

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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A DISAPPOINTING LAW

Pensions under the Austrian Social Insurance Scheme

On April 7, 1954, the Austrian Parliament passed a "Zweite Novelle zum Sozialversicherungs-Ueberleitungsgesetz 1953". While this new law removes to a small extent the inequities which have existed hitherto and will enable a limited number of old and elderly emigrants to draw pensions, its provisos fall far short of the expectations justly raised by the repeated promises of the Austrian Government to remove all discriminatory measures against those who had to flee the country before the Nazi terror. It is clear that the meagre concessions were granted only grudgingly and with the utmost reluctance.

It is a sad reflection on the spirit in which the Austrian Government introduced the Bill that the official "Erläuternde Bemerkungen" (Explanatory Remarks) do not state as ratio legis any desire or necessity to make good wrongs inflicted upon the refugees. The Explanatory Remarks refer merely to requests on the part of emigrants and strong representations by the U.S. High Commissioner as the reason for presenting the Bill to Parliament.

The new law in fact perpetuates a number of discriminatory measures:

Payment of Arrears Limited

1. Pensions will be payable only as from May 1, 1950. In the "Explanatory Remarks" to the Bill, the attempt is made to justify this by the fact that social insurance reciprocity agreements are made retrospective as from May 5, 1950, and that for convenience sake the date of May 1, 1950 was chosen.

This argument is devoid of any convincing force. We fail to see why old people should not receive pensions due to them, at least as from the re-establishment of the Austrian Republic in May 1945.

Unjustified Exclusion from Supplements

2. The pensions under the Social Insurance Scheme consist of the basic pension which is only a fraction of the amount paid to pensioners in Austria, and sundry supplements thereto (Anpassungszuschläge, Ernaehrungszulage and Wohnungsbeihilfe), intended to mitigate the impact of the changes in the value of the Austrian currency since 1938.

No Wohnungsbeihilfe (Housing Assistance) will be paid to those residing abroad and the Ernaehrungszulage (Cost of Living Supplement), which forms the most important component of the pension, will be paid to the extent of only 50 per cent. The reasons given for this as regards the Housing Assistance are that by its very nature it is intended for those residing in Austria and as regards the Cost of Living Supplement that the Austrian Government proposes, by "way of compromise", not to apply the general rules providing for a stoppage of the Ernaehrungszulage if the beneficiary has some earnings, receives a pension from another source, or is in an institution at the expense of the Health Scheme or at someone else's expense.

Again, it is difficult to understand why emigrants who have been deprived of their furniture and household goods (now to a large extent in the hands of the Austrian population), and many of whom have still to live in this country in furnished rooms at high rentals, should not receive a housing supplement. While it may be proper for the Austrian Government to stop the Ernaehrungszulage if an Austrian resident is in an Austrian hospital under that country's Health Scheme, the argument does not apply if the beneficiary is in hospital in this country or in an Old Age Home established in the

United Kingdom by a charitable body. Neither should the fact that the beneficiary still has some earnings or a pension outside the Austrian economy, result in a reduction in the payments made under the Austrian Social Insurance Scheme.

Discriminatory Treatment of Emigrants

3. Nothing at all has been done by the Austrian Government to remove the consequences of the "1. Sozialversicherungs-Neuregelungsgesetz" on the basis of which it is impossible for the great majority of emigrants—estimated at over 90 per cent.—to retain their prospective rights (Anwartschaften), which they had acquired by paying contributions for many years. In general, "Anwartschaften", which were acquired before emigration, can be retained only by those who are in employment in Austria and continue therefore to pay contributions to the Austrian social insurance scheme. By this ingenious device the overwhelming majority of Jewish victims who no longer live in Austria, are deprived of their "Anwartschaften". Exceptions from this general rule exist at present only in favour of those comparatively few with a very long period of pre-war employment. Only a tiny minority will qualify for benefits under these provisions.

The position could be improved if the period of emigration would count as "Ersatzzeit", or as so-called "neutral period", thus enabling a greater number of emigrants to retain their "Anwartschaften".

Both the Jewish bodies and the U.S. authorities, who have taken up the cause of refugees who are now U.S. nationals, have submitted requests to the Austrian Government for amending the present legislation on these lines. The "Explanatory Remarks" to the new Bill state, however, that these requests cannot be conceded since this would imply a privileged treatment of emigrants as compared with Austrian residents.

It is difficult to follow this line of thought. Certainly those who reside in Austria do not require "privileged treatment" since they are not adversely affected by the present provisions, which work out only against those who were forced to leave the country. What is, in fact, required is a change of those provisions which amount to discrimination against Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution living abroad—and not any privileged treatment.

The treatment of this matter is, however, illustrative of the attitude of the Austrian Government and the Austrian political parties. The idea of equality before the law, as practised in Austria, means that the victims can be granted only such concessions which are made to the general run of the population. Help to those who, having suffered, require specific redress of wrongs inflicted, becomes intolerable privileged treatment in the eyes of the Austrian authorities.

It is to be hoped that H.M. Government will take steps to help emigrants from Austria in this country, most of whom are now British subjects. It is also to be hoped that the Austrian Government will realise that the fulfilment of the repeated declarations to remove discriminatory measures based on Austrian—we repeat Austrian—and not Nazi legislation, will be the yardstick by which the good faith and the value of the promises of that Government will be judged.

We shall deal with the provisos of the new law in more detail in a later issue of this paper.

PROFESSOR S. BRODETSKY

By the death of Professor Brodetsky the AJR has lost a very good friend who always displayed a deep understanding for the Jewish people and their Community. When the AJR was founded he was one of its first leading British Jewish members and an interested member of the AJR. He was also a member of the Public Affairs Committee of the AJR. Whenever he was discussed with the AJR, he was always proudly recalled. He himself had been a refugee. His own experience made him particularly aware of our position. Both while he was in Austria and after his resignation, he repeatedly put himself at our disposal, when his advice was required. In the first post-war years he also took a leading part in the efforts of British Jewry to alleviate the lot of the Jewish D.P.s and Jewish Communities in Germany. As an outstanding Anglo-Jewish personality and as an eminent scientist and university teacher, he was widely respected both in this country and abroad.

CLAIMS OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

The reply of the President of JRSO to the letter in which Dr. Baeck declared the withdrawal of the Council from JRSO has been considered by the Executive Committees of the Council in Great Britain, Israel and U.S.A. It was unanimously felt that under no circumstances the Council could accept as final the exclusion of the former German Jews from a share in the recovered heirless and communal property. We shall report on further action the Council will take.

The Tel Aviv daily "Jediath Chadaschoth", written in German, publishes an article by H. Mutman, who points out that, when concluding the Hague Agreement, the Federal German Government had certainly quite definite ideas about the use of the payments. One of the objects the Germans had in mind was to contribute to the relief and rehabilitation of those Jews who had formerly been German citizens.

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

herewith invites its members to the

General Meeting

on Monday, June 14th, at 7.45 p.m.

at 1, Broadhurst Gardens, N.W. 6
(near Finchley Road Underground Station)

AGENDA

I.

Report on AJR activities
Election of Committee of Management
(Executive)
Election of Board

(List of Candidates published on page 7)

II.

Address by Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum:

ERBE UND VERPFLICHTUNG

Unsere Verantwortung für die künftigen
Generationen

No further invitations will be sent out
Non-members are not entitled to vote but will be welcomed as
guests at the meeting

AJR BOARD MEETS

Reports and discussions at the Board Meeting of the AJR on May 23 centred around the conflict of the former German Jews with JRSO and the Claims Conference, the establishment of homes in Great Britain and the delay of individual indemnification. Dr. F. Goldschmidt gave detailed information about the withdrawal of the Council of Jews from Germany from JRSO and the rejection of most of the Council's claims by the Claims Conference. The Board urged the Executive of the AJR and of the Council to pursue with the utmost energy the claim for an adequate share in the heirless and communal property administered by the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO) in the American Zone of Germany, and in the German reparations payment to the Claims Conference.

RESTITUTION NEWS

GERMAN BUDGET INCLUDES \$93 MILLION FOR JEWISH CLAIMS

The equivalent in DM. of \$92.8m. for Jewish claims of all categories are included in the \$6,430m. West German budget for the fiscal year 1954/1955. The largest item (\$60m.) is earmarked for deliveries under the Hague Agreement with Israel. For individual indemnification under the Federal Indemnification Law, \$15.9m. of the total allocation have been set aside.

BERLIN INDEMNIFICATION OFFICE Shortage of Staff

Representatives of the organisation of persecutees, Mr. A. Schoyer, Mr. H. Galinski and Mr. Rolf Loewenberg, met responsible officials of the Berlin Entschädigungsamt and discussed several serious obstacles in the settlement of claims. One of the reasons for the slow procedure was, according to the spokesmen of the Entschädigungsamt, the shortage of staff. To work efficiently a thousand officials or employees would be needed. It was not possible to accommodate a staff of this size in the present premises, but an additional number of two hundred staff members could be put up in the building if they were appointed.

BEZAHLUNG VON REISEKOSTEN AUS SPERRKONTEN

Die Bank deutscher Länder macht im Bundesanzeiger vom 8. Mai Neufassungen ihrer Allgemeinen Genehmigungen Nr. 19/49 und 46/50 bekannt. Die beiden Allgemeinen Genehmigungen beziehen sich auf die Verwendung von ursprünglichen (originaeren) DM-Sperrkonten auslaendischer Reisender und auslaendischer Firmen zur Bezahlung von Reisekosten. In Zukunft kommt die bisherige Vorschrift, dass die auslaendischen Reisenden bei Abhebungen eine Devisenkontrollklausur vorzeigen muessen, in Fortfall. Ferner brauchen die Tageshochstbeträge fuer Abhebungen von DM 120.—fuer eine Person und DM 500.—fuer eine Familie nicht mehr innegehalten zu werden, wenn es sich um Sperrguthaben handelt, die am 31. Maerz 1954 bestanden haben und daher auf Grund der Allgemeinen Genehmigung Nr. 69/54 vom 8. April 1954 (s. Mainummer von "AJR Information", Seite 2) ins Ausland transferiert oder auf ein beschränkt konvertierbares DM-Sperrkonto ueberwiesen werden duerfen.

CLAIMS AGAINST HUNGARY, ROUMANIA AND BULGARIA

According to the *Board of Trade Journal* of March 13, 1954, details concerning claims relating to nationalisation or expropriation of British property, or interest in property, in Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria have to be registered with the Secretary, Foreign Compensation Commission, 1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7. It is emphasised in the announcement that no assurance can be given that an application or the registration of a claim will necessarily be followed by negotiation by Her Majesty's Government in respect of that claim with any Foreign Government or that any compensation will be obtained.

Ich verwalte, vermiete und verkaufe
Grundstuecke in Hamburg
fuer Auslaender
Angebote Hamburg 20,
Eppendorfer Weg 229.
DORIS BERGHAIN.
Beste Referenzen koennen gegeben
werden.

It was particularly regretted that the Council had been excluded from the 1954 allocations of the Claims Conference, not only as far as social schemes in various countries were concerned, but also with regard to its cultural plans which are meant to preserve the spiritual heritage of German Jewry. A report in the *Jewish Chronicle* of May 21 caused consternation and bitter comment. According to it, 300,000 dollars have been allocated by the Conference, apparently not out of the cultural funds but from the social relief funds, to a committee in Paris on the express understanding that this committee should not conduct a campaign for funds in the United States. The funds which Germany is placing at the disposal of the Conference are meant for clearly defined purposes, i.e., for relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Nazi victims. While most of the social projects of the Jews from Germany have been refused, the Conference considered it fit to spend the substantial amount of 300,000 dollars for this Paris committee whose fund-raising campaign, according to the *Jewish Chronicle*, should not reach the shores of the United States.

Surprise was also expressed at the fact that another substantial allocation was given for a cultural scheme to be carried out in Israel, though, under the Hague Agreement, payments to the Claims Conference have been earmarked for social and cultural schemes outside Israel.

With regard to the heirless and communal property in the British Zone recovered by the Jewish Trust Corporation, the Board learned with satisfaction that part of the proceeds will be used for the establishment of homes in Great Britain. Mr. A. Dresel, Executive Member of the AJR, reported that the funds available or to be expected by the end of 1955 will serve to accommodate altogether about 100 refugees in one old-age home, one home for mentally and physically handicapped persons, and one block of flats. Several offers for suitable sites are under active consideration. The Board endorsed the claim of the AJR Executive to secure, in friendly co-operation with the Anglo-Jewish relief and welfare organisations, a decisive influence of the AJR on the preparation and management of the homes. These homes are to be established, not from general welfare funds, but from the recovered former assets of German Jewry.

In the field of individual indemnification, the Board members expressed apprehension at the considerable delay after the promulgation of the Federal Indemnification Law. They urged the Council of Jews from Germany as the spokesman

FROM THE GERMAN SCENE

AUSCHWITZ NOT KNOWN

Under the heading "Revival of the Conscience", the *Kölnische Rundschau* publishes a leading article in which the author, Heinrich Boell, deals with the total ignorance of school children as far as the crimes against the Jews were concerned. In one class, he writes, not one of forty children knew of the extermination policy and of the Pogroms. "Our children," the author says, "do not know what happened ten years ago. They learn the names of towns associated with a superficial heroism such as Leuthen, Waterloo and Austerlitz, but they know nothing of Auschwitz; and yet, also in Cologne, the places which recall the mass murders can be traced. The Assembly Centre of the Jews in Cologne was the Exhibition Ground (Messegelände), one of the places which now attracts thousands of foreigners. Furniture, cameras, textiles and machinery are exhibited on the site, which for thousands of Cologne Jews was the first station on their journey to death. Our children do not know anything about this, and we who know evade the issue. We pray for the fallen soldiers, for the missing persons, for the victims of the war, but our conscience is dead to a public, unbiased prayer for the murdered Jews."

NAZI COMMENTATOR FOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The joint author of an official commentary to the Nuremberg laws, Dr. Knost, now Regierungsvizepräsident, has been appointed Department Chief of the Lower Saxon Ministry of Education. The

AWARD FOR LEO BAECK

Together with President Heuss and Chancellor Adenauer, Rabbi Leo Baeck was bestowed a citation by "World Brotherhood", an organisation deriving from the American "National Conference of Christians and Jews" and dedicated to the achievement of better understanding between individuals and groups. The ceremony took place in Bonn.

The citation to President Heuss refers to his sincere readiness to undo the wrongs committed by the Nazi régime and to his upright democratic attitude. Chancellor Dr. Adenauer was awarded as a representative of Catholicism who has always acted according to his religious principles and who is working for an understanding between the Nations and for unity of Europe.

The citation for Dr. Baeck pays tribute to "his humble service before God on behalf of his people and of humanity, to his outstanding courage in face of despotic tyranny, to his spiritual and moral integrity and to his leadership which has inspired people everywhere and which stands as the symbol of justice and human dignity". In his reply to the addresses given at the ceremony, Dr. Baeck said it was the task of the day to recognise the differences between human beings and at the same time to work for unity. "The better technique and the greater army may help to win a war, yet only the noblest ideal helps to win peace," Dr. Baeck said.

of the Jewish Nazi victims to do everything possible for an early promulgation of the "Rueckerstattungs-ergaenzungsgesetz" which is to deal with claims for assets confiscated by the Reich, and of implementary orders and amendments to the Federal Indemnification Law. The deplorable position of the Jewish refugees from Austria was also reviewed and several Board members, among them Dr. Paul Abel, demanded that in the negotiations with Austria, the Jewish representatives should urge legislation on individual indemnification as a first priority.

In his report on current AJR activities, Mr. W. Rosenstock pointed out that beyond looking after those who made use of the AJR social services at present, it would be our task to come into touch with many other former middle class refugees who were in need of care. The work of the AJR and its liabilities had considerably increased and funds were needed to cope with them more adequately.

Mr. H. Reichmann, who was in the Chair, stressed that, due to the existence of the AJR, the Jews from Germany and Austria had an effectively working organisation which, both externally and internally, could deal with their manifold special problems. The Board meeting had reaffirmed the important and far-reaching tasks for which such an organisation was needed.

organisation of the Victims of the Nuremberg Laws has strongly protested against Dr. Knost's transfer to a Ministry which has to deal with questions of religion and education.

TRIBUTE TO ERNST HEILMANN

One of the recent broadcasts in the series "Aus der Welt des Judentums," under the auspices of the North-West German Rundfunk, was dedicated to the achievements and sufferings of Ernst Heilmann, one of the most prominent Social Democrats in the Weimar Republic. Though he had been the target of Nazi and Right Wing attacks as "The Red Tsar of Prussia," Heilmann refused to leave Germany when the Nazis came to power. He was arrested in 1933 and died in Buchenwald in 1940.

IDEALS OF GERMAN YOUTH

The Institute for Research of Public Opinion in Bielefeld asked a number of young people between fifteen and twenty-four which personalities of German history they admired most. An analysis revealed that the following personalities were on top: Bismarck, Frederick the Great, Hitler, Rommel and Hindenburg. Only after these Luther and Goethe appear.

BRUNO WALTER HONOURED

The conductor, Bruno Walter, was awarded the German Cross of Merit with Star by President Heuss.

Alfred Joachim Fischer :

ISRAEL EXHIBITION IN GERMANY

Hamburg saw the opening of the travelling exhibition "Alt-Neuland Israel". Already the name is symbolic. "Old-new land" was the title of Theodor Herzl's novel, which inspired hundreds of thousands of people and won them over to Zionism. This Utopian vision of the future closed with the words: "If you want it this can be more than a fairy tale." Chaim Yachil, taking the place of the leader of the Israel Mission, gave one of the three speeches on the occasion of the opening. He concluded: "We did want it and a part of this Utopia, as you can see, has already been achieved. But a great deal remains to be achieved."

The political significance of the occasion can be gauged by the fact that Israel not only sent its political representative and several other prominent personalities to Hamburg, but also arranged the exhibition in association with the "Society for Christian - Jewish Co-operation". Furthermore, Israel supplied all the exhibits and enlisted the help of her most celebrated graphic artist, Otto Wallish (Tel Aviv), who had designed most of the country's postage stamps and coins.

Feelings and tendencies have undergone considerable changes in Israel. When I visited that country just before the signing of the Luxembourg Agreement on Reparations, there was strong opposition to any official contact between Jews and Germans. To be sure, the realists prevailed. However, many survivors of the terror saw any contact with Germany as an insult to the memory of the six million murdered Jews.

Promotion of Understanding

To-day several former protagonists of this principle are ministers in the Government, whose Cologne representative is partly responsible for arranging the exhibition. But it would be wrong to ascribe their change of attitude solely to practical considerations, i.e. to the benefits of reparation. A decisive reason is that it has become evident that a large proportion of the younger generation in Germany is unprejudiced and open-minded. The Israel exhibition is mainly for their benefit. Understanding can only be based on real knowledge, as Yachil said, and that is the very thing that is lacking. Erich Lüth, the organiser of the exhibition, also declared that Judaism and the Jewish State were *terra incognita* to so many, and that this ignorance was the first obstacle to be overcome. Catastrophes, he said, were always the result of lack of knowledge and understanding.

How greatly Israel to-day appreciates its genuine German friends is shown by Yachil's succinct characterisation of Lüth, as "the indefatigable protagonist of Right and Understanding . . ."

The Central Gallery of the Museum for Ethnology and Prehistory provided a dignified setting for the Exhibition. Pictures, reproductions and statistics were painted, drawn and inscribed by Wallish. His colours are pleasant to the eye, full of vitality, yet never glaring. A rich and varied selection of photographs was also exhibited.

Naturally, it was not possible, within this limited framework, to encompass the whole history of Palestine and of the Jews. Nevertheless, the most important chapters were represented, and the perceptive visitor was able to see an instructive cross-section.

The Exhibition begins by showing the different races who inhabited Palestine since the pre-historic era. The Ancient Egyptians stood at the head of the procession. They were followed by Arabs, Crusaders, Turks and British Tommies. Finally came the Jews, returned to the land of their fathers—the Israelis of to-day. The inscription (in Hebrew and German, like all the others in this exhibition) read: "Many races have ruled and inhabited the Land of Israel, but only for the Jews was it the Eternal Home."

Landscapes were accompanied by motifs from Biblical times, given meaning by the Holy Scriptures; among them was Sodom, where Lot's wife became a pillar of salt, the lake Genezareth and Galilee. The holy places, which so many Christians all over the world long to visit, were also shown.

Nazareth was represented by a whole montage of pictures. Few people here realise that this town remained Arab and is to-day two-thirds Christian and one-third Mohammedan. The Exhibition reveals another remarkable if not sensational fact. Jerusalem has twenty-two official holy places. One can see that twenty of these are in the Jordan-occupied Old City. Only two are part of the Israeli New Jerusalem. Two panels show the equal status of national and religious minorities. Christian Arabs celebrate Christmas under the (doubtlessly imported) Christmas tree. Bishop George Hakkim, an Arab and the head of the biggest Christian Church in Israel (Greek Orthodox) is also represented.

One of the exhibits, a map covered with little flags, is quite frightening: Israel surrounded, indeed beleaguered by hostile Arab neighbours. It brings to mind another pregnant sentence from Yachil's speech: "Although peace may not always be granted to us, our eyes always look toward peace."

Display of Achievements

Even to attain the unsure peace of to-day, many lives had to be sacrificed. We are shown the most important phases of the war and, in a series of postage stamps, the decisive battle-grounds. Nor has the dispersal and destruction of Jewry been omitted. But this tragic note is relieved by a more optimistic one: Haifa and Tel Aviv, towns which have sprung like magic out of the desert; model agricultural communities, showing the socially significant return to the land; industrial development in its most varied forms and the entire economic structure of the country. Some of Israel's problems are touched upon; above all, that of oriental immigration, which has almost doubled since 1948 and created tremendous difficulties both in resettling the newcomers and in trying to retain the high standard of health in the country.

The portraits of both Presidents, the two scientists—Chaim Weizmann and Ben Zvi—dominate the gallery. Pictures and historical documents of the Proclamation of the State of Israel of May 14, 1948 (translated in the prospectus) show a decisive moment of contemporary history. A small section dealing with the Knesset (Parliament) demonstrates once again the democratic parliamentary constitution.

"Israel in Contemporary Posters"—a special exhibition—proves that the artists of this little country fully deserve the many international awards they have won. Philatelists can find much to fascinate them in another special exhibition: "Postage Stamps of Israel." Before the Proclamation of the State Wallish, with a few helpers, secretly printed the first series in Saron, formerly a Templars' settlement. When the first government was formed, the stamps were ready. To-day, they are greatly sought after by collectors. In the U.S.A. the market for them is second only to American ones. Old Jewish coins, from the days of the wars against the Romans, served as the first models. Later, motifs from more recent history or landscapes were preferred.

The Exhibition is intended for the most important towns of the Federal Republic and for West Berlin.

PROFESSOR BOEHM LECTURES ON ISRAEL

The head of the German delegation at the Hague, Professor Franz Boehm, gave an enthusiastic report about the impressions he had received during his recent visit to Israel. With regard to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, Professor Boehm stated that the decision had to rest with the Israeli authorities, who knew that more harm than good would result if measures were taken too quickly. Professor Boehm also said that the Israeli authorities were naturally reluctant to grant visas for Germans to Israel. They could not accept denazification certificates as sufficient evidence of an applicant's good faith.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Anti-Jewish Discrimination

Mr. Gilbert Harding was characteristically vigorous when he denounced a "most vicious and loathsome distortion of the rights of a landlord" which had presumed to discriminate against Jews. A Margate hotel was found to be in the habit of "reserving the right to refuse accommodation to members of the Hebrew faith, whether they have booked or not". Such discrimination is not unique. Nor was the behaviour of a Blackpool golf club which refused to admit two Jews for no reason other than that they were Jews.

A heartening feature, however, was that both incidents aroused considerable public disapproval. The Margate hotel was to have accommodated over 100 delegates to the annual conference of the Civil Service Clerical Association. On learning the facts, the Secretary promptly cancelled the bookings as "religious or racial discrimination is abhorrent to us." Similarly sensible was the reaction at Blackpool, where the golf club's captain, an Irish Roman Catholic, resigned, saying: "My conscience would not allow me to retain the captaincy while racial discrimination existed."

The religious aspect of anti-Jewish discrimination was raised by the Rev. Chaim Pearl, of Birmingham, who criticised the Council of Christians and Jews for alleged failure to secure a sufficiently unprejudiced presentation of the Crucifixion story. His strictures were not considered justified. *The Free Church British Weekly* asked: "Must history be suppressed because those facts are not flattering to some people?" and Mr. Neville Laski, Q.C., suggested that cause for complaint was in oversensitiveness among Jews rather than in any antisemitic intention elsewhere.

Mosley at Cambridge

Sir Oswald Mosley was invited to address the Cambridge Union Society in a debate with Dr. Donald Soper, President of the Methodist Conference, on a motion welcoming the Fascist "attempt to advocate by legal means a complete change in the system of Government". Defeated by 650 to 54, he rejoiced in having obtained, on so conspicuous a platform, a poll of 7½ per cent. Though he said nothing about Jews in his speech, in a subsequent interview with the Jewish Features Editor of *Varsity*, a students' journal, Mosley asserted that anybody could join his movement without bar of creed, race, or religion.

A cherished friend of the Jews, Dr. J. J. Mallon, Warden of Toynbee Hall, retired after 35 years of devoted social work in East London. He respected the Jews there because he said they "contribute to the spice of life, bringing individuality, variety and vigour to the scene".

Jewish Intolerance

Religious differences within the community were discussed by Lord Nathan in an address to the annual conference of the Reform Association of Synagogues. He asked whether, within the last 20 years, there had been the same measure of mutual tolerance in Anglo-Jewry as previously. He wondered whether those who had sought refuge in this country from intolerance in other countries had brought with them the tolerance the absence of which they so much deplored in the countries from which they came.

Intolerance was also denounced by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman A. Moss, when he visited the Institute of Jewish Studies there. He commended the work of the Communal Rabbi, the Institute's founder, and deplored the intolerant criticism that had been levelled against Dr. Altman. According to Alderman Moss, greater intolerance was shown from within the Jewish community than from outside.

Distinctions

At the Annual Festival of the United Grand Lodge of England, the Chief Rabbi, the Very Worshipful Bro. Israel Brodie, was invested by the Earl of Scarborough, Grand Master, as Past Grand Chaplain.

Four Jews were appointed Queen's Counsel, among them Mr. B. Gillis, a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Deputies and Vice-Chairman of the World Jewish Congress (British Section). Mr. Isidore Isaac Ungar was appointed Deputy Director of Housing of the L.C.C., and in recognition of his work in the development of British TV over 23 years, the Faraday Medal, the highest award of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, was presented to Mr. Isaac Schoenberg.

Lutz Weltmann:

MORGENSTERN IN ENGLISH

The older ones amongst us will remember a pleasant parlour game: reciting Morgenstern verse by heart. (And how many did we know without ever having attempted to "learn" them!) Then someone else would quote his favourites and frequently a wit in the party would invent a parody on the spur of the moment or had one ready in his breast-pocket.

Now the Insel-Verlag, Wiesbaden, has published a small selection from Christian Morgenstern's humorous poetry "Das Mondschat" (The Moon-sheep) in an English translation by A. E. W. Eitzen (DM.4.80). My first feeling as I glanced through it was one of nostalgia. Not so much a longing for the original (which, by the way, is reproduced on the opposite pages), but rather for such occasions as the one I described above. I feel very awkward in the role of *laudator temporis acti*, perhaps one of the most characteristic symptoms of getting old, but what a world it was when a group of people, not necessarily highbrows, came together and enjoyed such things, producing an active atmosphere of entertainment of the mind rather than indulging in the passive attitude of mere listeners or onlookers! Or one remembers those public recitals by Resi Langer, who liked coupling Morgenstern with Wilhelm Busch or the expressionist, Alfred Lichtenstein, or by Ludwig Hardt, who interspersed Morgenstern's "Galgenlieder" with short prose pieces by Kafka.

The Palmström-, Palma Kunkel-, Korf-, and Gingsanz-Morgenstern was followed by the discovery of the "serious" Morgenstern. Although the "mystic" is without doubt the essential Morgenstern, and although there is a considerable *Tiefsinn*, a sounding of the mysteries of language and a satire of their abuses in the "Galgenlieder", the "new" Morgenstern no longer allowed us to enjoy him lightly. We became aware of the gradual devaluation of words, of words losing their meaning, and Morgenstern's poetry turning to an exposition of semantics. Was his sense of crisis in the world of words, perhaps, a prophetic anticipation of a major catastrophe in the world of deeds and actions? Indipohdi—nobody knows.

"The Hoopoe" shows both the limitations and the degree of success in Eitzen's achievement:

One night, a hoopoe left his tree,
His wife and child, and, when he found
A Boardschool Master's burial-mound,
Begged: "Would you mind inflecting me?"

The Boardschool Master, with a sob,
Mounted his tinplate tablet-knob.
The hoopoe crossing patiently
His wings before the dead man, he

Said: "Whopoe, the subjective case;
Possessive, in the second place,
Whosepoe's; objective, as they call
It, whompoe; well, and that is all."

The hoopoe, flattered by the grammar,
His eyeballs rolling, then did stammer:
"If now the plural you would add,
I should feel singularly glad."

The Boardschool Master owned, however,
He had not heard of such things, never!
He knew, quite numerous poes are,
But "who?" that's always singular.

The hoopoe rose, with tears defiled
(If he had but no wife and child!)
Yet, being no professor, went
Away with thanks, if not content.

That was "Der Werwolf"—how many readers recognised the original?

Or "The Moon":

When God had made the silver moon,
She had to learn this lesson soon:—

Waning and waxing to conform
To German readers as a norm,

Forming an "A", forming a "Z",*
("Ab" and "zunchmend" to be read).

Thus, by design, came to be quite
A German thing the Satellite.

* Readers will remember that these two letters were written in Gothic characters.—The Ed.

Or, not one of the best, but a good example of the difficulties, "The Aesthetic Newt" ("Das Aesthetische Wiesel").

A Newt
Clambered on a root
Within a rushing chute.

D'you see
Why that?

The Moon-Rat
Explained to me
His climb:—

The artful creature, he
Did so but for the rhyme.

Not all specimens of Eitzen's translation are equally good, yet, on the whole, they could hardly be bettered. There is no *culpa ingenii*, or not more than in any responsible translator's shortcomings. This most creditable attempt impresses us as a work of love, certainly done in a creative mood and spread over a long productive period. As he was not forced to perform the task, the translator has, I am sure, selected only the best poems for publication.

And yet, all told, I do not think that Eitzen will win many English readers over to Morgenstern. The nearest approach to Morgenstern in England are Edward Lear, who, being his own illustrator, has more in common with Wilhelm Busch, and Lewis Carroll, author of "Alice in Wonderland" and "Alice through the Looking Glass". But, in spite of occasional puns, their nonsensical humour is a humour of things, whereas Morgenstern's humour is a humour of ideas, where every word has an idea at its core. It seems that the English like their nonsensical humour pure, not charged with

THE UNSYMPATHETIC EYE

Salamon Dembitzer: "Visas for America. A Story of an Escape." Villon Press, Sydney, 1954. 267 pp. 18/6 sh. Austral.

The plight of European refugees desperately trying to save their lives just ahead of the German occupation of France in 1940 has already been the subject of a number of reports and novels. Salamon Dembitzer, now living in Australia, adds to these the story of his escape from Belgium across France and Spain to Portugal and eventually to U.S.A. Although the names are fictitious, the author in an epilogue calls his tale "a factual report" and mentions that it was written in 1941. Apart from being supplemented by this epilogue the manuscript of 1941 does not appear to have been revised for publication in 1954.

The facts, though no longer new, are still eerie and gloomy enough. A nightmare transport across France in a sealed cattle truck, for days on end, without food, water or convenience, threatened by German bombs; crowds of refugees, half crazy with fear and hysterical rumours, besieging small frontier stations and consulates in the fight for passports and visas, genuine or faked; the pathetic helplessness of these refugees, their mixture of suspicion and credulity, the exploitation of their misery both by the native populations and by fellow refugees; the host of minor officials vainly trying to control such crowds; the fantastic make-believe world of those kept waiting in Portugal without anything to do, boasting of a better past, held together only by their isolation and by their craving for some sympathy and understanding, but spending their days in petty quarrels—these are some of the main themes of this book.

The author depicts himself under the name of Sylvian Horn, a Polish-Jewish socialist, rebelling "against the abuse of the worker, the lying press or the cruel dictators," yet at the same time believing that "if we were born negroes, we hate the whites—and vice versa. And if we are proletarians, we hate the capitalists—and vice versa... Basically, we are nothing more than pigs, and go on living as such."

The outcome of a confrontation of such a character with so trying an experience is that scenes of gloom and despondency are drawn in a spirit of spite and resentment. The writer despises the French, hates

BERLIN WITHOUT POLITICS

Ex-Berliners with nostalgic inclinations will enjoy the recently published "Berliner Bilderbuch" (Ernst Staneck Verlag, Berlin. 6.80 DM). It is really a "Bilderbuch", unsophisticated, inoffensive and charming, with nice sketches by various artists and well-written texts by Maria Teichs. The almost entirely non-political approach is, of course, bound to limit the scope of a venture of this kind. Nazi terror, war destruction and post-war East-West tension have shaped the face of this unique city. Jewish firms, some of which have been re-established under their original names, and Jewish writers are mentioned without reference to what has happened to them in between; Walther Rathenau "trat nach dem Kriege wieder in den Staatsdienst", concluded the Rapallo Agreement—but his bitter end is not recalled. We cannot forget all this. Yet can we forget the Sundays in the forests and by the lakes around the city, brought to life in some lovely sketches? Don't we remember the creations of Schinkel, Schlueter and Knobelsdorff and the blocks of flats with their indispensable balconies? In passing, the book refreshes our knowledge of Berlin's history. Yet above all it conjures up the atmosphere between "Spree und Panke" and the characteristics of Berlin's inhabitants with their particular brand of humour. Thus, the 75-page book makes pleasant reading.

W. ROSENSTOCK.

deeper meaning.

Eitzen's Morgenstern becomes as English as a "naturalised" poet can; his version now and again does indeed recall Carroll and Lear. But only those who can compare the translation with the original will get any real pleasure out of the book, not from censuring Eitzen when he fails, but from being able to appreciate the high degree to which he succeeds. This pleasure rekindles the mood of the past. But there is present pleasure, too. Just as we once enjoyed Morgenstern parodied, we are now able to take a similar pleasure in Morgenstern translated.

the Spaniards, scorns the Portuguese, mocks the Americans with grumbling recognition of their help; the Germans are just "Schicklgruber". Sylvian Horn's ideas about England—on expecting to get a visa—may be quoted:—

"What do I know about the English? They threw Oscar Wilde into prison—their Sundays are supposed to be incredibly boring—and the people stiff and practical.—No, that isn't my line.—Besides, they all carry umbrellas... And the name alone, 'England',—a narrow country where people suffocate—I won't stick it out longer than a couple of months there—till the end of the war, no longer, not even if the Duchess of Kent were to request me personally..."

Not one of the many populations this Sylvian Horn comes across thus finds favour in his eyes, nor is the weather ever quite to his liking.

This way of presentation defeats its own ends by coming perilously near to providing a justification for the expulsion of creatures apparently so useless and disgusting. Even an intended caricature would still require the indication of positive values as a frame of reference. Yet this book is far from the artistic distance in which, say, Franz Werfel treated the same subject in his play, "Jacobowski and the Colonel". And even the claim to have written a factual record fails on the writer's own evidence: he records many of the little kindnesses of everyday life that made human existence bearable even under such circumstances, but invariably he goes on debunking their motives. Hence, the reader constantly finds himself querying the writer's judgment, having, as it were, to read against the grain. The lapse of time does not seem to have led to any change in the author's attitude, to any search for meaning in so pregnant an experience. There is but one redeeming grace in his approach, a measure of stolid self-criticism which prevents his book from becoming a clinical study of persecution mania—not strong enough to save it as a work of art, not generous enough to make it likeable, but just sufficient to give it interest as one example of the social consequences of a decaying faith in life.

H. I. B.

Paula Ali Galliner

GRACE AGUILAR

Portrait of a Jewish Authoress

A long time ago on one of my visits to the Old Jewish Cemetery in Frankfurt/Main, I passed a grave with a tombstone, which, owing to its peculiar inscription, aroused my interest. The plain stone bore the name "Grace Aguilar, born 2.6.1816 London—died 16.9.1847, Frankfurt/Main." Beneath these dates were a butterfly, five stars and the words "Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise in the gates."

Born in Hackney, the daughter of a Jewish descendant of the Spanish-Portuguese fugitives from the Inquisition, Grace, who was a sickly girl, in early youth developed a special interest in study and learning, and the talent to express herself in poetry as well as prose. She was very young when she wrote a drama "Gustav Wasa," and in 1835 she published anonymously some collected poems under the title: "The Magic Wreath."

An expert in the rituals and laws of our faith, a fighter for truth, an admirer of the Mosaic religion, her writings remind us of the best qualities of the Jews. "Writers who know us not, depict us not what we are, but what lingering prejudice creates us, entirely forgetting the real cause of our fallen state, which freedom and peace have granted to other lands, while bent to the very earth and for ever liable, even at this very present, to insult, ignominy and such oppression as even slavery does not know." These are the words of a prophetess!

LETTER FROM JERUSALEM

Israel is undergoing a crisis in secondary education. Out of 130,000 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18, hardly 20,000 attend secondary schools. According to the ratio of West European countries, the number should have been 65,000, or about half of all the nation's teen-agers. Moreover, only about 50 per cent. of the pupils graduate after completing the four-year curriculum. Many leave secondary schools before graduation because of economic pressure.

This in a few words is the gist of a report of the National Secondary Schools Association, which issued something like a warning, for the number of pupils may decline even further from the present minimum, endangering cultural standards.

However, it would be unfair to single out this part of the school network without keeping sight of the whole educational system. Israel is the only country in the Middle East which has free State schooling, enabling everybody, regardless of class and origin, race and faith, to receive elementary school tuition. This has practically wiped out illiteracy in Israel, and, of course, greatly helps to mould the many tribes which have been pouring into the country, into one nation, speaking one common language. The National Schools Association declared that it saw no way of putting secondary education on a firm basis, unless the State came to its help. Fees in secondary schools average from 1½ to 1¼ per year, and may rise further because of the forthcoming upgrading of teachers' salaries. The cost might not appear high in the eyes of an English reader—it would amount to not quite £50 annually—but in comparison with the level of salaries and wages in Israel it is prohibitive even to higher civil servants. Statisticians have found out that only about one-fourth of all parents in Tel Aviv and Haifa could pay such amounts, while the figure for Jerusalem and the smaller population centres was about 15-20 per cent. The granting of individual fee reductions and scholarships could not be regarded as a solution on a national scale.

Already now there is a shortage of candidates for some departments, such as chemistry, at the Hebrew University, because of the small number of secondary school graduates.

In order to stimulate secondary school attendance, soon it will no longer be required that a minimum of 100 pupils should enrol, in order to open a secondary school in a particular neighbourhood. This might be a temporary measure to swell the ranks of pupils, but the final solution lies in the financial field. The Government would need a million pounds per year to take secondary education under its wing.

HERBERT FREEDEN.

Most of her stories and poetry therefore deal chiefly with Jewish subjects. A very popular tale called "The Vale of Cedars" or "The Martyrs" is a story of Spain in the 15th century, written before 1835, published in 1850, translated into German and twice into Hebrew. Other Jewish stories are included in a collection of nineteen tales "Home Scenes" and "Heart Studies." "The Perez Family" and "The Edict" together with "The Escape" appeared as two separate volumes 1843. Her domestic tales, and "The Mother's Repentance," or "Women's Friendship" are written as early as 1836, "Home Influence" in 1847.

We find a very good translation of the French version of "Israel Defended" by the Marano Orobio de Castro, printed for private circulation. This was closely followed by "The Spirit of Judaism," published 1842 in Philadelphia, which drew the attention of a wide circle of readers, Jews as well as Christians, to the young authoress, and made her known all over England and America. A second edition was issued in 1849 by the "First American Jewish Publication Society," and a third one (Cincinnati 1864) has an appendix containing many of her poems from the period between 1838-1847.

Her biographical study "The Women of Israel" (1845) deals with the life of our famous ancestors and is a profound standard work. Here she records very clearly the existence of the Women of Israel, their ever-influencing religion, their own conduct, their own belief, and their mission, assigned from the very beginning of the world, and manifested by the whole history of the Bible.

Her last work is a "History of the Jews in England" written for "Chambers Miscellany" and commonly thought to be the most accomplished of her collected works, "free from the exuberances and redundances that sometimes disfigure some other tales." But it was published for the most part posthumously, for Grace Aguilar's health deteriorated quickly. A health resort near Frankfurt/Main was recommended, and Grace travelled there, accompanied by her mother. Yet neither the mild air and lovely surroundings of pine forests, nor the delicious and healing waters could restore her health. After weeks of severe suffering she was brought to Frankfurt/Main where she died and was buried in the Old Jewish Cemetery.

Grace's writings show an apologetic attitude. Her purpose was to equip English-Jewish readers with arguments against conversionists, to lead them to know our ancestors and their tasks, to love the only God through the narrative of His word, and to show the Christian world the spirituality of Judaism. Thus, her books are of literary as well as of human significance. "We are daughters and sisters, wives and mothers of a people, so beloved; oh, what does not devolve on us to forward and proclaim the Glory and the Mercy and the Wisdom and the Love of Israel's Almighty God."

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Old Acquaintances

Wedekind and Kraus :—Many admirers and followers of Frank Wedekind and Karl Kraus remembered the two writers last month. After recitals in Oxford and Cambridge, Pamela Wedekind, Frank's and Tilly's daughter, came to London's Mercury Theatre to sing the songs of her father. She doesn't look like the mother of three children, and the *Manchester Guardian* called her the "German Yvette Guilbert"; it seemed only yesterday that we heard her first in Berlin's "Kammerspiele," together with Gustaf Gruendgens, Erika and Klaus Mann. Anton Walbrook helped her by reading beautifully Wedekind's "Rabbi Esra". In the little Park Lane Theatre Heinrich Fischer and Martin Miller gave recitals from the works of Karl Kraus, the Austrian author: they conjured up the atmosphere we remember so well from Kraus' own reading. The evening was concluded by Pamela Wedekind, who sang Offenbach and Nestroy.

Obituaries :—Joe May died in Hollywood. He is survived by his wife Mia May and his faithful secretary Hanni Lowenstein. This Austrian film director was the German Cecil de Mille who made "Herrin der Welt," "Veritas Vinci," and "Traegodie der Liebe" in the early 'twenties; his many films are milestones of German cinematography. After he had to leave Berlin he couldn't find his feet anywhere. His many friends and admirers helped to finance a Viennese restaurant which he ran in Hollywood.—Rolf Lauckner, playwright and stepson of Hermann Sudermann, died in Bayreuth at the age of 66 after a long illness.

Milestones :—In Brazil, where he lives now, Dr. Fritz Oliven, better known as Rideamus, celebrated his 80th birthday. He once wrote the libretti of Walter Kollo's "Drei alte Schachteln" and Kuennecke's "Vetter aus Dingsda".—In Germany, Otto Froitzheim, the former German tennis champion, celebrated his 70th birthday, as did Carl Clewing, the tenor.

Vienna :—Liebeneiner produced Ustinov's "Love of four Colonels" but was not well received.—Paula Wessely is playing the lead in "Light of Love", directed by Stemmler with Fritz Schulz, Martin Berliner, and Hans Thimig in the cast.—Oscar Karlweis arrived from the States with his adaptation of John Patrick's "Little Teahouse", in which he will star.—Stage designer, Caspar Neher, adapted Joseph Roth's novel "Radetzki-Marsch" for the theatre.—Helene Thimig will direct "Weh dem, der luegt" in Josefstadt.—Josef Gluecksmann will produce Duerrenmatt's "Engel kommt nach Babylon", with Maria Eis, here.

U.S.A. :—Louis de Wohl is scripting "Alexander the Great".—Hans Brahm left for Germany to direct "Strassburg Concerto" in Goettingen, after his latest Hollywood film "Mad Magician" was shown here.—Rolf Gerard will design the decors for "Arabella" at the Met.—Henry Koster will direct "Desiree" after Annemarie Selinko's best selling novel.—Oscar Homolka, who played in Andrew Marton's "Prisoner of War", and Lili Darvas appeared together on TV.—Viennese actress, Vilma Kuerer won the Clarence Derwent Award for her performance in Elmer Rice's "Winner".—Vicki Baum sold her novel, "The Headless," to a Mexican film company.—"Three Penny Opera," by Kurt Weill and Brecht became a real success and will be recorded on long-playing records.—Walter Slezak will go into a musical based on Pagnol's "Fanny".

Germany :—Erwin Piscator has been invited to run a school for actors in Stuttgart.—Eduard von Winterstein acted "Attinghausen" when Fritz Wisten opened East Berlin Volksbuehne with "Tell".—Viktor de Kowa will play "Dial M for Murder" in Berlin.—Werner Finck played "Higgins" in "Pygmalion" in Berlin.—Ludwig Berger produced "Minna von Barnhelm" in Hamburg.—Sybille Binder was invited to give recitals in Holland.—Artist Eric Godal returned from the States to work for Springer-Verlag in Hamburg.—Professor Otto Hass-Heye, of London, presented models of nine of Britain's top designers at the Handicraft and Trade Fair in Munich.

PEM

TAXATION AND WIEDERGUTMACHUNG

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Will you allow me a few observations on the valuable article on "Taxation and Wiedergutmachung" in your May issue?

(1) The writer says that the United Kingdom Tax Authorities have sometimes, though not always, taken the view that to let property for profit is "carrying on a trade" and, therefore, to be treated as earned income. This is not correct and apt to mislead your readers. It is a fundamental rule of United Kingdom tax law that income from the letting of property is not earned income and such letting is not a trade. There are only two exceptions:—(a) where furnished rooms are let and some personal service by the landlord/landlady is given—this case can be disregarded here; (b) where certain services are provided, such as central heating and hot water supply. If in these latter cases the income derived from the provision of services can be segregated, it may—to that extent only—be assessed as income from a trade. But as a trade or business is held to be resident in the country where the proprietor who controls it resides, the income in such cases from the provision of services would be assessed as profit derived from the carrying on of a trade in this country.

If a company were formed in Germany to take over the property and this company were run by local directors and managers, these taxation effects could be avoided. The shareholder in such a company would then only be assessed on dividends paid by the company and on directors' remuneration remitted here. The effect on the Estate Duty position would, however, require consideration, since the immovable property abroad which is exempt from British Estate Duty would be converted into shares in a company abroad, i.e., assets liable to British Estate Duty wherever situated.

(2) The article states correctly that the basis of assessment is the amount of income arising abroad—or where the remittance basis applies the income remitted to the United Kingdom—in the year preceding the year of assessment. May I add that this basis does not apply for the first years of the German income arising or remitted. The assessment for the first two years is on the income arising—or remitted where the remittance basis applies—in those years. The assessment for the third year will be the first one to be based on the income of the preceding year, but there is an option to be assessed on the actual income

of the third year.

(3) **Double Taxation.**—Under this heading it is mentioned that relief from assessment of unearned income on blocked income under Section 21 of the Finance Act, 1953, cannot be obtained "as blocked accounts are now free for repatriation". This is not quite correct. Only blocked balances in existence on March 31, 1954, pensions within certain limits and

Don't miss our important

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, June 14, 7.45 p.m.

1 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6

Report on AJR Activities : Elections

Address by Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum:

ERBE UND VERPFLICHTUNG

(See announcement on front page)

monthly amounts up to DM500.—are freely transferable. Other amounts are still "blocked" for an official transfer and the relief under the Finance Act, 1953, which the article describes should apply to them.—Yours faithfully,

Another Professional Accountant.
(Name and address supplied.—The Ed.)

The author of last month's article writes:—

Although it is not possible to go into all the detailed matters raised by your correspondent, I should nevertheless like to make the following points:—

1. The question of the income from letting of property is one which I have discussed with several Inspectors of Taxes before putting forward the view contained in my article.

2. Your correspondent's point concerning the first years of assessment is quite correct. I had not gone into the details of these matters as I wished to keep the article as short as possible without actually neglecting any major point.

3. Here again your correspondent is academically correct, but actually the relief given by Section 21 will only apply in very exceptional cases; that is, in cases of income from dividends, interest, etc., exceeding DM.500 per month.

FILM AROUND THE CORNER

A monthly guide to some of the Films showing at your local Cinema

Summer months are hard on cinemas and harder on cinema-goers. Connoisseurs will have to escape to specialised cinemas like the National Film Theatre, the Everyman and the Classics.

Best of the Month:—"KNOCK ON WOOD"*** sees comedian Danny Kaye back at his old tricks and gags preferable to "actor" Danny Kaye of "Hans Christian Andersen". As crazy ventriloquist mixed up with international spy intrigue, he is side-splitting. Sylvia Fine (his wife) is writing his scripts again. She knows what's good for hubby! Mai Zetterling is charming, but wasted as Kaye's stooge—what a come-down from "Frenzy". In farce it may seem pompous to quibble with politics, but this film demonstrates the extent to which MacCarthyism dominates Hollywood. The "subversive elements" in the story are (naturally) Russian and (not so naturally) British. In spite of this silliness, a delightful comedy for lovers of lunacy.

Best of the Rest:—Kurt Neumann's "CARNIVAL STORY"*** about travelling American circus in Germany, is exciting lurid melodrama brilliantly played by Anne Baxter, reminiscent of early Dietrich. Spectacular but a little absurd. Genuine "Kientopp"! Entertaining double bill are "LONG, LONG TRAILER"*** (Lucille Ball), a farce about crazy family in a caravan, and "THE ACTRESS"***, a well-made little film about girl who wants to go on the stage. Charming performance by Jean Simmons.

The Month's Disappointment:—Cocteau's pupil, director René Clément, promised great things with his masterpiece "The Secret Game". His new film, "KNAVE OF HEARTS", made in England, suffers from the change of climate like a damp squib. It's a comedy without a sense of humour, a satire on sex directed by a man who seems to hate women passionately and despise men heartily. Gerard Philipe, as a French Don Juan, has a series of affairs with English women—Margaret Johnsson, Joan Greenwood, Valerie Hobson—and a French tart, Germaine Montero. Dull, instead of sparkling, nasty instead of witty.

PETER ZADEK.

****Excellent ***Very Good
***Good **Fair

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birth

Teddern.—On May 15, a second daughter, Susan Barbara, was born to Mrs. Teddern and Mr. G. R. Teddern, of 5 Rendle Street, London, W.10.

Birthday

Mr. Wilhelm Schindel, of 33 Birchington Court, West End Lane, London, N.W.6, lately celebrated his 75th birthday.

Death

Professor Dr. Victor Kurrein, late Rabbi of Linz a.D. and Upper Austria, died after a short illness on May 4, 1954, aged 73, deeply mourned by his wife, Stella, née Lewin, and his children Dr. Felix Kurrein, Worcester, Allen A., and Judit Curran, 39 Hitchin Street, Biggleswade.

Miss Marie Sigall, of 229 Chiswick Village, London, W.4, passed away after a serious and long illness, deeply mourned by her only sister and cousins.

CLASSIFIED

Situations Vacant

TRAINED KINDERGARTEN NURSE, experienced, not over thirties wanted for 2-year-old girl. Knowledge of German preferred. First-class accommodation, Hampstead Heath. Permanent position, willing to travel abroad, happy nature. References, details of experience and photograph required with application. Reply to Box 247.

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TYPIST, own machine, accurate worker, wants home- or part-time work. Box 259.

SHORTHAND TYPIST, English/German, exper., wants full or part-time work. Box 260.

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Miscellaneous

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Personal

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MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries from AJR

Dretz, Elisabeth, from Berlin, milliner, for AJR.

Reichmann, Selma, from Vienna, last address: 132 Adelaide Road, probably married, for Jewish Refugees Committee.

Hirsch, Bruno, from Gauting, for Anni Kandler, Bavaria.

Rosemann, Anna, born 1898, Hamburg, and son Werner Bauer, for Comité Israelite des Refugies, Brussels.

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EUGEN STRAUSS 75 YEARS

On June 24 Dr. Eugen Strauss (formerly Augsburg, now 43A Maberley Road, London, S.E.19) will be 75 years old. From his student's days onwards Dr. Strauss took a leading part in German-Jewish life. He was the President of the Augsburg Jewish Community until he emigrated in 1939. He also participated in the work of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Bavaria and was a member of the Hauptvorstand of the Jewish Centralverein. By profession a lawyer, he was widely respected by Jews and non-Jews in his home town.

Eugen Strauss may be considered as one of the best representatives of the German Jewish Community before its destruction. In his Jewish activities he combined practical work arising from the political tasks of the day with constructive contributions to the wider spiritual and ideological issues involved. Open-minded and not biased by dogmatic considerations, he was also associated as a non-Zionist with the efforts of the German Keren Hayessod. In this country Dr. Strauss continues to take an active interest in the current problems of Jews from Germany. The AJR, with which he has been associated for many years, joins his many friends here and overseas in their best wishes for many years to come.

PERSONALIA

The radiologist, Dr. Albert Simons, who now lives in Israel, was sixty recently. Until 1933, Dr. Simons worked with the Institute for Cancer Research at the Charité, Berlin, and was a Lecturer of Radiology at Berlin University.

Obituary

Dr. F. A. Koehne (formerly Berlin) suddenly died in London, 53 years old. A former judge, he worked as a solicitor in this country. Dr. Koehne always took an interest in the efforts of the AJR and whenever approached, volunteered to help refugees in need of advice. The AJR will remember with gratitude this gifted, kind and helpful man, and expresses its sympathy with his wife and his family.

Professor Hans Koenigstein, an authority on Allergy, formerly of Vienna, died in Tel Aviv at the age of 75.

AJR AT WORK

HOLIDAY RELIEF FOR CHILDREN

As was announced some time ago, a legacy has been bequeathed to the AJR by Mr. Simon Rubinstein. The fund is to be used for the relief of refugee children. In view of the forthcoming summer season, readers are reminded of this fund, payments from which may help needy refugee children to spend a holiday away from home. Applications have to be submitted to the AJR Social Services Department.

AJR HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION AND SALE

The AJR Handicraft Group has to offer useful and attractive articles, some of which will be especially suitable for the holiday time. The articles are on view at 8 Fairfax Mansions.

HOLIDAY ADDRESSES

We should like to remind readers that we are often asked for names and addresses of hotels, boarding houses, etc., in England with a Continental atmosphere. Information should be sent to the AJR Social Services Department.

AJR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

We should like to thank those of our members and friends who contact the AJR Employment Agency first whenever they have to offer a vacancy. With their help we have been able to place a number of our callers. Unfortunately, however, our applicants did not always qualify for the kind of jobs which were offered. We have still a number of applicants who are willing and able to do holiday relief work and should be glad to learn also of temporary vacancies. Telephone: MAI 4449.

"THE HYPHEN"

A lecture on "Buddhism" will be held by a speaker from the Buddhist Society on Sunday, June 13, 7.30 p.m., at 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3. There will be a ramble in the Thames Valley on Whit Sunday and a week-end party in Surrey, June 26-27. Visitors are charged 1/- at meetings.

The "Hyphen" is a group of young people mainly between the ages of 21-35, mostly Continental and Jewish, who get together for cultural, educational and social activities. For further information, please send a stamped addressed envelope to Miss Helen Eisner, 26 Arthur Court, Queensway, London, W.2.

ELECTION PROPOSALS FOR AJR GENERAL MEETING

The AJR Executive submits to the General Meeting on Monday, June 14, at 7.45 p.m., at 1 Broadhurst Gardens (see announcement on front page), the following election proposals:—

President: A. Schoyer.

Committee of Management (Executive): The members of the present Executive stand for re-election. They are: Dr. H. Reichmann (Chairman), M. Pottlitzer (Treasurer), W. M. Behr, Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld, S. Bischheim (Trustee), A. Dresel, Dr. F. E. Falk, Dr. F. A. Mann, L. Schurmann, L. Ullmann, A. Wechsler (Trustee), Dr. W. Rosenstock (Gen. Secretary). It is proposed to appoint Mr. A. Dresel Vice-Chairman in succession to the late Mr. A. Horovitz, and Dr. F. E. Falk a Trustee in succession to the late Mr. P. Goldschmidt. It is also proposed to elect as a new Executive member Dr. Walter Berlin.

Board:—It is proposed to re-elect the members of the present Board. They are: Dr. P. Abel, Rabbi Dr. A. Altmann, Dr. S. Auerbach, Rabbi Dr. M. L. Bamberger, Dr. M. Bergental, K. Bernstein, H. Blumenau, Dr. W. Breslauer, Rabbi I. Broch, Rabbi C. E. Cassell, Dr. F. R. Engel, Dr. L. Engel, J. Erlanger, Rabbi Dr. M. Eschelbacher, Dr. E. Eyck, J. L. Feuchtwanger, Dr. H. Fleischer, K. Friedlander, Dr. R. Fuchs, F. Godfrey, Dr. F. Goldschmidt, E. Gould, Dr. L. Guttman, O.B.E., Mrs. G. Hambourg, E. Haymann, A. W. Heller, Dr. A. Kaufmann, Mrs. F. Kochmann, L. Kritzer, Dr. H. W. Kugelman, Dr. H. H. Kuttner, Dr. H. Lawton, J. Loewenthal, E. Marx, Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum, Mrs. H. Philipp, E. Plaut, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. E. Reitenberg (Gabriele Tergit), A. Reimann, Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger, R. Schneider, E. Speyer, Dr. A. Strauss, A. Strauss (Edgware), Dr. U. Tietz, Dr. H. J. Turkheim, B. Woyda, Rabbi Dr. W. van der Zyl.

The Board also includes representatives of London districts:—J. Feig, M. Frankel, Dr. E. Kramer, Dr. E. Magnus, L. Mayer, M. Wetzler, and representatives of provincial groups.

It is proposed to elect as new members of the Board:—Mr. Ernst Berent, Mr. Max Blank, Mr. Herbert Hirsch, Mr. Ludwig Loewenthal, Mr. Hugo Stern, Dr. Alfred Wiener, Mr. F. J. Wittelschofer.

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