

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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## BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON COMPENSATION

The shortcomings of Germany's compensation practices were severely criticised in a recent Bundestag debate. On behalf of the Socialist Party, Dr. Arndt urged that the Indemnification Law be amended with the provision that "this law shall be generously interpreted and applied, enabling compensation to appear as the fulfilment, in the highest degree, of a moral duty and a legal obligation." He quoted in support an appeal addressed to Dr. Adenauer by the Council of the German Protestant Church which had expressed concern at the fact that "in the tenth year after the end of Nazi tyranny, compensation is practically still at the beginning."

Particular attention was drawn to some objectionable verdicts passed by German courts, which had denied pensions to victims of Nazi persecution. The Supreme Prussian Court (*Kammergericht*), for example, had told a woman who had lived underground that she need not have done so as she might have sought divorce from her Jewish husband. The widow of an officer who had been killed in connexion with the July 1944 revolt was refused a pension on the ground that the officer had taken no active part in the resistance but was "merely concerned in the rescue of the plotters' wives and children." Such verdicts, Dr. Arndt said, showed that some judges had "lost the ability to distinguish between Right and Wrong."

His criticism was reinforced by Dr. Franz Böhm, the Christian Democratic champion of justice for the persecuted. He confirmed that the court cases exposed by Dr. Arndt were by no means isolated lapses, but he thought that they would not be possible if the judges did not have reason to count on widespread appreciation. "We have to say quite openly," Dr. Böhm declared, "Compensation is not popular amongst us." This state of public opinion had to do with a re-Nazification which, Dr. Böhm said, was not as bad as some feared but worse than many liked to think.

The point was taken up by Dr. Carlo Schmid, the distinguished Socialist, who felt that the ominous thing was not that old Nazis were re-appearing but that those callous perversions of human nature were asserting themselves which had once produced the Hitler regime, and that men afflicted with these perversions were holding positions where they had power over human lives. He urged that the law be so amended as to enable action to be taken against judges who he said had shown by their conduct in office that they had never felt a breath of the spirit of democracy.

Speakers of both the Christian Democrats and the Socialists expressed regret at the absence from the important debate of any Government representatives.

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON INDEMNIFICATION

The recently created Parliamentary Committee on indemnification matters includes Professor Franz Boehm (Christian Democratic Union), the head of the German Delegates at the Hague, and Dr. Otto-Heinrich Greve (Social Democratic Party), also a proven friend of adequate indemnification for individual victims of Nazism. Among the other members of the 17-man Committee are two Jewish members of the Bundestag, Mr. Jakob Altmaier and Mrs. Jeanette Wolff.

## BAVARIAN INDEMNIFICATION PAYMENTS

According to a statement of the chief of the Bavarian Indemnification Authority, Max Troberg, the equivalent of altogether 5-6 million dollars was paid to about 23,000 claimants in 1954.

## BROTHERHOOD WEEK IN GERMANY

It has now become an established rule in the Bundesrepublik to devote one week, out of the year's fifty-two weeks, to propagate the idea of Toleration and the spirit of Brotherly Love. From March 6 to March 13, all over the West of Germany and in the West Sectors of Berlin, meetings, receptions, and public gatherings were held and attended by Ministers, Burgomasters, leading members of the Bundestag and the representatives of the churches and the Jewish community. The "Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation"—the German equivalent of our Council of Christians and Jews—which has a branch in almost every city and town, was instrumental in organising many of these functions. The German press and, above all, each of the many independent radio networks in Western Germany made their own extensive contributions to the "Week of Brotherly Love."

This great and important undertaking, aiming at fostering and deepening the good relations between non-Jewish individuals and groups on the one hand and their Jewish brethren on the other, was inaugurated by Bundespräsident Prof. Dr. Theodor Heuss with a deeply moving radio speech. He urged his nation-wide audience not to forget the crimes against the Jews, but to continue to help the victims of Nazism materially as well as psychologically. In Berlin, the Senator for Culture, Prof. Tiburtius, opened the festive gathering at the Opera-House, Charlottenburg, in a similar vein; then, the great German poet, Rudolf Hagelstange, rendered what was generally considered the most moving and thoughtful speech heard for a long time. Each of the Berlin *Bezirke* held its own celebrations in its own Town Hall, and among those who addressed gatherings were Heinz Galinski, Chairman of the Jewish Community of Berlin, who stated—and later repeated his statement in a radio talk—that the Berlin Jews were ready to co-operate with all non-Jews of good will, and prepared to re-establish normal relations with the non-Jewish population, although this was, he stressed, a process

which needed careful handling in order to avoid any setbacks.

The two Berlin radio networks, *Sender Freies Berlin* and the American sponsored RIAS, composed their programmes accordingly. RIAS broadcast an half-hour feature, "The Berlin Jewish Community," written by Otto Zarek, which, often recalling the distinguished past of the community before 1933, gave a detailed picture of its present activities, mainly of a humanitarian nature. Dramatised stories featured great German Jews, among them Moses Mendelssohn, Albert Einstein and others. Otto Zarek also gave a series of talks on Israel, introducing contemporary Israeli composers and their music, which was played by Radio Kol Israel, conducted by George Singer. Most important among the many German contributions was the public reading, and its repetition on the radio, of "Das Brandopfer," a short novel by Albrecht Goes (published by S. Fischer Verlag) which has rightly been acclaimed as the most poetic contemporary German literary work, depicting the plight of the Jews and its echo in the hearts of the "Germans of goodwill."

The most encouraging sign with regard to the "Week of Brotherly Love" is the widespread public interest in it, especially on the part of the academic youth of both the Berlin Free University and Technische Hochschule.

From a Berlin Correspondent

## CONFERENCE ON CHURCH AND JUDAISM

The seventh annual study group on "Church and Judaism," arranged by Professor Karl Heinrich Rengstorff, held a four-day meeting in Hildesheim to discuss "Our Fellow Man from the Christian and Jewish point of view." The speakers included Dr. Niemoeller, Bishop Liljes, Professor Gollwitzer, Dr. Gerfrud Luckner, and, on the Jewish side, Rabbi Dr. Wilhelm (Stockholm), Dr. Alfred Wiener (London), and Professor Max Horkheimer (Frankfurt).

## BEFRIEDIGUNG VON ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSANSPRUECHEN

### Erste Aufrufsverordnung

Bis zum Inkrafttreten des Bundesentschaedigungsgesetzes war die Befriedigung von Entschaeidigungsanspruechen durch die Gesetze und Verordnungen der einzelnen Laender geregelt. Diese wichen in erheblichem Umfang von einander ab.

Das Bundesentschaedigungsgesetz hat eine einheitliche Regelung herbeigefuehrt und im § 78 eine fuer alle Laender verbindliche Rangfolge fuer die Entschaeidigung der einzelnen Leistungen festgestellt. Soweit es sich nicht um wiederkehrende Leistungen fuer zukuenftige Zeitabschnitte handelt, sind alle Ansprueche spaetestens bis zum Ablauf des Rechnungsjahres 1962 zu befriedigen. Der § 78 unterscheidet zwischen Anspruechen, die ohne besonderen Aufruf zu befriedigen sind und solchen, fuer die erst ein besonderer Aufruf zu erfolgen hat. In beiden Arten ist fuer diejenigen Antragsteller, die das 60. Lebensjahr vollendet haben oder beduerftig sind oder durch Krankheit oder Gebrechen in ihrer Erwerbsfaehigkeit um mindestens 50% gemindert sind (bevorrechtigte Antragsteller), eine bevorrechtigte Befriedigung vorgesehen.

Zum besseren Verstaendnis der nachfolgenden Ausfuehrungen sei der Wortlaut des § 78, soweit er sich auf die Rangfolge bezieht, wiedergegeben.

### § 78 Absatz 2 :

Sofort, d.h. ohne Aufruf, werden befriedigt:  
1. Ansprueche, die bei Inkrafttreten dieses

Gesetzes rechtskraeftig festgestellt und nach bisherigem Recht zur Befriedigung aufgerufen sind,

2. Ansprueche auf Durchfuehrung eines Heilverfahrens fuer Schaeden an Koerper und Gesundheit,

3. Ansprueche auf wiederkehrende Leistungen,  
4. Ansprueche von Berechtigten, die das 60. Lebensjahr vollendet haben oder beduerftig oder durch Krankheit oder Gebrechen in ihrer Erwerbsfaehigkeit um mindestens 50% gemindert sind,

a) auf Entschaeidigung fuer Entziehung der Freiheit bis zum Hoechstbetrage von DM 3.000.—, sofern die Berechtigten nicht bereits Entschaeidigungsleistungen nach Ziff. 1 oder 3 erhalten,

b) auf Entschaeidigung fuer Schaeden an Eigentum und Vermoegen bis zum Hoechstbetrage von DM 5.000.—, sofern die Berechtigten nicht bereits Entschaeidigungsleistungen nach Nr. 1, 3 oder 4 (a) erhalten,

5. Ansprueche auf Entschaeidigung fuer Schaeden in der Ausbildung, mit Ausnahme der Entschaeidigung fuer selbst nachgeholte oder nicht nachgeholte Ausbildung.

### § 78 Absatz 3 :

Im uebrigen werden Ansprueche auf Geldlei-

Continued on page 2

## RESTITUTION NEWS

### APPLICATIONS FOR CLAIMS CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS Time Limit, April 15, 1955

The second annual programme of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, Inc., Suite 800, 270, Madison Avenue, New York 16, includes scholarship grants to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who are engaged in programmes of Jewish study or research. Candidates may apply for training at Jewish teachers' seminaries, for studies at accredited graduate schools and for independent research and writing in the fields of Jewish arts, letters or social science. Applications for 1955 must be submitted to the Claims Conference by April 15, 1955. Application forms may be obtained from the offices of the Claims Conference, New York, and from the Central British Fund, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1.

### I.G. FARBEN CASE

After several adjournments, the decision in the test case Norbert Wollheim versus I.G. Farben for slave labour in Buna-Monowitz (near Auschwitz) was again postponed by the Frankfurt local Supreme Court on March 15. The presiding judge announced that the Court would ask experts named by the West German Chamber of Commerce in Bonn to investigate whether I.G. Farben could have treated its slave labourers better than it did.

stungen in folgender Rangfolge aufgerufen und befriedigt:

1. Ansprueche von Berechtigten, die das 60. Lebensjahr vollendet haben oder beduerftig oder durch Krankheit oder durch Gebrechen in ihrer Erwerbsfaehigkeit um mindestens 50% gemindert sind,

a) auf Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden im beruflichen und wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen bis zum Hoechstbetrage von DM 10.000.-,

b) auf den Restbetrag der Entschaeudigung fuer Freiheitsentziehung,

c) auf Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden an Eigentum und Vermoegen bis zum Betrag von DM 5.000.-, sofern die Berechtigten nicht bereits Entschaeudigungsleistungen nach Absatz 2 Nr. 4 (b) erhalten haben,

d) auf Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden an Leben, Koerper und Gesundheit.

2. Ansprueche auf Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden an Leben, Koerper und Gesundheit. 3. Ansprueche auf Entschaeudigung fuer Freiheitsentziehung. 4. Ansprueche auf Entschaeudigung fuer Verlust des Hausrats. 5. Ansprueche auf Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden an Eigentum und Vermoegen bis zum Hoechstbetrage von DM 20.000.-. 6. Ansprueche auf Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden im beruflichen und wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen. 7. Ansprueche auf Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden an Eigentum und Vermoegen.

### Aufgerufene Forderungen

Der erste Aufruf ist jetzt durch die *Erste Verordnung ueber den Aufruf von Entschaeudigungsleistungen vom 22.2.1955 (I A V BEG)* erfolgt. Die Verordnung ist im Bundesgesetzblatt vom 25.2.1955 veroeffentlicht. Sie gilt auch im Lande Berlin und tritt am 25.2.1955 in Kraft. Durch die Verordnung werden die in § 78 Abs. 3 Nr. 1 genannten Entschaeudigungsansprueche zur Befriedigung aufgerufen. Die in § 78 Abs. 3 Nr. 2-7 genannten Ansprueche sind noch nicht aufgerufen.

Der Aufruf bezieht sich somit nur auf bevorrechtigte Antragsteller.

### Augenblicklicher Stand

Der augenblickliche Stand fuer eine Befriedigung ist hiernach folgender:

1. Ohne Ruecksicht auf die *persoenlichen Verhaeltnisse des Antragstellers* werden befriedigt:—

1. Ansprueche, die am 1.10.1953 bereits rechtskraefutig festgestellt und auf Grund der Laendergesetze zur Befriedigung aufgerufen sind,

2. Ansprueche auf Durchfuehrung eines Heilverfahrens fuer Schaeden an Koerper und Gesundheit,

3. Ansprueche auf wiederkehrende Leistungen, d.h. Renten fuer Schaeden an Leben, Koerper und Gesundheit und Schaeden im beruflichen Fortkommen,

### SHANGHAI GHETTO Frankfurt Test Case

The question whether former internees of the Shanghai Ghetto are entitled to compensation for loss of freedom is at present under the consideration of the Frankfurt Appeal Court, after the local Wiesbaden Court had rejected the claim of a former Ghetto inmate. Witnesses so far heard include members of the Nazi-German Diplomatic Corps, such as the former German Consul Fuchs, the Consul General Fischer and Wiedemann, and the former German Embassy Counsellor Ministerialrat Dr. Erich Kordt.

### CREDITS FOR JEWISH BUSINESS MEN

The Association of Jewish Businessmen and Industrialists in Germany has received assurances that guarantees for bank credits will be given to Jewish D.P. business men, artisans and manufacturers who so far were excluded from the Federal Government credit programme.

### HEBREW SONGS ON GERMAN RADIO

In the course of the "Brotherhood Week," the North-west German Radio presented musical pieces from eight nations, among them eighteen Hebrew hymns and songs. The recital was given by a children's choir of 35 Christian youngsters.

4. Unterhaltszuschuss fuer Schaeden in der Berufsausbildung, wenn der Antragsteller sich noch in der Berufsausbildung befindet.

II. *Daruber hinaus werden folgende Ansprueche von Antragstellern die der bevorrechtigten Klasse anghoeren, befriedigt:—*

1. Volle Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden an Freiheit. Bisher wurde Schaeden an Freiheit nur bis zur Hoehe von 3.000 DM befriedigt.

2. Schaeden an Vermoegen bis 5.000 DM,

3. Die Kapitalentschaeudigung fuer Schaeden am Leben und Koerper und Gesundheit. Bisher wurden nur die sich aus diesem Schaeden ergebenden Rentenansprueche befriedigt,

4. Entschaeudigung fuer Schaeden am beruflichen und wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen bis zur Hoehe von 10.000 DM. Es handelt sich hier um die Kapitalentschaeudigung.

Die Rangfolge und die lange Zeit, ueber die sich die Befriedigung erstreckt, ergeben fuer die Antragsteller grosse Haerten. Hierauf hatten wir schon in der Sonderbeilage ueber den Inhalt des BEG (September, 1953) hingewiesen. Wir hatten damals gesagt, dass die Regelung einer starren Rangfolge geeignet ist, zu grossen Ungerechtigkeiten zu fuehren und dass sie auch im Widerspruch zum Haager Abkommen steht; dieses enthaelt die Verpflichtung der Bundesregierung, Mittel bereitzustellen, durch die die Ansprueche der nicht besonders bevorzugten Gruppen schon in den ersten Jahren nach Inkrafttreten des Gesetzes weitgehend beruecksichtigt werden koennen. Die juedischen Organisationen haben eine Abaenderung verlangt, die eine schnellere Befriedigung gewaehrleistet. Auch von nichtjuedischer Seite sind solche Antraege gestellt worden.

### Vorschusszahlungen

Um die bestehenden Haerten zu mildern, sind von allen Laendern Verordnungen erlassen worden, die es ihnen ermoeglichen, im Falle der Beduerftigkeit oder einer Notlage schon vor einer Entscheidung Vorschuesse auch auf noch nicht aufgerufene Ansprueche zu zahlen, wenn diese glaubhaft gemacht sind. Zum Beweis der Beduerftigkeit und der Notlage verlangen die Behoerden eine Bescheinigung des zustaendigen Deutschen Konsulats. Dies ist aber eine sehr unvollkommene Regelung, da ein Rechtsanspruch auf Gewaehrung eines Vorschusses nicht besteht.

Wirkliche Abhilfe kann nur durch Aenderung des Gesetzes geschaffen werden. Es ist zu hoffen, dass das in Vorbereitung befindliche Gesetz zur Abaenderung des Bundes-Entschaeudigungsgesetzes eine Verbesserung bringen wird.

### WICHTIG FUER PENSIONISTEN DER STADT WIEN

Die folgende Zuschrift ist vom Magistrat der Stadt Wien an die Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien ergangen:—

"Es wird mitgeteilt, dass der Herr amtsfuehrende Stadtrat der Verwaltungs-Gruppe I entschieden hat, dass in sinngehaessiger Anwendung der Richtlinien, die vom Bund fuer die Gewaehrung von ausserordentlichen Versorgungsgenuessen fuer ehemalige Bundesbedienstete, die unter Verlust der oesterr. Staatsangehoerigkeit eine fremde Staatsbuergerschaft erworben haben, festgelegt worden sind, auch bei der Stadt Wien an ehemalige staedt. Bedienstete, auf welche die gleichen Voraussetzungen zutreffen, ausserordentliche Zuwendungen gewaehrt werden koennen. Diesbezuegliche Antraege werden beim Gemeinderatsausschuss fuer Personalangelegenheiten, Verwaltungs- und Betriebsreform eingebracht bzw. solche ausserordentliche Zuwendungen von den Direktionen der einzelnen staetischen Unternehmungen zuerkannt werden."

Allen fruheren Bediensteten der Gemeinde Wien (Hoheitsverwaltung) und auch den Bediensteten der staetischen Betriebe wird daher empfohlen, umgehend das entsprechende Ansuchen wegen Zuerkennung der Pension beim Gemeinderatsausschuss fuer Personalangelegenheiten bzw. bei der Direktion der betreffenden Unternehmungen einzubringen.

Wir bitten auch unsere Leser diese Nachricht unter ihren oesterreichischen Freunden zu verbreiten.

### BERLIN COMMEMORATES LIEBERMANN AND BAB

To mark the twentieth anniversary of Max Liebermann's death a memorial meeting took place under the auspices of the Hochschule fuer bildende Kuenste, Berlin. The audience was welcomed by Senator Professor Tiburtius, and the main address was delivered by Professor Dr. Ferdinand Stuttmann, Director of the Hannover Museum.

Under the auspices of the Freie Volksbuehne, a memorial meeting for Julius Bab was held in Berlin. In his address Dr. Siegfried Nestripke recalled the decisive contribution made by the deceased to the "Volksbuehnenbewegung" in Germany.

### PROFESSOR HORKHEIMER HONORARY MEMBER OF JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Frankfurt Jewish Community has conferred honorary membership upon Professor Max Horkheimer, the former rector of Frankfurt University, on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

### HAMBURG JEWISH COMMUNITY

According to a report given at its General Meeting, the Hamburg Jewish Community consists of 1,100 members. The Board includes Mr. Harry Goldstein, Dr. Simonsohn, Rechtsanwalt Dr. Manasse, Rechtsanwalt Dr. Rosenhaft and Mr. Dick.

### JEWISH BOXER WINS

The only Jewish boxer in Germany, Abraham Rosenberg, a member of the German "Eintracht" Sports Club (Frankfurt), won the heavy-weight championship against the Hesse champion Fritz Lahr.

### RELEASE OF WAR CRIMINALS

According to a statement by Secretary of State Professor W. Hallstein, the three Western Allies have released all but 315 of the 3,657 Nazi war criminals held five years ago.

### NEO-NAZIS DENY EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

The paper "Die Anklage," issued by the organization of "Entrechtete Nachkriegsgeschaedigte," calls the death roll of 6,000,000 Jews "the most defamatory forgery." The article claims that the number of killed persons was 250,000 at the utmost, and that the German people "with the exception of 30, 70 or 120 persons in charge" knew nothing about the extermination of the Jews. In the Federal Parliament, Professor Franz Boehm raised the question why in view of such statements the paper had not been forbidden.

## LEGALISED CRIMES

### A Compendium of Anti-Jewish Nazi Measures

Last year, in August, this paper paid tribute to the late Dr. Bruno Blau, on the occasion of his death. Since then his book, "Das Ausnahmerecht fuer die Juden in Deutschland 1933-1945," has been published, sponsored by URO (Duesseldorf, Verlag der Allgemeinen Wochenzeitung der Juden in Deutschland, 1954, DM. 7.80).

At first sight, this publication might not seem attractive to the ordinary reader. It does not contain a consecutive text. It is more of a reference book, listing those anti-Jewish laws, decrees and ordinances which were issued in Nazi Germany during the years of persecution. They are recorded in chronological order with their headings, dates and places of publication, and brief summaries of their contents.

Even so, Jews from Germany will soon grasp the full meaning of the book and reconstruct its back-

ground, whilst the preface by Hans Fabian will help them to put the individual items into their true and appalling context. Soon after Hitler had come to power he managed to push the infamous "Enabling Law" through an only too willing parliament; it will always remain a credit to the Social Democrats that they and virtually only they voted against. By this law, under the screen of pseudo-legality, the way was paved for unconstitutional discriminatory laws against the Jews. In the beginning, this legislation only affected Jewish activities in certain spheres, e.g., in the civil service, the cultural field and certain professions; but soon it embraced all aspects of Jewish life in Germany, including the economic sector. Eventually it was the pseudo-legal basis for the complete elimination of Jewry from the German scene. Outstanding links in this chain of discriminatory measures were the so-called Nurnberg laws and, at a later stage, those orders which robbed the Jews of their belongings, first through the levy on Jewish property and then by outright confiscation.

#### Boycott and Pogrom

Beside these pseudo-legal actions, taken by the State and published in the official gazette, the organs of the Nazi party, not satisfied with such slow progress, took measures of their own, by far exceeding those "legally" enacted and destroying the few safeguards established by them. The boycott and the November pogrom are examples of such party activities. In the long run, state and party melted into each other, state ministers more and more shedding traditional inhibitions and backing the programme of complete annihilation.

The chronological order followed by the author may have certain drawbacks, though these are partly made up for by the index. One might have preferred a systematic order according to subjects, showing the individual items under headings such as professional restrictions, discriminatory taxation, etc. (This way of grouping the material has been followed in a similar publication issued by the Jewish Trust Corporation.) However, the chronological order has the merit of showing the relentless intensification, progressing step by step and faster and faster, eventually culminating in the removal of every vestige of human rights, and in the "final solution," in other words, physical extermination. For reasons explained in the foreword, this last phase is not covered by Blau's book.

The list contains not only those major "laws" which deprived German Jews of their livelihood, property and civic rights, but also the innumerable minor measures of humiliating and disgusting chicanery, aimed at depriving the Jews of all human dignity. Many of those measures, however, had a more far-reaching aim, often not even realised by the victims themselves. The Jewish Star on the clothing and the doors of Jews marked them as future victims of deportation and annihilation, assisting the Gestapo in singling them out.

The merit of publications of this kind is not only that they contain valuable historical material. They can also serve an important practical purpose if furnished to restitution and compensation authorities in Germany. Experience has shown that part of the judges and officials staffing these authorities have not sufficient knowledge of what really happened in the years of persecution. They find it difficult to understand individual items in their true context. This applies particularly to those German lawyers who were only youngsters during the years of the Third Reich. For them, Blau's book is an important source of information, all the more as it contains even those decrees which were not published in the official gazette but only in the Nazi press or in Nazi-controlled information papers issued by Jewish communities. Some measures listed in the book were not even published at all but only channelled to the subordinate authorities. It is a matter of course that lawyers representing Jewish claimants will find Blau's book indispensable.

The writer, when studying Blau, was again overcome by a feeling which all of us experience from time to time: that the sufferings Nazi Germany inflicted on the Jews are too terrible to be true. Surely, all this is but an evil dream, a nightmare. But soon, we awake and realise anew that these atrocities were facts. If we think of those victims who are no longer with us, it is small comfort, but it is some comfort that we have lived to see the

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### Threat to Shechita

Mr. R. F. Crouch's private member's Bill which seeks the prohibition of Shechita will receive its second reading at the end of this month, and the community is being aroused to ward off the threat. The Board of Deputies has launched a campaign by circulating the considered views of rabbinical and scientific authorities. Two distinguished non-Jews have testified on the humaneness of Shechita—Sir C. A. Lovatt Evans, a former chairman of the Executive Council of the Royal Veterinary College, and Lord Horder, who expressly confirmed the opinion he gave fifteen years ago that "it is difficult to conceive a more painless and a more rapid mode of death."

As public opinion in general continues to be critically divided, a Defence Fund is to be established to counter the strong and growing support for the Bill which is felt to be an insult to the civic status of every Jew. Already some of the opponents of Shechita have shown themselves to be no friends of Jews generally, and correspondence in the provincial press has carried a good deal of outright antisemitic abuse. Characteristic, too, were the sympathies for the adamant Mr. Crouch in localities where no Jews live. Mr. Crouch himself, a Conservative, has denied any antisemitic intention, in fact he claims to have received letters of support from Jews.

At the same time, some M.P.s have come forward as determined opponents of the Bill. Sir L. Plummer, for example, recalled that the spreading of falsehoods about Jewish ritual practices was a favourite trick of Hitler's while scheming extermination. It is also pointed out that not only Jews would be directly affected but Moslems too, and the hope is cherished that the Government will provide no facilities for the objectionable Bill.

### Support for Israel

The Joint Palestine Appeal for 1955, launched with a speech by Mr. Trygve Lie, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, realised the record sum of nearly £600,000 towards its £2 million target. The total for 1954 was £1,216,000—£50,000 more than the previous year. The grand total of all Israeli funds collected in Britain in 1954 was £2,218,000—the largest figure ever achieved here and almost equal to the total raised in the rest of the Commonwealth. Since the establishment of the State in 1948, British Jewry has contributed, through its official voluntary funds, £15 million out of the £200 million raised by the whole of Jewry.

A bleak picture of the community's cultural state was drawn by the President of the Board of Deputies, Dr. A. Cohen, when he spoke on the preparations for the Tercentenary next year. Anglo-Jewry, he said, was not well educated in Jewish knowledge. There was not the love of books which distinguished other Jewries. It was tragic that University students (among them some of the best brains of the community) concentrated on the vineyards of other peoples and knew nothing about the literature of their own. Dr. Cohen announced a plan to establish readerships in Jewish Studies at those universities, such as London, which had none.

### Deficit

The expenditure in 1954 of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education—£81,237—fell short of the receipts by £9,129. The previous year the deficit was £7,564, and this year it is expected to be some £16,000.

An annual amount of £2,000 for seven years was provided by Mr. Isaac Wolfson, the financier, to establish a "Manchester Journal of Semitic Studies," to be published by the Manchester University Press.

Two Jewish actors received distinctions from the British Film Academy. Miss Yvonne Mitchell was awarded a British "Oscar" as the best British actress of the year, Mr. David Kossoff the prize for the most promising newcomer to films.

Of the total number of mental patients in England, about 1.8 per cent are Jewish.

E. SCHAEFER

## LETTER FROM JERUSALEM

The past weeks brought again a fresh crop of casualties in the borderland. When we set out to visit this area we were accompanied by an armed guard. We did not go there just for the thrill of tasting danger—there is a project on foot to transform this area into a colonisation centre of large dimensions. The novelty is that, for the first time, a whole region, extending over almost one million dunams, is blueprinted for development as an entity, involving the settlement of 20,000 people within the next few years.

This part of Judea is ancient historic country, which once supported a large population. Beit Guvrin, now a small kibbutz, was famous at the time of the Romans and named by King Herod "Eliothropolis," the city of freedom. There are many sites recalling the past—mosaics from the Byzantine period, traces of the Crusaders, and primeval caves, 40 metres high, the legendary abode of giants.

A dirt track leads into a remote and sheltered valley, where a hill rises steeply from the base, with a flat top, towering over the plain like a fort of yore. The simile is not deceptive, for this is the site of ancient Lachish, a city which for thousands of years dominated the road from Israel to Egypt. Joshua ben Nun conquered her; the Kings of Judea battled for her possession; the mighty Sennacherib of Assyria encamped his army in her charib; and Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, made the city a stronghold in his wars.

Lachish has given the name to the new development project, which has its provisional headquarters at the coast in Migdal Ashkelon. There, soil tests and soil surveys, topographical studies and layouts for settlements, plans for roads and pipelines are being made. Each settlement point will be inter-related to the other and supplement it economically. The compact villages are planned for a population larger than is customary now and their economy will be based mainly on industrial crops, such as sugar beet, groundnuts and cotton.

Yet in another respect does the project differ from present settlement activities. While in the Negev and Galilee the new immigrants are brought directly from the port to their respective places of final settlement, the newcomers here are first housed in two large work camps, which have all the prerequisites of a settlement—school, kindergarten, cultural centre, synagogue and social amenities—where they will stay for 6-8 months. Preparing the land for agriculture, tree planting and building their villages in the neighbourhood make up their programme of work.

When we came to visit Haruvit—one of the two camps—the first 28 families had arrived just two days previously, numbering 162 persons, all of them from Morocco, all in good health and spirits. They had come late one afternoon and the next morning they were already at work for the Jewish National Fund—sorting out saplings for afforestation. They were not questioning the kind of work nor the rate of pay, but were ready to tackle the job without losing any time in adjusting themselves. One of the immigrants had made the journey twice—he was one of the "yordim" who had left the country disgruntled, and now he was back again trying all the harder to prove his mettle.

HERBERT FREEDEN.

Hans Jaeger:

## HANGOVER OF THE PAST

### Some recent German Publications

A large proportion of the novels appearing in Germany still deals in one form or another with the past, partly condemning it, partly trying to whitewash, to minimise or to glorify. Even when the present is described, the shadows of the past reappear. People struggle with an experience, a nightmare they cannot easily get rid of.

This impression is particularly strong if one reads the novel of Wolfgang Koeppen, "*Das Treibhaus*" (Scherz & Goverts, Stuttgart, 223 pp.). It is a typical example of how little one can rely on hearsay as far as literary achievements are concerned. The first one heard was a public outcry that this "key novel" was slanderous and insulting, malicious and untrue, apart from lacking any literary value. Admitted that it is difficult to read, as the author has an absolute contempt for all form, writing sentences stretching over several pages or rather putting words together without any commas and full-stops if he feels like it, this does not diminish its literary value. It can be taken rather as a symbol of the chaotic present, and perhaps of the chaos of feelings in the soul of the author when the ordeal of the Third Reich and the Second World War was over. The author, whose judgment on National Socialism is beyond any doubt, shows genuine feelings and makes desperate efforts to cope with the problems of our time. That gives quality to his book and makes us excuse some cases of lack of tact or of good taste, though it will not reconcile the Philistines who resent the ruthless and almost cruel realism. The novel describes the gradual decay of a parliamentarian (a former refugee who returned to Germany), who feels disgust with the general atmosphere and, feeling unable to make a fresh start, ends in suicide. Nevertheless, the book is, basically, neither cynical nor nihilist. This case does not allow for generalisation. On the contrary, it is as if the author himself was looking for relief in this way. He knows quite well that life is not a one-way street. The process of decomposition is illustrated with a demoniacal strength of vision. One will never forget the scene where the "hero" of this novel walks drunkenly among the ruins of Bonn and sees at the same time the daughters of the Rhine, the skeletons of the victims of war and Nazism, and the hills of the Rhinish landscape in the background.

#### SS, Men and Nationalists

Wolfgang Koeppen's next novel, "*Der Tod in Rom*" (Scherz & Goverts, Stuttgart, 254 pp.), indicates a remarkable progress and will silence those who doubted his literary qualities, though his language will still sometimes appear shocking to some people. He certainly does not know inhibitions and he wants to shock in order to make people listen to him. They all meet in Rome: the former SS-general who cannot return yet to Germany (as those "ungrateful" people have not paved the way yet, and this courageous "hero" does not want to take the slightest risk) and is acting now as "adviser" in some Arab country, the typical "super-man," a queer mixture of sergeant-major and titanic megalomaniac, tortured by an inferiority complex, looking at people of the former upper class with a mixture of contempt and adoration, using his morbid nationalism as a thin cover for his insatiable lust for power and the satisfaction of his desires. On the other hand, there is his brother-in-law, representative of that former upper class, who, as a "realist," always adapts himself to the circumstances, though using the nationalist phrase no less than his counterpart (considering it as his monopoly and symbol of his standard), admiring him as long as he was in power, disowning him when it became dangerous to be associated with him, but even then taking all precautions as times might change again; he is even more ambiguous since his reinstatement as he has to consider both those who restored him to power and those whose predecessor he might be, falling under his spell as soon as he starts to boast again, and then disowning him when he becomes a nuisance. Both have their eyes on the main chance, the "job" and the power and protection it carries with it. They symbolise the two partners of the Harzburg

Front who united forces to bring Hitler into power. And somehow both have a split personality.

Hans Helmuth Kirst, "*08/15 im Krieg*," 2nd volume, Kurt Desch, Munich, 432 pp. Usually, a second volume means an anti-climax and is a dangerous temptation to the author to repeat himself and to water down what he has said before. Here it is different. It is astonishing to observe that he has the strength to surpass his former achievements. Apart from few exceptions, it is not the battle front but life close to the front which is in the foreground of this novel. He depicts various types, often with a grim sense of humour, with a deep insight into the human soul. Some characters, such as Captain Witterer, who, in his ambitious longing for decorations, wants to drill soldiers who have fought in many battles, but whose fear is in grotesque contrast with his boastfulness, or the N.C.O. Soefft, who is always organising something and becomes rich in an atmosphere of scarcity, are unforgettable. We get a glimpse at the conspiracy leading to July 20, 1944, when some officers recognise each other by the slogan, "The chimneys are still smoking." It is a satire in itself if the very lieutenant who still believes in Hitler in an atmosphere of scepticism, cynicism, personal ambition and selfishness, falls into the trap of a Russian girl who manages to extract vital secrets from him (we are gradually used to this cliché of all Russian civilians being described as agents or partisans, as it is in Plievier's novel, too). Kirst certainly has made his contribution to deglorification of militarism, depriving it of its glamour, without any one-sidedness or unjust generalisation.

That he did not restrict himself to the sphere of the army is shown in another novel he wrote, "*Aufbruch in einer kleinen Stadt*" (Verlag Kurt Desch, Munich, 383 pp.). This time we are in a small German town, breeding-place of intolerance and narrowmindedness, false dignity and quarrelsomeness. Again he attacks nationalistic phraseology, and this he has in common with Koeppen. The younger generation, disillusioned and disgusted by words which are not in accordance with facts and reality, simply hates phrases, boasts, slogans, and this is a sound sign which we have to register, as it seems promising for the future. Credulity has been followed by distrust, which is almost the other extreme. The novel is a satire, exposing those who, in their longing for demonstrations, want to falsify the suicide of a weakling into a victim of the post-war period which, in their opinion, did not appreciate enough the achievements of the "glorious" era before. But that is only one of the truths this fine novel teaches us. The man who, coming out of jail, is actually victimised and never gets a chance, the big shot who "owns" the town and has everybody at his mercy, the sneaks, they all round off a picture which is rather familiar.

#### Memoirs of the Arbeitsdienstfuhrer

Finally, we must mention *Konstantin Hierl*, former chief of Germany's Labour Service, who also wrote his memoirs in "*Im Dienst fuer Deutschland*" (1918-1945, Kurt Vowinkel-Verlag, Heidelberg, 208 pp.). This man, who once followed Ludendorff and his Tannenberg-Bund and then deserted him to follow the Fuehrer instead, still uses his old Nazi clichés. Not even the "plutocrats" are missing. His formula that Germany must have an army of its own which serves neither the West nor the East, but Germany, might easily bring him in line with Otto Strasser. He expounds the somewhat amusing theory that the programme of the N.S.D.A.P. would have been compatible with democracy, freedom of political opinion being really necessary, that dictatorship was only the product of later development. The "shortcomings" were due to the party spirit. In the late 'thirties safeguards against misuse of power would have been possible and necessary, but Hitler had no time, because he was absorbed by his military schemes. However, in the war bad conditions worsened. Then Hierl gets afraid of what he has said and starts withdrawing. He praises the bulk of the party members.

## THE COCKNEY'S FIGHT AGAINST THE NAZIS

When, in 1952, the Lower Court in Frankfurt recognised Norbert Wollheim's claim against I.G. Farben, it paid tribute to two ex-prisoners of war, who had testified during the hearing. These two witnesses, the Court stated in the judgment, had tried to alleviate the plight of the Jewish slave labourers. Though, unlike the officials of I.G. Farben, they were not supposed to care for the "living" conditions of the Jewish pariahs, they used every possible device, arising from their status, to be of help. When the judgment became known, the AJR felt urged to write to the two witnesses thanking them for their courageous attitude which helped the Jewish prisoners to retain their belief in humanity. This letter has now been incorporated in an interesting book,\* in which the manifold war adventures of one of them, Charles Coward, have been put on record. Coward was captured as early as 1940, having missed the evacuation boats in Calais. From then onwards, his life became a continuous story of escape, re-imprisonment and further more or less successful attempts of gaining freedom. He did not manage to reach his goal, but ultimately landed in the Monowitz Camp near Auschwitz. Bad as this may have been for him, it had its blessing for many of our people. Not less than 400 Jews, doomed to death, were helped by him to find their ways out of the camp. As for us, the word "Auschwitz" is associated with the remembrance of perished parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives it would not be appropriate to recount in detail how he managed to do so. On the other hand, the story is told with restraint, and, therefore, even readers of our background need have no inhibitions to become acquainted with the book. On the contrary, they should get hold of it, because it will reassure them that in the depth of degradation the light of human understanding was not entirely extinct.

Experiences in Auschwitz - Monowitz, where Coward was also in touch with the Polish Underground Movement, are reported in one chapter of the book, which especially for us is the most important one. Throughout the report we accompany Charles Coward, the Cockney from Edmonton, in his single-handed fight against the huge German war machinery. Never at a loss, he got his way time and again. Where the intellectual might have been lost, the matter-of-fact Cockney was guided to success by his innate instinct. As a Camp Leader he also obtained authority over his British fellow-prisoners: he did not pose as their superior, but found his way to their hearts as an equal.

The book is composed in a well-balanced way. When humorous incidents are described, it never becomes flippant, and though, at first sight, the approach seems to be that of an escape story, the serious background is never forgotten. It is a true document human of our turbulent times.

W. ROSENSTOCK

\* John Castle: Password to Courage. Souvenir Press, 15/-

The same happens when he talks about the concentration camps. He says that food was better than in the internment camps where he was after the war; he did not make any unfavourable observations, and the reports after the war were the outcome of hatred and even the more serious news "one-sided." But then he adds, obviously feeling a bit uneasy, that the concentration camps should have served protection of the State instead of vengeance, and he graciously admits that there were "sometimes" denunciations and atrocities.

One can imagine what he has to say as to the extermination of the Jews. He shares the typical prejudices and repeats the old accusations. The only thing he has to say is that very often the nations went "far beyond the measures of protection and self-defence which were justified" and replaced wrong by new and even bigger wrong. He rejects this revenge, he graciously rejects generalisations, he admits the high gifts and special qualities of the Jews, he speaks about an elite which establishes the State of Israel. Though he is still antisemitic, he will not meet the approval of his former comrades for these concessions.

We see, to sum up, that novels and memoirs likewise are dealing with the past which even overshadows the present. The hangover of the past is still strong.

Jacob Jacobson:

## THE FIRST GERMAN-JEWISH DOCTORS

In 1731 Benjamin de Lemos, then 16 years old, came to Halle to study medicine. There he took lodgings with the Jewish family Charleville, and eventually, just before taking his doctor's degree, married Hanna, the somewhat oldish daughter of Simon Abraham Charleville, much to the dismay of his father, the Hamburg broker, Abraham de Lemos. The latter naturally objected to the considerable difference of age; apart from that, however, he, the Portuguese Jew, considered his son's marriage to a German Jewess quite intolerable, "just as unusual and intolerable as that between Christians and Jews." In his anger he went so far as to ask the Prussian Government to declare his son's marriage null and void. (Professor Guido Kisch in "Sachsen und Anhalt," Magdeburg, 1929.)

### DR. BELA HOROVITZ AND "THE PHAIDON PRESS"

On Tuesday, March 9, Dr. Bela Horovitz, Director of "The Phaidon Press," died suddenly in New York, where he was on a visit. He was one of the most outstanding and prolific publishers in this country and a man of finest culture with keen interest in all spheres of spiritual life, especially in the eternal values of the Jewish heritage to which he devoted a special section of his publishing house, "The East and West Library."

Born fifty-six years ago in Budapest, he began his career as a publisher of expensive *de luxe* editions in Vienna, and, in 1923, founded the Phaidon Press, whose name has since become famous throughout the world. The publisher's aim was to produce good art books which, at reasonable prices, should appeal to a big general public and at the same time should satisfy the expert scholar, the art historian by a sound scientific research. This aim was achieved in the first instance by the pictures, which show the work of an artist as completely as possible in the best possible reproductions, further by a guiding historical introduction and by a critical "catalogue raisonné," containing all the scientific details available. In this new type of art books, all the great artists of the past and of our times are represented in large volumes, the Italian and the French, the Spanish and the English, the Dutch and the German, and have found their way to all the libraries of the world, public and private. For example, a book on Van Gogh sold 50,000 copies on the day of its publication.

When the Nazis invaded Austria in 1938, Dr. Horovitz succeeded in transferring the Phaidon Press to London, and here it has grown into one of the biggest Publishing Houses, with branches all over the world. Its scope widened and its activities were extraordinary. It includes "Rembrandt's Etchings" in six volumes, a standard work, and the Catalogues of the Queen's Drawings at Windsor, eleven volumes of which have already been published. All of them are splendidly printed, bound, with a text of the highest standard, productions which, to quote Sir Kenneth Clark, "have now become one of the few civilizing influences of the time." Here, in London, in 1944, this indefatigable man added a separate section to his publishing house, his own department under his personal care, "The East and West Library," to which he devoted himself with the greatest love, although it never actually paid. In this section he published among others Weizmann's "Trial and Error," an illustrated edition, Buber's "Moses," Cecil Roth's "A Short History of the Jewish People," Jewish philosophers "Philo," "Sadiah Gaon," "Jehuda Halévy," and the last one "Essays presented to Leo Baeck."

The death of Dr. Horovitz is a great loss to the Phaidon Press and to the world of art publishers, where he was a leading figure.

I personally regret the loss of a generous friend with whom I often had intimate talks on art and many topics of cultural and spiritual life, talks which were always inspiring and which I shall never forget.

DR. ARTHUR GALLINER

This was quite an unusual step and it remained unsuccessful.

As a foreigner, the young doctor was at first not allowed to practise in Prussia, but he came to Berlin after having stayed in Dessau for some time. There Hanna—the "cunning hussy," as her indignant father-in-law had called her—died in 1762, and one year later Benjamin de Lemos married her niece Esther, the 20-year-old daughter of his former university colleague, Dr. Samuel Charleville, who was then established in Glogau. Esther was the mother of the famous Henriette Herz, the beautiful wife of Professor Dr. Marcus Herz, once highly esteemed both as physician and philosopher, and a member of the circle around Moses Mendelssohn. Only after the death of her mother, Henriette Herz changed her religion and became a Christian, under the influence of Friedrich Schleiermacher (1817).

Doctors like their sons also to become doctors and their daughters to marry doctors, and so it happened in this case. The brother of Henriette's mother, i.e. the son of the Glogau doctor, practised up to his old age "in the province," as Henriette Herz rather vaguely relates in her "Early Reminiscences."

Johanna, Henriette's younger sister, married a Dr. Simon Herz in Prenzlau, and her two brothers also became doctors. The elder returned to Hamburg, the town of his ancestors, and died there in 1845 (Hans Landsberger, Henriette Herz, Weimar, 1913); the younger, however, Dr. Daniel de Lemos, who was born in 1770 and graduated in Königsberg in 1797, went to Warsaw as a doctor. There he died as early as 1805.

### Medical Officers in Polish Prussia

How had he come to Warsaw—he, whose ancestor did not like German Jews, and probably Polish Jews even less? When, at the end of the 18th century, Prussia had acquired the Polish provinces, she had also undertaken to reorganise medical affairs and tried to enrol new members for health service schemes. Thus there was a new hope and a new sphere of activities for many Jewish doctors. We know the names of several Jewish doctors who worked in the provinces at that time, and we also know that they studied in Königsberg and in Frankfurt/Oder, in Halle and in Buetzow (Mecklenburg). We further know the names of young and old doctors who applied for the position of a "medical district officer." Surprisingly, some of them were successful in their applications. The competent Minister, Count Hoym, in Breslau, more liberal than the supreme medical authority of Prussia, did not mind the "difference of religion" as long as a Jewish candidate was efficient in his profession. Thus, Dr. Samuel Wolff Frankenstein, from Strasburg (West Prussia), became medical district officer in Lentschitz; Dr. Joseph Bewern, from Halle, became temporary medical district officer in Schroda; and Dr. Isaac Jacob Gura, from Lissa, became medical district officer of the Ostrzewo (Schildberg) district. Dr. Abraham Judka Felix, physician-in-ordinary of Count Zaluski, and probably a member of the famous family Katzenellenbogen, became medical district officer in Lask. Dr. Berend Joachim Borchardt became medical district officer in Rawa. He had previously been in the service of Prince Czartoryski, was a member of the well-known Jewish family Borchardt in Koeslin, and was married to a Jewess from Breslau. I cannot say with certainty whether he obtained his position by conversion to Christianity or whether he remained a Jew. The same applies to Dr. Joseph Loeben, who was medical district officer of Mlawa. For it was Dr. Loeben's application which—under a different Minister—had met with strong opposition and had again aroused the earlier objections to the admission of "doctors of the Jewish nation" to positions of an official character. These objections still existed during the reactionary era after 1815 and remained effective for a long time.

## Old Acquaintances

**Vienna in Elstree** :—"Oh Rosalinda," the 1955 version of the immortal "Fledermaus," is the first co-production of a British (A.B.P.) and a German company; Michael Powell and Hungary-born E. Pressburger sign as authors and directors. They did not change the story, though the plot is modernised and placed in Vienna of to-day under the four occupation powers. Michael Redgrave as "Eisenstein" is now a Frenchman, Mel Ferrer (Alfred) an American, Dennis Price (Frank) English, Anthony Quayle (Orlofsky) a Russian, and Anton Walbrook as "Dr. Falke," of course, a "native." "Rosalinda" is played by beautiful Ludmilla Tcherina and "Adele" sung by Annaliese Rothenberger, a young opera singer of Hamburg, while Oskar Sima is "Frosch." Hein Heckroth, also a Continental artist, designed the colourful decors and costumes, and the new version of this classical operetta will be done in cinemascope. The directors work with real ensemble, so there will not be any "crowd"; they rehearsed every shot weeks before, and the music was recorded in Austria. So there is quite an international atmosphere in the studios at Elstree, and everybody is hoping "Oh Rosalinda" will have the expected success. When we visited the set we met two Continental actors, Fritz Schrecker and Rolf Carston, in uniforms on the floor.

**"Seeds of Time"** :—Walter Rilla, the stage and screen star who started as editor of a literary magazine in Breslau after the first war, returned to his first love by writing a novel; it has just been published by Neville Spearman in London. "Seeds of Time" (a Shakespeare quotation) is a psychological book of tremendous proportions; the study of a woman in love with three men: her father, her husband, and her son; and the three are in a way identical with each other. You would not expect a novel, so far removed from everything the author did until now, from Rilla, who made a name for himself in Germany and in this country, where he has been living since 1933. His story is moving, and the analysis always warm-hearted, although his leading lady seems to be quite selfish in her love. While waiting for the first visit of her future daughter-in-law her life comes as a flash-back before her inner eye. "Seeds of Time" is beautifully and sensitively written, and not only outstanding because it is unexpected coming from an actor of Rilla's standing.

**Home News** :—Dr. Paul Czinner, Elisabeth Bergner's husband, will show his "Don Giovanni" picture, which he shot on the stage of Salzburg's opera house, in London's "Royal Festival Hall."—Dr. F. Loewenstein, bibliographer of the late G. B. Shaw, will return to Frankfurt for good.—Bert Brecht's "Mother Courage" will be presented at the Devon Festival in Barnstaple during the summer.—Rolf Carston, who used to run the "Blue Danube" cabaret in Finchley Road, will be Jose Ferrer's acting stand-by for "Cockleshell Heroes," to be produced in Portugal.

**U.S.A.** :—Oscar Homolka played Ibsen's "Masterbuilder" on Broadway.—Maria Riva, Marlene Dietrich's daughter, took over the Stamford Playhouse and will open with "Bell, Book, and Candle."—Theodore Bikel, the Israeli actor who lived and worked in London, had a success in New York, when he played in "Tonight in Samarkand."—Felix Jackson, the German-born producer of T.V.'s "The Best of Broadway," finished a book for early publication.—Grete Mosheim and Ludwig Donath scored a big success in the German production of Hauptmann's "Biberpelz" in New York.

**Milestones** :—One of the youngest journalists of Berlin in the twenties, Hans Tasiemka, celebrated his fiftieth birthday in London, where he has been running a newspaper agency since leaving the British Army five years ago. Born in Gnesen, he started with interviews in "Filmkurier" and became co-founder of a party of young Republicans.—Werner Richard Heymann, who scored with such successful Ufa pictures as "Kongress tanz," is sixty years old. He returned from Hollywood a few years ago to Germany and is working again in pictures.—Two well-known German producers got a lot of praise: Juergen Fehling when he had his seventy-fifth birthday; Heinz Hilpert when he was sixty-five years old last month.

PEM

(To be continued)

## A GREAT ISRAELI ARTIST

In Memoriam — Leopold Krakauer

Leopold Krakauer, who died in Jerusalem last month at the age of 64, was in my view one of the greatest artists in Israel. I know of nobody else who succeeded to such a degree in interpreting the mystery of the Jerusalem scenery and its spiritual message. Krakauer came to Jerusalem from Vienna with his wife Grete Wolf, who is also a gifted painter, more than thirty years ago. He lived (as long as security considerations allowed) on the outskirts of the city, near the abyss where the dark rugged valleys slope down towards the Dead Sea; there he fell in mystic love with this landscape, with its barren hills and fading desert, with its floating air and light, with its lonely trees which look like living creatures, with its rocks and thorn-bushes and endless thistles. This revelation impressed itself deeply on the artist's mind, and he was able to reproduce it in ever new variants, a glorious image of demonic Nature in its everlasting grandeur. Some of his pictures, especially chalk-drawings, express the full intensity of Biblical feeling.

But Krakauer was not only a great painter, he was also one of the leading architects of the country and devoted much thought to the problems of Israeli architecture in its relation to the character of the country. He admired the Arab villages in their perfect harmony with the Palestinian landscape, but he realised that this cannot be copied for the quite different requirements of modern Jewish society. His aim was to combine utilitarian necessities of modern building with as much as could be saved of consistency with the natural scenery. He was a pioneer in Kibbutz planning and building. Some of the most remarkable public buildings (usually called "Chadar ha-Ochel" or dining-hall) in the early Kibbutzim were the work of Krakauer, who was a frequent visitor in the Emek and elsewhere and very popular among the early settlers, especially those who came from Central Europe.

This man of genius was a very amiable, human and modest man whose passing will be deeply mourned by his many friends and admirers. His

work is comparatively little known outside of Israel and should, one day, be exhibited in this country.

ROBERT WELTSCH

### DEATH OF DR. JULIUS FLIESS

Rechtsanwalt Dr. Julius Fliess died in Berlin recently, 78 years old. For many years Dr. Fliess was one of the most respected barristers of the Berlin Appeal Court (Kammergericht), equally well known for his legal knowledge, his forensic gifts and his straight and noble character. He was also a very upright Jew, who behaved most courageously during the Nazi period. Only during the war he emigrated to Switzerland, but returned soon after 1945 to resume his legal practice. He was indefatigable; it is understood that his last illness developed as a consequence of a continuous spell of work which much younger men would have hesitated to undertake.

W. B.

### PHYSICAL AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

In their recent study, Miss Anita Kohsen (who came to this country as a German-Jewish Refugee) and Mr. C. C. L. Gregory attempt "the start of a scientific revolution, the issues to be based on methodology and not on belief in hypotheses, as a first step to bringing about the unification of science." The book is primarily intended "for professional and lay scientists"; but the latter should have some knowledge of the language and principles of cybernetics, modern physics, psychoanalysis and psychical research.

There is much speculation at times with the attempt at a formation of a new language and new concepts, on how to explain psychical phenomena, the existence of which is assumed as being proven. But the authors are fully aware of the facts of

### DR. C. KAPRALIK—SIXTY

We welcome the opportunity of expressing our thanks and good wishes to Dr. Charles Kapralik on the occasion of his 60th birthday on April 24. For almost 14 years, Dr. Kapralik has been associated with the work at Woburn House, first as an official of the Central British Fund and now as the General Secretary of the Jewish Trust Corporation. Having held senior positions with leading Viennese banking and insurance enterprises until 1938, he excels by his widespread knowledge and his administrative ability. Yet for us it is of particular value that a refugee himself knows the needs of our community from his own experience. Throughout the years, he has been a faithful friend of the AJR, whose help and advice have been most valuable to us. Now, as the preparatory work for the establishment of Old Age Homes is going on, these bonds have grown even stronger and the daily co-operation between Woburn House and Fairfax Mansions have resulted in a close personal relationship with him. In the interest of the community to which he devotes his services with unlimited youthful energy and enthusiasm, we wish Dr. Kapralik many happy and successful years to come.

W. R.

trickery, fraud, hallucinations, self-deception, the frequent lack of experimental repeatability of phenomena; and also the coincidence with the psychopathological.

The book certainly raises many important problems with regard to the relation of facts, their interpretation, and the value of hypotheses and theories as not only verifying facts, but also leading to experiments which may result in the finding of new data and thus confirm or disprove existing theories, including their own.

The authors rightly express the hope that the book "will be widely read and call forth the criticism it so richly deserves."

H. F.

C. C. L. Gregory and A. Kohsen: "Physical and Psychical Research." Omega Press, 15/-

### FAMILY EVENTS

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

#### Birth

**Wohlfarth.**—On March 5, 1955, a daughter (Tamar) was born to Chawa and Werner Wohlfarth, in Israel (Nahal Oz), granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Wohlfarth, 26 Powell Road, Bingley, Yorks.

#### Deaths

**Mr. Werner Leon,** of 135 Dartmouth Road, London, N.W.2, aged 75, died on March 13.

**Mrs. Rosa Reinmann,** formerly Freiburg i.B., aged 76, passed away peacefully on March 7, 1955, at her home, 4 Oxford Street, Nottingham. Sadly missed by her husband, children and grandchildren in England, Israel and U.S.A.

**Dr. Julius Weinschenk,** Oberlandesgerichtsrat a.D. (formerly Nürnberg), of 22 Mapesbury Court, Shoot-up Hill, London, N.W.2, died peacefully in his 74th year on March 21, 1955, deeply mourned by his wife Adele, née Beselau, daughter Lotte and brother-in-law Dr. A. Beselau.

### CLASSIFIED

#### Situations Vacant

**WANTED:** Housekeeper for Flatlet House, room with C.H. and H.C. and small salary, in exch. for part-time help. No manual work. Write particulars. Box 97.

Ich bitte meine neue Adresse mitteilen zu dürfen:

**ERNST MUELLER**

Rechtsanwalt

72 Compayne Gardens,  
London, N.W.6

**WANTED SECRETARY** to organise Jewish collection of documents, books, objets d'art. Jewish background knowledge required. Applicant must be refugee from Nazi persecution. State age, languages, qualifications. Box 95.

**SHORTHAND TYPIST,** English and German, for part-time work in N.W.3 required. Box 94.

**DOMESTICATED WOMAN** wanted for business family in Nottingham. Able to cook and do general duties. No rough work. Daily help kept. Refs. essential. Wages £5 weekly. Box 93.

#### Situations Wanted

**Men**  
**PART-TIME POSITION** wanted, afternoon preferred, by elderly reliable businessman. Engl. and German office work. Possibly N.W. district. Box 99.

**CORRESPONDENCE** of any kind, copies, etc., carefully done by exp. merchant. Own typewriter, in/outdoor. Box 100.

**ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER,** job wanted by former lawyer, newcomer from Austria, 52, no exp. in this country. Intelligent and willing. Modest salary. Box 101.

**YOUNG MAN,** 25, at present studying for B.Sc. Physics, looks for job in Electronics. 1 year's exp. in England. Box 102.

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#### Personal

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#### MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries from AJR

**Wohlgemuth, Dr. Adolf,** for Sued-deutsche Bank, Mannheim.

**Heller, Arnold and Grete and son Hans,** from Berlin-Moabit, for Fritz Georg Bremen.

**Kahn, Prof. Ernst,** economist, from Frankfurt, last known address: c/o Singer, 30 The Avenue, N.W.6, for Herbert Hertz, Paris.

**Gutkind, Gusta,** now married, from Nuremberg, for Arie Gutkind, Israel.

## THE AJR AT WORK

### AJR SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT Holiday Addresses

The AJR Social Services Department are receiving inquiries about Continental boarding-houses and hotels in this country. Suitable addresses should be sent to the AJR, Maïda Vale 4449.

#### German Library

We have received a further supply of good books and thank all those who sent them to us. The Library is open Monday to Thursday, 10-1 and 3-6, Friday 10-1.

### Permanent Handicraft Exhibition and Sale

As the holiday time is nearing, we again draw the attention of our members and friends to this exhibition, in which everyone can find useful and attractive articles. Orders are accepted. Gift tokens can be acquired.

#### COMPANION TO ISRAEL

A lady who cannot afford the fares to Israel to visit her only sister would like to make the voyage as companion. Interested readers are asked to communicate with the AJR Social Services Department, 8 Fairfax Mansions, N.W.3 (MAI.4449).

#### THE HYPHEN

Sunday, April 17, at 7.30 p.m., at 57 Eton Avenue:—Talk by Eustace Chesser, "Sex and Marriage." (Admission for non-members, 1s. 6d.) There will also be a few rambles and At Homes in April.

Most of the Hyphen members are Continental and Jewish and between 21 and 37 years old. Readers interested in the Hyphen activities should write (s.a.e.) to Mr. Alfred Lindeman, 23 Holmdale Road, London, N.W.6.

#### BOY PIANIST IN LEEDS

At the Harrogate Musical Festival, eight-year-old Michael Roll won three premier awards in the children's piano classes. He was also invited to appear as guest pianist in the Leeds Civic Hall. Michael Roll, described in the papers as a child prodigy, is the son of Dr. and Mrs. M. Roll, who came to this country from Vienna and who are active members of the Leeds AJR Branch.

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Baek, Leo, Dieses Volk. Juedische Existenz. 186 pp. boards 14/6 p.f., cloth 18/9 p.f.

Goldstein, B., Die Sterne sind Zeugen. 2. Aufl. 308 pp. cloth 18/9 p.f.

Behrend-Rosenfeld, E. R., Ich stand nicht allein. Erlebnisse einer Juedin in Deutschland 1933-44. 304 pp. cloth 12/3 p.f.

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### WITH THE HELP OF "AJR INFORMATION"

Two recent incidents reflect the wide range of services rendered by "AJR Information."

A few weeks ago, a former Austrian Jew who now lives in Sosua (San Domingo) wrote: "A friend of mine showed me the issue of your paper which included an announcement about pensions of former Austrian civil servants. As suggested in the article, I got in touch with the Federal Ministry of Finances in Vienna, and to-day I received the good news that my application has been granted. I consider it my duty to thank you for having published this announcement. If I had not read 'AJR Information' I would not have been aware of my claim."

The second story has a sadder background. One day, an official of the London Main Post Office rang the AJR. A parcel from Germany addressed to a former German Jew had been returned to him marked "Unknown." The official was most anxious to find out the present whereabouts, because the parcel seemed to contain belongings of the addressee's deported relatives. An enquiry under "Missing Persons" was published in "AJR Information." A few days later, a reader gave the full new address of the man who had re-emigrated to the United States, and to whom the parcel can now be forwarded.

### PERSONALIA

Professor Dr. Heinrich Hoeniger, the well-known authority on Commercial Law, celebrated his 75th birthday in Frankfurt. Professor Hoeniger, who before 1933 had taught at Freiburg, Kiel and Frankfurt University, was a member of New York Hunter College from 1941 until he returned to Frankfurt in 1950.

Dr. Walter Juttke, for many years Financial Secretary to the Preussischer Landesverband Juedischer Gemeinden and chairman of the only German Jewish Philatelic Society, was 60 recently. British by birth, he stayed in Berlin up to the end of August 1939, when he left on urgent advice from the British Consul. He is now owner of the London Stamp Company, Hammersmith, W.

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### BLACK MAGIC AND WHITE LINEN

Former Kitchener Camp men will remember the magician in their midst who, under the name Harun al Rashid, delighted them by his performances. His real name was E. Herrstadt. Now he has turned Mr. E. Hearn and owns a laundry in London. An interesting innovation, introduced by him, is reported in *The West London Observer*. His laundry van has been equipped with a two-way radio telephone. Thus, in the case of emergency orders, contacts may be established at once between the head office in Shepherds Bush and the van wherever it happens to be, and immediate collection can be arranged for. As far as it is known, his is the only laundry in this country operating with such an equipment.

Mr. Hearn has also remained faithful to his Harun al Rashid activities and rendered his voluntary services for the benefit of many a good cause.

### NATURALISATION

On March 10 Captain Kerby asked the Home Secretary if he would publish the names of those persons who, since 1933, have been accorded British citizenship by naturalisation on account of Crown services, thus avoiding the requirement that their applications for naturalisation be supported by private sponsors. In his written reply, Major Lloyd-George stated that no separate statistics are kept of these cases.

### "CHARITABLE PURSE SYSTEM"

We wish to draw readers' attention to the leaflet of the K.K.L. Executor & Trustee Co., Ltd., which is enclosed in this issue. It explains the possibilities of making donations under covenant to charities and institutions. We should like to add that the establishment of a Charitable Trust under the auspices of the AJR is at present under consideration and that further developments will be reported in this paper.

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