrease in marriages was caused less by economy than by the proportional drop of persons of marrying age. In the past two years, there was a considerable rise in the percentage of the very young and the very old. Almost 31 per cent of the population are children (up to 14 years) and nearly 7 per cent are above 60 years, a phenomenon resulting from the immigration of large families. The group of persons of the main working age (15-44) declined from 51.9 per cent in 1948 to 48 per cent.

Unlike Other Countries

There are very few facts in which Israel can be likened to other countries. France, for instance, holds the record of having the world's heaviest drinkers (22 drunkards for every thousand people) while Israel's number of alcoholics is proportionally small. Only Israel's density of population, which is 78 persons per sq. kilometer is nearest to France (76.1). The industrialized countries of Europe have, of course, a much higher density (Belgium 274.1 and Britain 140.5). In the Mediterranean area, Israel is only surpassed by Italy with almost double the number of people per sq. kilometer (140.5). But then, Italy has long been a country of emigration, unable to support her population. Switzerland's figure of 101.3 may serve as some consolation, for it proves that there is still a considerable margin even in non-industrialized countries whose area is

partly uncultivable. On the other hand, the western proportions of Israel's density hardly match those of her neighbours: Egypt has 15.6 inhabitants per sq. kilometer, Syria 22, Iraq 10 and Jordan just over 8. Yet the uneven concentration of people in certain parts of Israel has caused drastic divergencies from place to place: in the Yarkon area, as many as 2,916 live per sq. kilometer; in the Haifa Bay area, 831; in the area of Jerusalem and the Judean Hills, 559; while in the Negev the density is only 3.

Whoever likes statistics will find a wealth of information—and inspiration—in the Government Year Book 5713 (1952), published both in Hebrew and English, where he can find everything, from the number of work days (1,224,000) provided by public works, to the 96 million postage stamps which were printed in 15 types in 41 denominations.

In 1952, Israel was represented in 44 countries in 30 of which she maintained diplomatic missions, while 37 States were represented in Israel, 24 of them with diplomatic missions. 78 Bills were submitted by the Government to the Knesset of which 47 were passed. In addition, 445 Orders and Rules were issued by Ministries and other competent authorities and 600 By-laws and Orders relating to local government. The administrative machinery of the State was run by 27,152 civil servants, not counting 5,337 policemen and prison warders. Out of 1,300 applicants who sat for civil service examinations, 38% received appointments, over half of them new immigrants. 400 complaints were referred to a disciplinary tribunal as a result of which 91 officers were dismissed and 12 resigned. The police had to investigate 35,950 felonies and misdemeanours, 44.6 per cent more than in the previous year. The increase was mainly in crimes of violence. Counting all contraventions—excluding traffic offences—they had to deal with 58,758 offences—239 for every 10,000 inhabitants.

Shortage of Accommodation

Bed shortage figures twice in the statistics. Of 390 hotels with 5,350 rooms and 15,000 beds, only 45, with 1,500 rooms and 2,500 beds, were classified as suitable for tourists. In hospitals general bed strength increased by 10 per cent in 1952 to just over 5,000, but there is still a great shortage of hospital beds for mental patients whose waiting list is over 500.

Israelis, like all Jews, love to travel, but unlike most of the others, they are content to travel inland. There is a fleet of 1,536 buses, 1,638 taxis, over 15,000 lorries and nearly 11,000 private cars serving the country's needs—yet only 35,000 tyres were released for sale during the year.

Many a myth has been exploded about Israel and Israelis. Here is one more. The superficial observer would assume that almost every family in the country entertains regular contact with friends and relatives abroad. Far from it. In 1952, only just over six million letters went out by air, in addition to 1,815,000 letters sent by sea. Deducting from this amount the countless business firms, public offices and institutions with their inflated volume of mail, it appears that communications with the Diaspora are left to a minority of the population.

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(See Announcement on front page)

THE EASTERN ZONE

The East-Berlin "Taegliche Rundschau" accuses Zionism of being in the service of American aggression and thus helping to restore Hitler's Fascism, which ultimately must lead to racial hatred and anti-Semitism.

New Office for a Jew

The former Public Relations Officer of the Eastern German Government, Albert Norden, a Jew, has been appointed Secretary of the "Staendiger Deutscher Ausschuss fuer die friedliche Loesung der Deutschen Frage." It is one of the tasks of his office to establish contacts between the members of the "Ausschuss" and the German Federal Republic.

COMMUNISTS LEAVE VIENNA COMMUNITY

A number of leading Jewish officials of the Austrian Communist Party have resigned their membership with the Vienna Jewish Community. According to the "Neue Zeitung," they hope that this will save them from anti-Semitic purges.

CALL FOR REVOCATION OF AUSTRIAN ANTI-NAZI LAWS

"Die Neue Front," a weekly publication of the right wing League of Independents, has started a campaign against laws punishing Austrian Nazis. They claim that these laws were incompatible with the Declaration on Human Rights.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

In connection with restitution claims the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany requires information about the following persons:—
Lewinski, family, formerly Berlin C.2, An der Spandauer Bruecke 1b; Alfred, Susanne and Eleonore have been deported to the East, two other daughters Ellen and Eva are believed to be married in Australia and Israel respectively.
Robert and Isidor Meier, formerly Celle.
Malka Seelenfreund, in Belsen Camp up to December 1947.
Arnold Weiss, born 14.3.1921 in Hechtsheim near Mainz.
Clara Wolffs, formerly Aurich.
Goldine Hoffmann, née Wolffs, formerly Aurich.
Siegmond and Amalie von der Wyk, formerly Emden.
Salomon, Hanni and Jonny Nordheimer, formerly Emden.
Louis and Bertha Goldstein, formerly Mainz.
Replies should be sent either to the "Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland," Duesseldorf, Fischerstr. 49, or to the AJR.

Indispensable for all Jews from Germany are the

"Allgemeine Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland" and the monthly "Juedische Illustrierte".

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IN GRATITUDE TO OUR PARENTS

Employment for the Aged

The debt of gratitude we owe to our parents is a very heavy one. Our parents lived in a very difficult age and made great sacrifices to provide security and success for their children's future. They built up businesses and factories hoping their children would be able to carry on when the time came. Their hopes have been shattered, they were uprooted at the time when they should have harvested the fruits of their labours, but in many cases it was still enough to enable the children to transfer to this country part of the enterprises their parents had set up. It is to those members of the refugee community that I should like to make a special appeal.

I have discovered during the years of my collaboration with the Employment and Welfare Office of the AJR that there is one gap in their activities which I should like to see bridged. There are quite a few older members of the refugee community whom it is impossible to place in the normal way, but who need employment badly. It is not even a question of remuneration, though that comes into it as well, it is mainly important from the psychological point of view. These men (and quite a few women too) are slowly going downhill, because they feel superfluous and there seems to be no place in life left for them. Should they be penalised for having lost everything, after having made such enormous sacrifices for their children? Sometimes their children can repay them for what they have done for them, but very often they live in other countries and have to face new difficulties in their new home-lands.

I should like to see these old people regaining their self-esteem with our help. It ought not to be impossible to find employment for them in refugee enterprises. A trusted employee who could help in the office organisation or look after statistics and

similar tasks could easily be employed by most businesses, or factories, or hotels, and the comparatively small salary paid to them would hardly be felt. It should be possible to find room for them, just as in the general labour market it has been possible to find room for disabled persons. It would give them a new lease of life.

In the same way it should be possible to find work for the women who are too old to take on regular employment, but whose position would be greatly improved if they could take on repair jobs for household linen and underwear; they could do these jobs in the homes of those needing them, or in their own homes. The AJR Employment Agency have a number of addresses of women prepared to

take on such work, and if all housewives made a resolution to have all their mending done by such people, a lot of good could be done—again materially as well as psychologically. The same applies to bachelors who want their personal wear looked after by reliable people.

If all of us who have settled down in this country remember the debt of gratitude we owe to our own parents and to the generation of our parents, I am sure this appeal will meet with an overwhelming response.

FRANK GODFREY

STAMP EXHIBITION

Dear Sir,

The British Association of Israel Philatelists has arranged to hold an exhibition at the Anglo Israeli Club, 43 Windmill Street, Piccadilly, London, daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., from April 20 to April 26, 1953. It is proposed to show some of the finest specimens and rarities from world-famous collections covering the following branches of philately: Postal History of Palestine—The Holy Land, Forerunners of Palestine, British Mandate Stamps, Israel Provisionals, Israel Definitives, also the Capex Exhibition of Israel Government Stamps.

It is hoped, with the permission of the Postmaster-General, to use a special postmark to celebrate this occasion and to issue a commemorative envelope or postcard.

Readers interested, and requiring further information, should write to Major S. Denfield, 49 Downage, Hendon, London, N.W.4.

Yours faithfully,

British Association of Palestine-Israel Philatelists,
G. L. Barron.

London,
March 30, 1953.

Letters to the Editor

THE LATE MR. GEORG LESS

Mr. P. Rosten (formerly Rosenstein) writes: "On the occasion of the death of Mr. Georg Less (Montevideo), all former members of the Jewish Community of Breslau will thankfully remember the work this man did for the Jews of Breslau during the most fateful years of this community. As the Chairman of the Jewish Community till 1941 when he managed to emigrate to Uruguay it fell to his task to wind up the administration of one of the largest and greatest Jewish Communities of Germany. During all his lifetime he was an outspoken Democrat, very active in the municipal administration of Breslau until 1933, and a convinced Liberal Jew. His unselfish devotion to the work he had taken on voluntarily connected with his tactful and amiable manners won him the high esteem of all sections and fractions of the Jewish Community of Breslau."

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Marriage

Betty Jsrael-Lewin—John Conway of 93, Greencroft Gardens, N.W.6. At Home: Saturday, April 11th, 3-6 p.m.

Deaths

Mrs. Emmy Seidel, née Roubitschek, formerly Berlin-Schoeneberg, quietly passed away on February 21, 1953, at the age of 85. Deeply mourned by her children, sister, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. London, Sydney, Johannesburg and Vienna. 12 Coles Green Court, London, N.W.2.

Dr. Ludwig Abrahamson (formerly Rechtsanwalt and Notar Berlin), of 1 Carlton Mansions, Chichele Road, London, N.W.2, passed away recently, deeply mourned by his family.

Consecration

The tombstone in memory of the late Dr. Hans Willy Rosenberg, of 108 Greencroft Gardens, will be consecrated on 12th April, at 11.30 a.m. at Willesden Cemetery, Ponds Lane.

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Situations Vacant

YOUNG MAN REQUIRED. For work in a first-class picture frame workshop. Conditions are: Artistic feeling, some knowledge of drawing and painting, interest in history of Art; good prospects. Box 161.

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DISPATCH CLERK, exp. and reliable, first-class references, wants to change his job. Box 164.

BOOKKEEPER, experienced, responsible, wants suitable position. Box 173.

CLERK/TYPIST, 73 y. old, wants part-time work. Box 174.

PHYSICIAN, non-registered, 72 y. old, wants part-time work. Hobbies: Library work and stamps. Box 175.

TEXTILE TRADE.—Man of 48, ex-Service man, former owner of business in Textiles, wants storekeeper job or other suitable work. Box 176.

HOMEWORK wanted by elderly couple, esp. exp. in buckles (leather and material). Best references. Box 181.

YOUNG MAN, middle 30, wants part-time job, 9-1 or so, cooking or other work of any kind. Box 179.

WAITER COUPLE wants a position together or separately. Long exp., good references. Box 183.

"SIXTY," former advocate, 9 years cartage clerk w. British Railways, now released "for age reasons," wants clerk's job. Box 184.

ASSISTANT to MANAGING DIRECTOR wanted

by Jersey cloth Manufacturers in London area. Applicant must have thorough technical and business experience. Apply in handwriting, giving full details of experience, age, salary expected, in confidence to Box 162.

Women

COPY TYPIST wants part-time or home work. Box 165.

LEDGER/FILING CLERK, P.A.Y.E., good references, wants position. Box 166.

HOME WORK wanted of any kind, exp. in pearl stringing and light sewing. Box 169.

NURSE, not State registered, good references, wants full- or part-time work. Box 170.

PART-TIME WORK wanted by housewife, cooking, light household work, mending, darning, etc. Box 171.

Miscellaneous

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

PESTALOZZI-FROEBEL HAUS.—Former pupil would be grateful for addresses of other pupils who attended the Pestalozzi-Froebel Haus. Box 185.

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WOULD LIKE to find good husband for attractive young lady (32), with some means of her own, trained nurse, who lost parents in Germany. Box 159.

MISSING PERSONS Enquiries from AJR

Korn, Ralph Bennet, born 17.12.93, for Gerda Wirkner, Duesseldorf.

Fleischmann, Dr. Hans, wife Margarete and children Susi and Hans, formerly lawyer in Berlin, for Paula Krause (née Mueller), Berlin.

Lachmann, Alfred, born 22.5.03, at Zittau, for Jewish Community, Berlin. Rottner, Ursula and Lydia, abt. 23 and 24, from Gleiwitz, for aunt in Chile.

Voss, Charles, last known address: 65 Lancaster Grove, N.W.3, for Landgericht Aachen.

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SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Invitations for Seder

Unfortunately, this year there was no response to our appeal for invitations for Seder. To accommodate some lonely people we therefore had to purchase tickets.

AJR Handicraft Exhibition

It is now possible to obtain gift tokens to be used for the purchase of needlework of various kinds. The tokens are valid for six months.

AJR Lending Library

There is a steady increase of friends who avail themselves of the recently established Lending Library for books in German. The Library (Room 3) is open during the office hours: Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m.—1 p.m., 3—6 p.m., Friday and Sunday, 10 a.m.—1 p.m. There is no fee.

THE HYPHEN

For information of the various activities of the Hyphen, please contact Lottie Metzger, 45A Golders Green Road, London, N.W.11.

Berthold Goldschmidt's Opera "Beatrice Cenci" will be conducted by the composer in the B.B.C. Third Programme on April 13 and 14.

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AJR CONCERT

As readers will have seen from the announcement in this issue, we have been fortunate to secure the appearance of two leading artists, Moiseiwitsch and Victoria Sladen (of Covent Garden Opera), at our Concert on May 17 at the Embassy Theatre. In the course of time our annual functions have become a tradition. They serve as a reunion of members and friends of the AJR. At the same time, they are of decisive importance for the services rendered by the AJR and by "AJR Information" throughout the year; the proceeds from the functions are urgently needed for meeting our steadily increasing liabilities. As before, tickets of various price categories have been made available; but to make the function also a financial success, it would be appreciated if those who can afford it would order seats of the better categories for themselves and their friends. As the demand for tickets will be very heavy, orders should be sent in very soon and, whenever possible, in the course of the next two weeks.

EINSTEIN REFUSES GERMAN HONORARY OFFICE

Professor Albert Einstein has declined to become an honorary member of the local Ulm Group of the International Anti-War Organisation (Internationale der Kriegsdienst-Gegner). He stated that whilst he was in agreement with the objects of the organisation he could not accept the honorary membership, because, after the crimes committed by Hitler Germany, he refused any participation in German public affairs.

DENTISTS BILL

On March 12 Dr. Stross asked the Minister of Health when he proposes to reintroduce the Dentists Bill. In her reply Miss Patricia Hornsby-Smith stated on behalf of the Ministry: "As soon as Parliamentary time permits, but I am afraid that will certainly not be this Session."

Mr. Blenkinsop: "Would the hon. Lady not agree that it is quite absurd to proceed with this Bill, and particularly with proposals to introduce dental nurses, so long as we are artificially restricting the work of fully-qualified dentists?"

As readers will remember, the Dentists Bill which could not be passed before the end of the last Session, also visualised new regulations for the admission of dental surgeons with foreign qualifications. In the interest of those refugee dentists with German qualifications, who for many years have tried in vain to be admitted to the register, the AJR is constantly watching further developments.

EASTERN REFUGEES

In answer to a Parliamentary question, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Nutting stated that the activities of the Commission screening refugees from Eastern Germany were entirely the responsibility of the German authorities. He also mentioned that in January about 5,500 had failed to satisfy the screening out of about 17,000 who had applied. Those who failed to satisfy remain in Berlin and are not being brought to Western Germany.

MOSLEY AGAINST ADMISSION OF REFUGEES

In his paper "Union," Sir Oswald Mosley raises strong objections against any plans of admitting Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe. "They will make no better citizens of Britain," he says, "than the flood that reached our shores in the 1930s. Let us put the British people first."

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