

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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BASIC MORAL VALUES

A Test for Judaism

It would be futile and dishonest to conceal that the appalling tragedy which is the subject of a trial before a Military Court in Israel has stirred up the deepest emotions in Jews all over the world. As is now known from reports in the general press and elsewhere a number, given as 47, of innocent civilian inhabitants of an Arab village in Israel—returning from work in the neighbouring Jewish town Petach Tikvah—were murdered in cold blood and under revolting circumstances almost three months ago. We are not concerned with the question of individual responsibility; this is for the Court to ascertain and to act upon, and at the time of writing the proceedings have just begun. It is, of course, not for us to interfere in the prerogative of a Court of Law, nor have we—or anybody at this distance—sufficient knowledge of the details to form a judgment in a criminal case. It is a relief to know that the Israeli Government, through the Prime Minister, has expressed—though somewhat belatedly—its abhorrence of the occurrence, has paid advances of compensation to the bereaved families, and has promised a fair and objective trial.

But what concerns the Jewish world as a whole and cannot be evaded, painful as it may be, is the question of how such an event became possible at all and what state of mind it reveals in at least a section of the Jewish people of our days. It is this question which also deeply disturbs a very large part of Jewish public opinion in Israel itself, as is shown not only from private utterances but also from the pronouncements of the Hebrew press. It is perhaps not an exaggeration to say that there was an outcry of indignation in the Israeli press and even some pressure on the Government to speed up the investigations and to conduct the trial in public. It is understandable that the population at large wishes to dissociate itself as clearly as possible from this crime and its perpetrators. "They should be branded as traitors who dishonoured the good name of the Jewish people more than ordinary traitors do; and if the Israeli Government reintroduced the death penalty for high treason, it should keep in mind that there are crimes against humanity more abhorrent even than treason of the ordinary sort"—was the essence of an editorial in the daily paper, *Haaretz*.

It is frightening to imagine that these Jewish criminals lived in an atmosphere which led them to assume—wrongly, to our satisfaction—that such a deed would be condoned and passed over. Was not the former Arab village of Deir Yassin, where the terrible massacre of 1948 was committed, now a Jewish settlement? And although great indignation was expressed at that time in various Jewish circles, the ensuing war wiped that out and none of the murderers has been punished. It appears that the 1956 murderers of El Kassem believed that they had reason to feel secure in this case because the victims were "only

SPOTLIGHT ON HUNGARIAN JEWRY

From a Special Correspondent

In order to be able to understand the position of the Jews in Hungary we must first consider the years since the end of the war. Of the large community of Hungarian Jews—at one time over 600,000 strong—that looked back on a long and proud past, only less than a third survived Nazi persecution. But even this number, who lived mainly in the capital, Budapest, diminished rapidly in the first post-war years. Between 1945 and 1948, many opportunities for emigration were open to them and the younger generation, especially, took advantage of this. Later, the borders were hermetically sealed; the Iron Curtain, which cut off Hungary from the rest of the world as it did the other Soviet satellites, became an unscaleable wall, and the stream of emigration petered out. However, old people were in the majority among the remaining Jews; the death-rate exceeded the birth-rate by far. Furthermore, mixed marriages and conversions considerably reduced the community, so that at an estimate—unfortunately exact statistics do not exist—in the middle of 1956 the number

of Jews in Hungary was about 100,000. That is approximately one per cent of the population.

As far as the economic situation was concerned, the Jews shared the fate of the rest of the population of the country. As industry and commerce, with very few exceptions, had been nationalised, independent business men, investors, and craftsmen disappeared almost completely from the economic life of Hungary. The slight change in the economic policy of the country which took place during the years 1953 and 1954, made very little practical difference. People who used to be independent now work almost exclusively in nationalised concerns and undertakings; their incomes are far below what they had earned before. Whilst many Jews are still in high positions—for instance, managers, or in important administrative capacities—it is an interesting fact that more and more of them are being replaced by younger men, who come from workers' or farmers' families and are thoroughly trained and educated. However, the situation amongst Jewish intellectuals and professionals is slightly better. A great number are doctors, engineers, artists, and the like, with incomes well above the average. Hardly any Jews are left on the land; in consequence the small provincial Jewish communities, of which there were once a large number, are gradually dying out and Jewish life—in so far as one can speak of it as something special—is concentrated in the big towns, above all Budapest, where at least four-fifths of the 100,000 Jews live.

As far as religious toleration is concerned, services and religious instruction are permitted and the only sort of restriction is the fear of many

Continued on page 2, column 1

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Gt. Britain

herewith invites its members to the

General Meeting

on Monday, February 18, at 7.45 p.m.

at 1, Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6

(near Finchley Road Underground Station)

AGENDA

Report on AJR Activities

Election of Committee of Management (Executive)

Election of Board

(List of Candidates published on page 10)

Restitution and Compensation

Report on latest developments

No further invitations will be sent out

Non-members are not entitled to vote but will be welcome as guests at the Meeting

Arabs." It is this aspect of the affair which concerns us all. Those Jews especially who have been victims of cruel persecution and inhumanity have a right and a duty to voice a warning. We know, unfortunately, that among all peoples there are beastly creatures or neurotics who suddenly acquire an atavistic lust for blood and a taste for atrocities as soon as the thin veneer of civilised conduct is removed by circumstances (as Aldous Huxley once explained). But here it is stained with the infection of misguided nationalism and a cynical attitude of racial superiority; the possibility of such sentiments spreading, especially among the youth, constitutes a grave moral danger to Judaism. That is why all Jews are involved, wherever they may be, as long as we stand for Jewish solidarity and, consequently, collective responsibility. It is disquieting that Jewish institutions, rabbinate, etc., which in other cases are—rightly—quick to condemn atrocities, have remained silent in the face of such a terrible event, perhaps out of misconceived tribal loyalty.

Jewry ought to ask itself: where do we go from here? It is a tragedy to experience such a sequel to the persecutions which Jews had to endure in this epoch. What is the state of mind of some sections of the Jewish people, and how do they integrate nationalism and freedom? It is reassuring that we are united with overwhelming Israeli public opinion in demanding that the spiritual and educational leadership of the Jewish people should earnestly inquire into the psychological and moral causes of the mentality here revealed. It is a point of honour; it is also one of the most urgent moral necessities of twentieth-century Jewish life.

Perhaps the much needed unity of the Jewish people could be restored in a joint effort to save the basic moral values of Judaism.

Continued from page 1

Jews that their careers might suffer. As a result, for example, they simply do not dare keep the High Holy Days or send their children to the religious classes arranged by the community. Also, the Orthodox members of the community feel at a considerable disadvantage, as they have great difficulty in eating only kosher food and there can be no question of keeping the Sabbath.

In this connection, the question of antisemitism must be mentioned. Officially it does not exist at all, and it must be admitted that antisemitic remarks or the like are taken to be fascist manifestations and are treated accordingly. But everyone knows perfectly well that under the surface there is a powerful antisemitic current—indeed hatred would not be too strong a word to use. Every single Jew feels this almost daily at work, in conversation with neighbours and so forth; every single one, consciously or unconsciously, fears the sudden violent eruption of this undercurrent. This is particularly noticeable in the provinces and the movement to the cities, which we have already mentioned can, apart from its economic causes, also be attributed to the fact that those Jews living in the country and in small communities feel themselves in greater danger. They therefore go to the cities, where the large number of co-religionists alone gives them a certain confidence. The antisemitism of certain sections of the people was fed by a whispering campaign which, in a typically demagogical manner, pointed to the fact that a large proportion of leading members of the Communist régime was of Jewish descent. This in spite of the lack of any loyalty or ties to Judaism of leaders such as the once all-powerful Rakosi, or Gero (meanwhile also fallen from power), or the former Minister of War, Farkas. Under their government, Jews suspected of bourgeois leanings were persecuted and deported just as much as non-Jewish anti-Communists.

Objects of the Revolution

So this was the political, economic and social situation in which the Hungarian Jew found himself just before the outbreak of the Hungarian struggle for freedom of October and November, 1956. That the demonstration of October 23rd developed spontaneously into armed warfare and a large-scale revolution was as much of a surprise to the Jews as it was to the population as a whole and, indeed, to the Government itself. Although there had been, for some months, a definitely discernible latent revolutionary atmosphere, in view of the Russian occupation troops in the country, no one believed that there would be such a violent eruption. People (including both the under-cover opposition and Communist circles) thought it more likely that there would be a "gradual retreat" of the régime, a slow thaw, as had taken place in Poland under Gomulka. This would have corresponded to the wishes and interests of the majority of the population, and especially of the Jews, most of whom were dissatisfied with the régime, but saw certain dangers in its sudden collapse as a result of violent action. Now, in the last week of October, they were faced with the reality of a spontaneous popular movement which, starting with the demonstrators, caught hold of the rest of the people with lightning rapidity. Students, workers, intellectuals, the police and the army joined the rebels, the Government machinery and production were brought to a standstill, whilst the Communist Party machine was in utter confusion. No one stood aloof from this tremendous spontaneous movement; the Jews

were part of it with all others. Jews could be seen participating in the demonstrations of October 23rd and fighting behind the barricades during the following days. Then, on November 4th, when the Russian tanks and armoured vehicles moved into the capital and put an end to the first phase of the struggle, the shock—the paralysing horror—was the same among all sections of the population without exception, irrespective of faith or class.

Days of Turmoil

During those days and later, too, the situation was fraught with danger. It must be realised that there was no longer any form of public security. The entire police and the entire army had gone over to the rebels or had disbanded; the administration was in a state of chaos; the governmental machine was in a state of anarchy; the occupation army was exclusively concerned with the suppression of the rebels. All industries, railways, telegraph and telephone communications had ceased to function. The Government, Nagy's, which had been installed by the revolutionaries and, later, Kadar's Cabinet, was powerless. No one took the slightest notice of their decrees, commands, exhortations or threats. One martial law after another was announced, without any effect. If there were lawless or irresponsible elements who wanted to commit crimes in the midst of this general chaos, no one was there to stop them. (Indeed, at this time, looting in broad daylight did take place. The looters were professional criminals who had either been freed without forethought or who had escaped—and now there was no one who could lift a finger to stop them.) Among the inhabitants who hid in the cellars for protection in these terrible days, the Jews felt that they were doubly endangered. That no anti-Jewish excesses were perpetrated many of them regarded as a miracle.

At the same time—in spite of the lack of newspapers—a rumour, which almost sounded like yet another miracle, passed from mouth to mouth, the border, which, for years, had been hermetically sealed, lay open. The military frontier guard was just as disorganised as the police and the army, and the way to Austria, the way to the West was open. And the mass exodus began which led over 150,000 out of the country in a few weeks. The first to go were the people living in the frontier districts themselves, fascinated to see that the barrier they had thought insurmountable had vanished overnight in front of their eyes. Then came those who had manned the barricades with weapons in their hands, and who were now threatened by arrest and deportation. Finally, the inhabitants of the capital began to escape to the West in groups. And although the temporarily disorganised frontier guards had meanwhile begun to reorganise themselves and flight became daily more dangerous, an endless stream of men, women, children, old people, and sick people set out, leaving everything behind, giving up everything, burning all their bridges, with empty hands, with only the clothes they were wearing, by day and by night, weary, exhausted, often collapsing on the way—thousands, tens of thousands of them went over to the West. And again, amongst them, in evergrowing numbers, were the Jews. There was no difference between them and the others, just as, in flight, there was no difference between townspeople and countryfolk, between intellectuals and workers, between old and young.

(In a following article the author, a Hungarian Jew, will give a detailed account of his adventurous escape.)

NEWS IN BRIEF

SPEEDING UP OF COMPENSATION

A member of the Bundestag, Professor Franz Boehm, said at a meeting of the "Verband fuer Freiheit und Menschenwuerde," that in 1956 for the first time applications had been dealt with more quickly than there was money available. In 1956 all Laender spent DM1,100,000,000 for purposes of administration; for 1957 DM1,600,000,000 was earmarked for this. Should it be possible to carry through the programme for 1958, the major part of applications would have been dealt with; this would be much sooner than the planned date of 1962.

ISRAELI PENSIONS BILL FOR NAZI VICTIMS

The Bill providing pensions to Israelis who suffered permanent injury in German concentration camps, or as a result of other Nazi acts, was given its first reading in the Knesset during the beginning of January.

The Bill arises out of provisions laid down in the Israeli-German agreement on reparations.

THE SOVIET ZONE AND EGYPT

The Foreign Minister of the Soviet Zone, Dr. Bolz, has appealed to the Federal Republic to pass on the reparation deliveries for Israel "which served the armament of the Israeli aggressor" to Egypt. He said that the Soviet Zone would continue "to give political and material support to Egypt in its fight for the fulfilment of its just demands."

During the last few years the Soviet Zone, contrary to the Federal Republic, has consistently refused all demands for reparations to Israel.

ESTABLISHMENT OF "GERMAN-ARAB SOCIETY"

A "German-Arab Society" has been formed in Bonn, to provide "immediate and personal relief for any needy inhabitants of the Arab States."

It is reported that the principal promoter of the Society is Dr. H. A. Fakoussa, the Arab League representative in Germany.

ARAB-GERMAN OIL

The German Erdoel-AG (DEA) has acquired oil concessions in Syria and has started work. DEA's decision was influenced by the fact that the people of Syria, as of all countries in the Near East, have great sympathies for Germany and desire co-operation, especially in the field of oil production. The Hamburg newspaper, *Die Welt*, writes: Several Arab and Asiatic countries want Soviet or German help only for the exploitation of their oil resources; therefore, Germany faces a task which she can't shirk in her own interests and in the interests of the whole free world.

"SYRIAN PRUSSIANS"

A correspondent of the *Koelnische Rundschau* writes that the Syrian army, about 65,000 strong, has in recent years been trained by a German military mission in a typically German, or rather Prussian, way and that its efficiency should not be under-estimated. On the other hand it is equipped with a medley of out-dated German, Czech, British, French, and Russian weapons. The problems of supply are nearly insoluble. Ammunition, especially, is lacking.

GERMAN INDUSTRY FAIR IN CAIRO

On account of the recent political developments, the German Fair in Cairo will take place one week later than originally planned, namely from March 14 to April 3.

A Supplement describing the contents of the

1. und 2. Durchfuehrungsverordnung zum BEG

is attached to this issue

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W. Rosenstock

A STORY ABOUT OURSELVES

British Jewry's Work for Nazi Victims

We usually associate history with the past, and expect the history of the period of our own lives to be recorded by posterity. Fortunately, however, there are always contemporaries who realise that current events have to be recorded by those who know the background from their own experiences. It is from this angle that we who came to this country as victims of Nazi persecution have special reason to welcome a book recently written by Professor Norman Bentwich.*

Professor Bentwich has himself been associated with the work for refugees from 1933 onwards. Although, as Viscount Samuel points out in his introduction to "They Found Refuge," Professor Bentwich's own contribution to the rescue of Nazi victims is hardly mentioned, the book is to some extent an autobiography. There are few prominent British Jews who have been as active as Professor Bentwich in practically all spheres of refugee activities. Apart from that, he has been a personal and helpful friend to many people in our midst. It is just this interest in the personal sorrows and hopes of anybody who asked for his help which adds to the already large debt of gratitude we owe him.

The book is based not only on the author's wide experiences, but also incorporates information given to him by other persons who took a leading part, too, in various efforts on behalf of refugees.

Record of Central British Fund

In the opening chapter, British Jewry's proud record of past rescue work for persecuted Jews up to 1933 is described. However, the gravest challenge came in 1933 from Germany, "the country which was regarded as a citadel of European civilisation and had been, for generations, a principal centre of Jewish learning." Under the impact of events, the leaders of Anglo-Jewry established the "Central British Fund for German Jewry," as it was then called. Its first appeal was signed by the five Joint Presidents: the Chief Rabbi (Dr. Hertz), Lord Reading (the first), Dr. Weizmann, Mr. Lionel de Rothschild, and Mr. Nahum Sokolow. The Directors of the Appeal were Simon Marks, Edward Baron, and Philip Waley. In the first year, the Appeal yielded about a quarter of a million pounds. Altogether since 1933, when the Jewish community started subscribing to CBF appeals, over five million pounds has been collected.

Whilst the CBF acted as the financing body, the Jewish Refugees' Committee was established to carry out the actual case work. The driving force behind the Committee was Mr. Otto M. Schiff. The spirit in which he devoted himself to this task can be gauged by an expression he often used: "When the goods you deal in are human, there are no rules—each case according to its merits."

It was not only the Jewish community of this country who embarked on the vast relief schemes. The conscience of the general population was also aroused by the occurrences in Germany. Scholars and scientists, especially, felt the urge to render assistance and thus the finest representatives of science and learning in England were associated with refugee work from its inception. On the initiative of Sir William (Lord) Beveridge, they founded the "Society for the Protection of Science and Learning." This Society included the Nobel Prize winners, Lord Rutherford and Professor A. V. Hill.

The amount of work which was involved is reflected in the figures given by Professor Bentwich. The Jewish Refugees' Committee had, in the first eight months of 1939, to deal with an average of 1,000 visitors per day and approximately 1,000 unaccompanied children per month, admitted under the auspices of the Children's Movement. Altogether 10,000 children were admitted.

One of the schemes in the implementation of which Professor Bentwich took a leading part and which he describes in his book, was the establishment of the Transit Camp in Richborough

("Kitchener Camp"). This Camp was established for men who could only be released from the German concentration camps if they had an opportunity for emigration, but whose visas and emigration certificates respectively for the U.S.A. or Palestine had not yet come through. Had they not found refuge in England, they would have perished. The total cost of the Camp to the Jewish community for the eighteen months of its existence was £100,000. After the outbreak of war, the "Kitchener Camp" became the first training centre for aliens admitted to the Army. In the course of time, 10,000 refugees served with the Forces, and 150 made the supreme sacrifice.

One aspect of refugee work has had a particularly far-reaching result: the co-operation between the Jewish committees and the Christian committees set up for the "non-Aryan" refugees, led to the establishment of the Council of Christians and Jews, which today performs an important function in fostering good relationships between the various denominations.

Post-War Relief Work

After the war, new categories of Jewish Nazi victims had to be cared for—the survivors of the catastrophe, especially on the European Continent. Under the auspices of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad, which had as its Chairman the late Dr. Redcliffe Salaman and Professor Bentwich as its Vice-Chairman, the preparatory training work of volunteers was started in 1943. As soon as developments on the Continent made it possible, relief units were sent over.

The author gives a particularly vivid description of the position in Germany at that time. The Jewish population then consisted of two entirely different types; on the one hand, the few remnants of German Jewry who had survived mainly as partners of mixed marriages, many of whom had previously had comparatively few ties with the Jewish community and, on the other hand, the former inmates of concentration camps, most of whom hailed from Eastern Europe.

It was in those first post-war years that the "illegal" emigration to Palestine was at its peak—a fact which not infrequently placed the Jewish relief workers of British nationality in a somewhat delicate position. It was difficult for them "to steer a straight course between the pressures of the Displaced Persons and the loyalty to the British authorities which was expected of all British teams."

Another aftermath of the war, described by the author, is the fight for restitution and compensation. As Chairman of the United Restitution Organisation, he has devoted his energies to this vital task and he is, therefore, familiar with the intricate political and legal problems involved.

AJR and Restitution

In various contexts Professor Bentwich refers to the work of the AJR. He recalls the establishment of the organisation in 1941 after the internment period, and also the formation of the Council of Jews from Germany after the war. "The persistence of these two organisations," he writes, "prevailed over a certain scepticism about restitution in the Anglo-Jewish bodies, and both organisations were instrumental in establishing the United Restitution Office as a responsible legal agency for those claimants who had not the means of employing private lawyers. Now," Professor Bentwich states, "the great majority of Jews from the Continent have been absorbed into the British community and take their full part in economic and social life. They maintain, however, their own organisations for mutual help. The Association of Jewish Refugees and the Council of Jews from Germany have remained to supplement the help of the Government and the older Jewish communal bodies for those new citizens who have special needs."

It is gratifying that now, as Anglo-Jewry's rescue work for the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution draws to its close, "They Found Refuge," which serves as a full record of this important period of Anglo-Jewish history has been written, and that the author's descriptions of the various phases and

ANGLO-JUDAICA

New Refugee Problem

In view of the continuously growing new refugee problem in this country, the Central British Fund will resume its rôle as Anglo-Jewry's over-all agency for the relief and rehabilitation of Jewish victims of persecution arriving in this country. Having been concerned since last November with the refugees from Hungary, the C.B.F. is now also assisting the Egyptian refugees who were hitherto helped by a specially created relief agency of the Sefardi community and by local Jewish communities near their camps of reception. An appeal for funds has been launched.

Honours

Several prominent Jewish names appeared in the New Year Honours List. Mr. Alderman B. N. Waley-Cohen, Sheriff of the City of London, received a knighthood. A son of the late Sir Robert Waley-Cohen, he is a Vice-President of the United Synagogue.

A C.B.E., for services to child welfare, was awarded to Lady Reading, a Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee of the National Council of Women. She is a member of the World Jewish Congress Executive and President of its British Section. A C.B.E. was also conferred on the noted veteran sportsman, H. M. Abrahams, Vice-President of the Amateur Athletic Association, who won the 100-metres championship at the Olympic Games in 1924.

Jewish civil servants in the Honours List were Mr. Aaron Emanuel, Assistant Secretary, Colonial Office (C.M.G.); Mr. Joseph Cowen, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade (C.B.E.); Mr. Alec Nathan, Principal, Ministry of Supply (O.B.E.); and Dr. H. M. Cohen, Principal School Medical Officer, Birmingham (C.B.E.). There were also two business men, Mr. Siegfried Cahn, Managing Director of Goodlass, Wall and Lead Industries, Ltd., and Mr. Leslie Berker, Chairman of Berker-tex, Ltd., and the sculptor, Benno Elkan (O.B.E.), and the scientist, Dr. Hans Kronberger (O.B.E.).

Lord Mayor

Manchester's new Lord Mayor will be Alderman Leslie M. Lever, Socialist M.P. for Ardwick since 1950, who described himself as a "traditionalist Jew and always respected by my non-Jewish colleagues on that account." Brighton's Jewish Mayor, Councillor Lewis Cohen, was adopted as prospective parliamentary candidate by the local Labour Party.

Discrimination

Social discrimination was scorned by the Southend Borough Council in denying a Council course to a golf club which was reported to have debarred an applicant from membership on the sole ground that he was a Jew and that it was undesirable to have more than a very small maximum number of Jews as members. When the club's decision became known, all Jewish members resigned.

A motion by the Communist group on the Stepney Borough Council to ban Mosley's Union movement from using Limehouse Town Hall for a public meeting was defeated by 34 to 12. The four Communist members, all Jews, were supported by four Jewish Labour Councillors, while the five remaining Labourites abstained.

Two well-known Anglo-Jewish Communists, Professor Hyman Levy, the mathematician, and Chimen Abramsky, son of the former Beth Din Dayan, were among the signatories to a letter whose strong strictures on Soviet policy the *Daily Worker* refused to print. Two other Jewish Communists still toe the Party line—the Hon. Ivor Montagu, brother of the President of the United Synagogue, and Jack Gaster, son of the late Haham

manifold problems, bring the events to life so vividly.

A review of this nature can only give a very sketchy outline of the book, and it is hoped that it will be an inducement to former refugees to read the full story about themselves, as so aptly described by Professor Bentwich.

* Norman Bentwich: "They Found Refuge." Cresset Press. 18s. net.

"DIE FLUCHT IN DEN HASS"

German Version of "Hostages of Civilisation"

Dr. Reichmann's "Hostages of Civilisation" has already been highly and justifiably praised in the April, 1950, issue of AJR INFORMATION. Now the authoress has arranged for an excellently written German version, to which she has added a stimulating preface.* It is a sign of a new self-consciousness in some German circles that a number of very outspoken books about the Jewish question and the Jewish tragedy have appeared recently. These comprise not only translations, like Dr. Reichmann's book, or Gerald Reitlinger's "Final Solution," or, in a wider context, Hannah Arendt's "Origins of Totalitarianism" ("Elemente und Ursprünge totaler Herrschaft"), but also new publications in German, such as Eleonore Sterling's "Er ist wie du" (a work which is thematically akin to Dr. Reichmann's book, but whose aim and method are different); the documents collected by Poliakov and Wulf under the title "Das Dritte Reich und die Juden," which has been so successful that the authors are preparing a second volume of documents called "Das Dritte Reich und seine Diener"; finally, my own book on Theresienstadt. So that in less than two years seven comprehensive works have appeared, whose Jewish authors are all (except Poliakov and Reitlinger) of German-speaking origin.

Irrational Forces

Dr. Reichmann could have dispensed with her warning preface—and, indeed, she would have had to dispense with writing her whole book—if she had taken the attitude of Michel Mazon in his superb work on Warsaw, "La Cité engloutie" (Editions du Centre, Paris, 1955). Mazon refuses to have any truck with psychological, historical, or sociological explanations of Hitler barbarism, for (p. 175) "any explanation would have some element of rationalisation and therefore would give an element of justification of these unspeakable actions; it would tend to make them part and parcel of the History of Mankind, whereas these wild excesses, this explosion of infernal forces, must remain outside the annals of all the peoples of the world." However understandable such an attitude may be in a survivor of Warsaw, even one as highly educated as Mazon, we cannot accept his rejection of any explanation and Dr. Reichmann would be the last to do so. She well knows, and we accept it with her, that an explanation is not an excuse, that irrationality remains irrational even when it is explained; she certainly knows, too, that even the darkest horrors, once they have been perpetrated by human beings, cannot be eradicated from the history of humanity, however strongly we may wish to do so.

Moral Responsibility

Nothing noble and nothing despicable is barred to man, who is free to choose. "Escape into hatred" leads to action so despicable that nothing is barred, when all the repressions and barriers are torn down in a community. That is also the case, when hatred is officially organised and systematised, when it is carried out coldly and unfeelingly like a job of work, as it was by some of the utterly evil characters in the "Vernichtungslager" and other places during the Hitler terror. Here, the original hate-impulse has been rationalised, but however cynical these evildoers may appear, having repressed all pity for their victims, even the most calculated bestiality has its roots in some emotion. The fury that breaks out in hatred, seen psychologically, is a regression to childhood or to earlier stages in the development of humanity, which we thought we had grown out of. With civilised peoples this fury has lost its elemental character and has been subject to a process of rationalisation, which, even in the case of apparent or real regression is never quite lost but is modified and becomes valueless. These facts are the justification for Dr. Reichmann's book, for her method adequately reveals and explains what happened. It is a demonstration, but not a consolation for the reader; not only does it not free him from responsibility, it makes him face

up to the truth. It could be argued that no book has ever forced a man to act. That is true if we believe in free will; but in that case not only books cannot make us act, in that case only actual compulsion can achieve this by strangling, if not our free will, our freedom of action. But if we freely accept moral responsibilities, we must open our minds to the urgent questions Dr. Reichmann poses, here, in particular to Germans, but which also apply to all other nations who have had anything to do with Jews, and especially to Jews themselves. Thus it is no empty phrase to say that here we all have a moral responsibility: *nostra res agitur*.

I should like only to add one word to what I have already written about Dr. Reichmann's book: the hope that it is widely read in Germany. Anxiously we wait to see what its effect will be there and hope, also, that our words will stimulate our readers to a renewed interest in a work that has lost none of its topicality. In conclusion it may be of interest to read the opening of Dr. Reichmann's German preface (p. 7): "Am Beginn meines Buches, das eigenes Leben auf die Ebene akademischer Objektivität zu heben bestimmt ist,

mag ein persönliches Wort erlaubt, ja sogar gefordert sein. Moege keiner meiner Leser glauben, dass mir diese Objektivität leicht geworden waere. Nicht weil ich den behandelten Fragen mit kuehlem Abstand gegenueberstehe, habe ich das Buch schreiben und so schreiben koennen, sondern weil sie den Mittelpunkt meines Lebens bilden, weil ich mich der Gewalt, mit der sie eine Antwort forderten, nicht entziehen konnte. . . . Einer pruefenden Forschung und bedachtsam abwaegenden Erklaerung fuehlte ich mich gewachsen. In ihnen bleibt kein Raum fuer den Ausdruck der Qual, der Leidenshaft und der Anklage. Aus dem nuersternen Gebrauch des wissenschaftlichen Geraets auf einen Mangel an persoenerlicher Erschuetterung zu schliessen, waere irrig. . . . Wenn irgendwo 'alles bedeuten' nicht bedeuten kann 'alles verzeihen,' so im Zusammenhang dieses Buches."

REACTION TO DR. REICHMANN'S BOOK

In West Berlin the students' journal, "Colloquium" emphasises a special merit of Eva Reichmann. Quite apart from any historical explanations, the journal states, she has analysed psychological and sociological elements which make National Socialism comprehensible, without however, constructing the idea of the necessity of its coming. Such an idea would exclude any moral decision.

ANTISEMITISM—TWO GERMAN PUBLICATIONS

Michael Müller-Claudius, who already fought German antisemitism back in the 1920s, deals with the problem more closely in his book "Deutsche und jüdische Tragik" (Frankfurt, Josef Knecht, 1955). He shows that there was hardly any antisemitism in Western Europe before the year 1000. Jews lived as peasants and wine-growers among the Gentiles, and took part in the growing trade, at the time of Charlemagne, who chose the biblical King Josiah as his model. Louis the Pious said in a charter given to Christian merchants that he hoped they would serve him as faithfully as the Jews. Many bishops, too, took the Jews under their protection. The first persecutions of the Jews started at the time of the crusades. In some places the Jews were given the choice between death and conversion, but most of them chose death, killing their families and themselves. "Before this sight," the author says, "all irresponsible trash about the Jews being cowardly by nature appears only as wretched slander." Gradually the Jews were eliminated from all business and only allowed to take up money-lending. When this way of earning a living was also taken from them and all Jews were driven out from large parts of Western Europe, Bernard of Clairvaux sighed: "Where there are no Jews, Christian money-lenders behave much worse." In the 18th century, Lichtenberg, the German writer, said: "Even the real faults of the Jews ought to put us Christians to shame first." To show the difference between the enlightened 18th century and the years of growing National Socialism, the author refers to a discussion about Professor Fritz Haber's invention during the First World War of getting nitrogen from the air, which had saved Germany from early disaster. A Nazi headmaster is said to have remarked: "If it was a Jew who worked out that method, he did it not for the benefit of Germany but for his own profit." Asked how he got his knowledge, he replied: "From the unalterable racial essence of the Jew."

Political Immaturity

Müller-Claudius asks why racial antisemitism found so many followers in Germany. His answer is: Germany never developed into a democratic State like the Western Powers. "The Germans have never rid themselves of the idea of autocratic government," they only knew the "Prussian style, which was the tragedy of our history." That inherited ideal they regarded as an unalienable trait of their "national substance," and when this was swept away in 1918 they ascribed the birth of the revolution to the subterfuges of "seducers of alien race." Hitler thus had no difficulty in persuading innumerable Germans that democracy was something specifically Jewish.

The author joins issue with all those Germans

who say today that they knew nothing of the concentration camps and gas chambers, by reminding them of the slogans which many shouted before 1933: "Wenn's Judenblut vom Messer spritzt, geht's uns nochmal so gut" and: "Zittre, Volk der Mazzeffresser! Es kommt die Nacht der langen Messer!" Of the retribution that has befallen the Germans he says: "What was done to the Jews who were robbed of everything, of all their possessions, their honour, their houses and their lives, only because they were Jews, was eventually done to our expellees from the East—only because they were Germans." He addresses a word of advice and warning to the lower clergy who teach religion in elementary and secondary schools. The way in which they often treat the death of Christ, he says, is one of the primary sources of antisemitism.

A Novel on "Kleinstadtjuden"

Maria Mathi tells in "Wenn nur der Sperber nicht kommt" (Gütersloh, C. Bertelsmann, 1955) the tragic story of the Jewish community of Hadamar between 1900 and 1940. About two dozen Jewish families had been living there for centuries and treasured an ancient charter given to them by the Duke of Nassau. Some of them had become rich, but most remained quite poor, earning their living as cattle-dealers or artisans. Their Christian neighbours were always friendly and helpful, and antisemitism was unknown in Hadamar. "Who," the authoress asks, "was the first to beat the drum of the primeval forests?" The answer is given when one man quotes Treitschke's words: "The Jews are our misfortune," and the others start shouting: "Judd, Judd, geh kaputt!" Soon the simple synagogue at Hadamar is burnt amidst the shouting of the mob while the Jews quote from the Psalms: "They strangle widows and strangers and kill orphans." The decent minority among the Hadamar Gentiles help the Jews secretly at night, and a pious woman prays "for her oppressed fellow-citizens whose fate will be fulfilled so bitterly in the days to come." The Roman Catholic priest sighs deeply at the thought that "none of his flock ever accused himself of a sin of omission during those terrible years."

Meanwhile, members of the master race erect a huge house on the Moenchberg, and a man who runs after a strange vehicle, shouting "Murderers, murderers!" is arrested. A cloud of dark smoke hangs over the roofs of Hadamar, while groups of Jews climb the hill to be killed and burnt in that strange looking building on the top. One man of the last group to climb the hill in the early hours of the morning says to a German woman whom he meets on the way to his death: "What is happening to us can also happen to you all. But what will happen to you then, can no longer happen to us. He who cries last cries most bitterly."

J. LESSER.

*Eva G. Reichmann: "Flucht in den Hass. Die Ursachen der Deutschen Judenkatastrophe." 324, S. Europäische Verlagsanstalt, Frankfurt a.M. (1956). Bound DM9.80, broch. DM7.50.

AWARDS TO NEW CITIZENS

THE SCULPTOR: BENNO ELKAN, O.B.E.

"You know," Benno Elkan said to me when I recently visited him in North-West London, "I have written my autobiography. In it I speak with complete frankness of my childhood in Dortmund, of my years of learning and wandering, of the Germany I grew up in and, of course, of my life and work as a sculptor. Looking back at it all, I must confess that I did not, what is generally called, develop. I continued throughout my long career as I had started when a young sculptor. Essentially, I am still 'der dumme Junge aus Dortmund,' and a friend of mine quite rightly suggested 'Der letzte Dummkopf,' as a title for my autobiography; that is the blockhead who goes his own way following his own dreams and ideas without bearing in mind what the public, the critics, and the mighty of this earth say or think of his work."

This certainly is a remarkable confession from somebody who has modelled the busts of a galaxy of famous people, amongst whom are at least three great Jews: Weizmann, Lord Samuel, and Yehudi Menuhin. It seems that in Britain and, to a certain extent in the U.S.A., people vied with each other to be his models. His sculptures include models of the present Duke of Kent, the late Marquess of Salisbury, Lord Beveridge, Samuel Courtauld, Lord Keynes, Toscanini, John D. Rockefeller, and Sir Winston Churchill.

I would have liked to have asked many questions concerning the personalities of some of these people, but I had to restrain myself. Benno Elkan will be 80 this year and he must husband his strength. Yet I simply could not refrain from inquiring what impression Sir Winston had made on the artist.

"Oh, first of all, I must tell you that he has the most charming and delightful wife." (Men will be men!) "Sir Winston is the most extraordinary man I have ever met. When he comes into a room it is, so to speak, full, so strong is his personality. He bursts with force and the richness of his gifts. He completely concentrates on the person he is talking to, giving him the impression that he is the most important being for him. A curious phenomenon: he seems to disappear, and you yourself are in the limelight. I saw him during the war. He had an almost uncanny contact with the ordinary people. He cared deeply about them and rejoiced in being one of them."

Elkan is, however, not only the great master of portrait busts whom the world admires. Many of us will first have heard of him as the creator of possibly the finest monument for the fallen of the First World War, which stood in Frankfurt a.M. What humanity and simplicity! A mother prostrated in unspeakable sorrow. There is something weird in the story of its creation as Elkan told it to me.

In 1913, when everything was at peace and nobody thought of a war, he lived happily, a well-known and prosperous sculptor, at Alsbach an der Bergstrasse, in his own lovely house. Suddenly the urge came over him to sculpt a mourning woman, mourning the death of thousands of young people. It was a kind of vision which urged to be born in stone. Thus the monument for the dead of the war was created months before the catastrophe actually started.

Westminster Abbey Candelabra

Our conversation turned to later times, and to Benno Elkan's life in England. I said how moved I had been when I saw his two beautiful candelabra in Westminster Abbey for the first time. How unusual for us former German Jews to see a Jewish master's work in the central church of all England. "Was it not strange for you," I asked, "to be thus honoured? What is your relationship to Judaism?"

"The Bible," he replied, "played a great part in my early childhood. At home we had the one which is illustrated by Doré. During long solitary hours I, an only child, poured over those wonderful pictures and they engraved themselves indelibly on my mind. Therefore it was natural for me to turn to biblical subjects. The candelabrum of the Old Testament had, of course, already been finished in Germany, and I had started on the other one before I was asked to do so. But, make no mistake, I am not a religious mystic. The Bible for me is most of all the book of the immortal stories. Only the persecution of our people made me a 'fighting Jew.'"

Before leaving, I asked permission to see the sculptor's studio, which he very kindly showed me. There I saw another candelabrum, entirely devoted to David, the Psalmist. Again, as in Westminster Abbey, there are the volutes of the branches and on them the delightful scenes from the Jewish King's life. On top a youth is dancing, his mouth wide open.

Benno Elkan whispered: "The Bishop of Chichester once said to me: 'this candelabrum sings.'"

ALFONS ROSENBERG.

THE INDUSTRIALIST: SIEGFRIED CAHN, C.B.E.

The New Year Honours List included the award of the C.B.E. to Mr. Siegfried Cahn.

Mr. Cahn was born in Frankfurt a. Main and came to this country in the year 1936, where he joined the firm of Goodlass, Wall & Lead Industries Limited. Mr. Cahn was naturalised at the end of 1941 at the request of the Ministry of Supply, although naturalisation had been suspended during the war years. During the war, and later, he acted in an advisory capacity to the Ministry of Supply, the Ministry of Material, and the Board of Trade on matters concerning non-ferrous metals.

From the year 1946, when the International Tin Study Group—under the auspices of the Havana Charter—was formed with the aim of studying a Commodity Agreement for tin, Mr. Cahn served as one of the British delegates. In June of last year the International Tin Agreement came into being and he is now serving as British delegate to the International Tin Council.

Today Mr. Cahn occupies the position of Managing Director of Goodlass, Wall & Lead Industries Ltd., and is Chairman of associated companies of this group as well as acting on the Board of other companies.

THE SCIENTIST: HANS KRONBERGER, O.B.E.

Dr. Hans Kronberger, who was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours List, is the Chief Physicist at the Research and Development Branch Headquarters Industrial Group of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. He is 36 years of age and left Austria as a refugee in 1939.

Old Acquaintances

Milestones:—Ludwig Berger, the playwright and director who was born in Mainz, celebrated his 65th birthday in Schlagenbad. His first production was "Prinz von Homburg" at Reinhardt's "Deutsches Theater," with Lina Lossen, Krauss and Paul Hartmann. His "Walzertraum" and "Glass Wasser," produced for UFA, are still remembered. During his years in exile, Berger directed "The Thief of Baghdad" in England, and also directed the first production of "Pygmalion" in Holland, where he survived the war. He returned to Germany in 1947 and has lately collaborated with Axel Eggebrecht in writing the script for "Stresemann," which will shortly be shown.—Fritz Schrecker, the Austrian actor now living in London, also celebrated his 65th birthday last month. He is twice a grandfather (his son lives in Israel). Before joining Emil Geyer's "Neue Wiener Buehne," he was with Kortner and Deutsch as a co-pupil. He assisted in establishing the Austrian cabaret "Laterndl" in London and, during the war, broadcast for the B.B.C. as "Hirnschal." Schrecker has lately been engaged in films and on TV.

Honoured:—In the New Year Honours List, the reader will find the name of Rudolphe Jess as the recipient of the M.B.E. (Member of the Order of the British Empire), for his services as a theatrical expert with the British Army in Germany. The former singer and conductor of Berlin's "Rotter-Buehnen" ran an agency in London before the war, together with Rolf Carston, who later became director of the "Blue Danube" cabaret and only a few weeks ago emigrated to Canada. Rudolphe Jess introduced, amongst other Continental artistes to this country, Gitta Alpar. He joined the Armed Forces shortly after the outbreak of the war and now lives in Hamburg, where he works for the British Forces' Radio Station.

Obituaries:—E. A. Dupont has died in Hollywood at the age of 64 years, practically forgotten. The son of the first editor of the *Berliner Illustrierte*, he became the first German film critic before he started to direct such classic films as "Variété" with Emil Jannings and Lya de Putti and "Atlantis" with Kortner and Lucie Mannheim. He was black-listed in Hollywood after slapping one of the "Dead End Kids," and thereafter could not get work.—Novelist Robert Walser died in Switzerland, aged 79 years.—The 74-year-old artist Hans Meid died near Stuttgart.—Actress Alice Verden, who was one of the Dresden State Theatre's ensemble, died in Bad Toelz.—Actor Paul Marx died in Vienna aged 77 years.

News from Everywhere:—Berlin-born actor David Hurst has taken over Peter Ustinov's rôle in "Romanoff and Juliet" at London's Piccadilly Theatre.—Annette Carell and Anton Diffring starred in Cartier's TV production of Ugo Betti's "The Queen and the Rebels."—Dorothea Gotfurt adapted Robin Maugham's "Hallucinations" into German; the comedy was produced in Berlin's "Renaissance-Theater" with Theo Lingen in the lead.—Script-writer Robert Thoren married German actress Erica Beer, in Munich.—Karel Stepanek, the Czech-born actor, emigrated to the States from England.—Evelyn Rudie, granddaughter of the late Rudolf Bernauer, has become a TV star in the States.—As from February 21, Lilli Palmer's German picture "Anastasia" will be shown at the Curzon in London.—Fritz Schulz took the lead in Karl Kraus's adaptation of Offenbach's "Perichole," which was produced in Zurich's "Schauspielhaus."

S.O.S.:—"I don't want to live any longer," wrote Henny Porten to Fern Andra, who lives with her American husband, a general, in Wiesbaden. Fern Andra consequently appealed to several German film producers to give Henny Porten a job. Dr. von Kaufmann, husband of Henny Porten—the former darling of German films—is seventy and unable to earn a living and she herself is more or less forgotten by the new generation of picturegoers. She was boycotted by the Third Reich when she refused Dr. Goebbels's advice to divorce her Jewish husband.

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THE GERMAN SCENE

ANTISEMITISM IN SCHOOLS

"The Fight against Antisemitism in Schools" was the subject of a meeting which the Deutsche Evangelische Ausschuss fuer Dienst an Israel held in Luebeck. The radio station Freies Berlin broadcast part of the discussions.

Teachers complained bitterly that they were not given sufficient material to counteract the antisemitism which the parents brought into the schools. The children said that everything Hitler did was wrong, but that he was basically right. They doubted the quantity of the extermination of the Jews and thought it was the fault of the Jews. Many children were indifferent to the lawlessness of these murders.

The cause of this new antisemitism, it was said, was the parents' wish not to be regarded as cowards by their children, since they had remained silent when these crimes became known. The parents, however, some teachers pointed out, might be sorry for this attitude when their children were old enough to judge for themselves.

An undergraduate, a future parson, admitted how difficult it was for him to get away from the picture which the *Stuermer* had drawn of the Jews.

The Chairman of the meeting, Professor Rengstorff, urged a more intensive campaign against antisemitism by the State, the church, the press, the radio and all responsible citizens.

EXTREME RIGHT-WING YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

The Youth Department of the Catholic Bishops of Münster has drawn the attention of the representatives of the Jugendringe towards the increase in the extreme Right-wing youth organisations. Their tendencies, it is said, are clearly nationalistic and totalitarian. These organisations continue the tradition of the Hitler Youth or similar organisations before 1933.

NEW JEWISH GENERATION

Wembach is a village in the southern part of the Black Forest. Last summer the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle opened a Holiday Centre there. Recently 50 young Jews from Berlin, Munich, Cologne, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Luebeck, Kiel, and other places attended the first course for Jewish youth leaders. It is not without interest to mention a few details concerning the participants. Thirty-six per cent were born in Germany, 28 per cent in Poland, 14 per cent in Israel, and the rest in seven other countries, including Britain. The mother tongue of 50 per cent was German, of 22 per cent Hebrew; altogether fourteen languages were spoken by the students. Their average age was nineteen years.

As with the rest of the young people in Germany and in the whole world for that matter, a hard crust of ignorance, apparent indifference, apathy, and lack of interest in matters of the mind had to be pierced. Yet the course was a most heartening success.

ONE MILLION JEWS COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED?

"The History of Joel Brand," by Alex Weissberg, has just been published in Western Germany. In 1944 the organiser of the "final solution," Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann, proposed to the Hungarian Jew, Brand, that one million Jews should be released against the delivery of trucks. The Allies rejected Eichmann's proposal. German papers say that now the charge against the Allies rests on a very solid foundation. Brand accuses even Jewish organisations of not having done all in their power in order to save hundreds of thousands of Jews at the last moment.

VANDALISM TO BERLIN SYNAGOGUE

It is reported that windows of the West Berlin Synagogue, Fraenkelufer, were broken and that the culprits, who have not yet been found, left a note bearing the words "Get Out Jews!"

The *West Berlin Telegraph* writes that Berliners of all denominations will have to keep a watchful eye in order to prevent further acts of vandalism, because a city where the chimneys of freedom peal out each day cannot risk getting a reputation for tolerating antisemitism.

PRISON IN LANDSBERG DEREGISTERED

After over ten years, the Americans have returned the prison for war criminals to the German authorities. The 28 war criminals who are still there have been moved to a special wing which, for the time being, remains under American administration.

MINISTER OBERLAENDER'S PAST

The Federal Minister for Refugees, Theodor Oberlaender, has withdrawn his case against the Minister of the Interior in Hesse, Schneider (SPD), who had maintained that Oberlaender had been a senior SS officer. Schneider had withdrawn his charge earlier. According to some sources, Oberlaender held a senior rank in the S.A. It has never been denied that he joined the NSDAP in 1933 and that in 1939 he became Reichsfuehrer of the "Bund deutscher Osten."

ACTION AGAINST CAMP DOCTOR

The Public Prosecutor at Munster has ordered an investigation against the former SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer, Baumkoetter, who for some time was a camp doctor in Sachsenhausen. Baumkoetter is accused of being responsible for medical experiments which were carried out on prisoners and of having caused their death.

FRANZ DELITZSCH PRIZE

The Institutum Judaicum Delitzschianum has, for the seventh time, invited competitors for the Franz Delitzsch Prize. The subject is "Philosemitismus im deutschen evangelischen Kirchenlied des Barock." Contributions must be received not later than December 31, by the Director of the "Institutum," Professor Dr. K. H. Rengstorff, Muenster.

HEBREW STATE EXAMINATIONS

For the first time in Germany, State examinations for officially recognised Hebrew interpreters and translators were held in Munich by the Bavarian Ministry of Education.

MEETING OF "ZENTRALRAT"

The Central Council of Jews held its annual meeting in Frankfurt. Delegates from the Soviet Zone and from the Saar were present.

The Council in a resolution urged increased vigilance against "several symptoms of anti-Semitic and 'restorative' activities which had been noticeable recently."

Heinz Galinski, the Chairman of the Central Council, declared at a Press Conference that there were now about 30,000 Jews in Germany, of whom 28,000 lived in the Federal Republic, 700 in the Soviet Zone, and 1,500 in East Berlin. The number of Jews increased by 1,000 a year whilst well over three times more Jews returned than emigrated. Of the 30,000, 2,000 are under 20 years of age.

TRANSLATION OF "UNDER MILK WOOD"

Dylan Thomas's poetic epic, "Under Milk Wood," was performed in West Berlin at the Schillertheater. Other German theatres are to follow suit. The translator is the young poet, Erich Fried, who came to this country as a refugee from Austria.

DEATH OF THERESIENSTADT HEROINE

Sarah Nussbaum, the only woman who received the Freedom of the City of Kassel, died recently at the age of 88. Her funeral was attended by members of the Jewish community, the Mayor, the "Magistrat," the Chairmen of the various political parties, the Chairmen of the Municipal Council and the Regierungspräsident. She had, in Theresienstadt, nursed typhoid fever sufferers, heedless of her own danger. The Mayor said in his address: "We thank her for everything she has given to others out of the goodness of her own heart."

HONOURS

ORDER OF MERIT

Richard Friedenthal

The Federal Order of Merit First Class was awarded to Dr. Richard Friedenthal, who, for many years, was President of the German Section of the Pen Club in London. At a special ceremony at the German Embassy, the Ambassador presented Dr. Friedenthal with the insignia.

Richard Broh

Mr. Richard Broh, who is an interested member of the AJR, has been invested with the German Order of Merit 1st Class by the German Ambassador, on behalf of the President of the German Federal Republic.

Mr. Broh received this honour on his 60th birthday, for the furthering of post-war British-German understanding in his capacities as the official representative of the German Trades Unions Congress, as a liaison officer between the T.U.C. and the German trade unions, as organiser and Vice-Chairman of the German Welfare Council and for services as a lecturer to P.O.W.s in the service of the Foreign Office.

Josef Falkenberg

The lawyer, Josef Falkenberg, was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit. Before 1933 Falkenberg was well known through his articles in law periodicals. Since 1946 he has been one of the legal advisers of the Schutzverband Deutscher Autoren; he is an authority on questions of copyright.

Benno Schuelein

Dr. Benno Schuelein, a Munich lawyer, was given the Great Federal Cross of Merit. The Rechtsanwaltskammer organised a ceremony at which the Bavarian Prime Minister handed the Order to Dr. Schuelein.

DOCTORS' DEGREES

Luise Meitner

In West Berlin the Mathematical-Scientific Faculty of the Free University conferred a honorary doctor's degree upon the famous physicist, Professor Luise Meitner. For 30 years she was Otto Hahn's closest collaborator. She was one of the first to point out the enormous energies to be set free through the fission of uranium.

Carl Zuckmayer

The Philosophical Faculty of Bonn University has decided to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy upon the famous author, Carl Zuckmayer, in recognition of his literary work. The ceremony is to take place in February.

PRESIDENT HEUSS' TRIBUTE TO LEO LOEWENSTEIN

In a letter to the daughter of the founder of the Reichsbund Juedischer Frontsoldaten, Leo Loewenstein, who recently died, the Federal President Heuss paid tribute to the man and the scientist.

He recalled Dr. Loewenstein's achievements as a pioneering chemist and physicist, and the exemplary conduct by which he, a brave soldier of the First World War, stood up for his Jewish combat comrades as Chairman of the League of Jewish Ex-Servicemen in Germany.

VIENNESE JEWS THANK POLICE

Representatives of the Jewish community of Vienna and of the American Joint Distribution Committee visited the Viennese Chief of Police in order to thank him for the kindness which police officers have shown to Jewish refugees from Hungary. In some cases constables have even taken refugees to their own homes when they were unable to find shelter.

The Chief of Police was delighted with this gesture and said that 90 per cent of the Austrian people were absolute believers in democracy and freedom. That is why so much had been done for the refugees.

The Jewish delegation presented a cheque for 10,000 Schilling for the widows and orphans of police officers who had died in the fulfilment of their duty.

Nelly Wolffheim

LIFE AT OTTO SCHIFF HOUSE

Personal Impressions

When I used to tell relatives that I intended to go into an Old Age Home, they usually reacted with a slightly pitying smile. Indeed, when I put my name down on several lists a few years ago I only did so for practical reasons, not because I particularly wanted to! One must first be emotionally ready, feel old enough, before one can look forward to going to an Old Age Home. Well, the time came when I was ready; I was accepted, but unfortunately it was some months before the new wing of the Otto Schiff House was opened. Meanwhile, I felt I was living in a sort of vacuum. I had temporarily taken a room and lived in very pleasant surroundings, but I was conscious all the time that it was only a stepping-stone to a new life. Going into an Old Age Home—whatever may be one's attitude to it or one's reasons for going—means a completely new life.

And now, here I am in the new annex of the Otto Schiff House designed by the architect Reifenberg. I shall not tell you about the main building, which was opened a year ago. I want only to recount what has been created for us twenty new arrivals, like a gift of the Gods! Anyone who, for eighteen years, has been living in furnished rooms, containing for the most part unwanted furniture and a collection of undesirable bric-a-brac, will fully appreciate the effect on us of the beautiful colours and the simple design of the rooms in the Home. That secret yearning for a flat of my own, vanished; here my room was once more a real home, a place that belonged to me. If you look into the different rooms, which are each the same shape and have the same kind of furniture, you are amazed how differently the occupant of each room has made his or her little home. Perhaps this or that piece of furniture brought into the rooms or some of the old-fashioned objects standing about have spoilt the modern style, but many people do not want to be parted from possessions loaded with memories.

The New Wing

The new building, which leaves enough room on the property for a spacious garden, is built in bungalow form, but on two floors. There are twenty bed-sittingrooms; not having to share a room is the first condition for a real feeling of "home." The rooms are about 13' 6" x 11' 6", a comfortable size and shape; this was the first thing I noticed when I entered my room. The same area but less square in shape could be uncomfortable. The fact that the rooms are only 8 foot high balances well with the other proportions. Through clever arrangement, which I shall describe in a moment, the rooms are quite adequate for their inhabitants, whether female or male, the latter being considerably in the minority. The wide windows, in four sections, have easily attainable ventilators, and take up almost the whole width of the room; the wide, stone window-sill (so rare in England) gives special joy to those whose hobby is plants. Underneath it is the central heating, which gives plenty of heat in true continental style. All the same, especially for in-between periods, an electric radiator has been built into a sort of book-case, so that it takes up no space and is completely safe. This placing of the electric heater is characteristic of the care with which problems of disposition of furniture, etc., have been solved in these miniature homes. The wash-basin, with constant hot and cold water, is in a curtained alcove. A shelf on which to put necessary utensils, a little cupboard for

bottles and the like, an electrically illuminated mirror—down to the last detail comfort has been the guiding factor and an almost loving understanding of the things that contribute to a pleasant life. No wardrobe cramps the room: a deep, electrically illuminated, built-in cupboard has a rod on which to hang clothes and wide shelves at the sides which give plenty of space for other things. Then there is a medium-sized chest of drawers, a wide table with a drawer stands in front of the window, there are two light, moveable chairs, with cushions and a really comfortable armchair, all of contemporary design with contemporary materials, all of good quality, including bed-cover and curtains. All is in pleasant harmony, with brightly painted walls and ceiling, which are again pleasingly broken by the contrasting colours of the doors (to corridor and wardrobe). A dark, mottled carpet on top of more thick carpeting (with rubber backing), really warms the ground-floor rooms. Many are surprised that beds were chosen rather than divans; but when one considers that most of the older generation are used to beds the reason for the choice becomes clear. Next to the bed there is a night-table, for books, if you like, for a radio and for the telephone, on which you can be called. Above the bed, a reading-lamp, and an emergency bell at the side of the bed; the latter is also to be found in the bathroom and in the toilets. It is a blessing that the walls between rooms are thick enough to prevent people disturbing each other; neither loud talking—unavoidable with a large number of inhabitants who are hard of hearing—nor music from the radio, can be heard in the neighbouring room. The rooms and facilities are identically the same on both floors. There is central heating in the corridors, even in the toilets. There are two kitchenettes (one on each floor) equipped with an electric kettle, where one can make a cup of tea for one's guests without any trouble. There is even a fridge. Downstairs there is also a laundry room, complete with drying-machine and electric iron. The house doctor's consulting-room, together with the waiting-room and nurse's room are also downstairs, whilst matron lives on the first floor. In this context I should like to add how well the inhabitants are cared for in case of illness. The frequently expressed regret of refugees that there are no "Continental sanatoria" in England, is something we never feel, we are so well looked after.

Feeling of "Belonging"

We who live in the new wing use the sitting-rooms of the main house. We all take our meals together, so that there is a certain feeling of "belonging," of "community," in spite of the enlargement of the Home. There is television and a large library.

In my view it would be desirable if there were more organised social life in the Home. In this connection I am particularly thinking of the Friday evenings. For those residents who cannot follow the Hebrew prayers, it would be good if Friday night could be earmarked for a social gathering after the meal.

Once a week there is an "arts and crafts" course for anyone who is interested. The Home also provides a chiropodist, a manicurist, and a hairdresser; washing is sent to a laundry.

Are all these things that we are being given too much? Are we being "spoilt"? To many outside people this may appear to be the case,

EX-GERMAN JEWS IN THE NEWS

PERFORMANCE OF WORK BY REIZENSTEIN

The first concert performance in Britain of "Voices of Night," by Franz Reizenstein, was given by the Goldsmiths' Choral Union and the London Symphony Orchestra, with Suzanne Danco and Thomas Hemsley as soloists, at the Royal Festival Hall on January 20, 1957, and conducted by Josef Krips.

"Voices of Night" is a cantata for soprano and baritone solo, chorus, and orchestra, and is Reizenstein's only choral work to date. It was composed in 1950-51 and is a setting of English poems about "Night" in all its aspects, arranged as a cycle from dusk to dawn. The poems were selected by Christopher Hassall, who also contributed two specially written poems of his own.

The work was greatly applauded by the press. Its enthusiastic reception, "The New Statesman" writes, "speaks well for both public and composer." "The Manchester Guardian" states that, in setting poems of this kind into music, Mr. Reizenstein has shown "the insight and blood sympathy of the home-born. . . . He is rapidly developing into one of the most representative of British composers."

80th BIRTHDAY OF OSCAR MEYER

Dr. h.c. Oscar Meyer, formerly Syndikus of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. In Berlin Dr. Meyer was well known for his manifold public activities, which included the leadership of the Democratic Party in the Reichstag. At the same time, he was also actively associated with Berlin's municipal administration in his post as Deputy-Chairman of the Berlin City Council. He left Germany in March, 1933, and went to the United States of America after a stay in Switzerland.

Dr. Meyer now lives in Berkeley (California), where he heads a circle of former German lawyers ("Berkeley Juristenkreis"), who have also taken an active interest in legislative questions of restitution and compensation.

90th BIRTHDAY OF DR. MORITZ WALLACH

Dr. Moritz Wallach celebrated his 90th birthday in Jerusalem. He was one of the pioneers of Jewish settlement in Israel, having gone to the country as early as 1891. He founded the well-known "Shaare Zedek" hospital in Jerusalem, and was its Chief and Administrative Director for more than half a century.

Among the many tributes paid to Dr. Wallach on this memorable occasion was the award of an honorary doctor's degree by the Würzburg University, where he had studied many decades ago.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR DR. FELIX BERNSTEIN

Professor Bernstein has died in Zurich, where he lived during the last few years. He was born in 1878 at Halle a.d. Saale. After holding the post of lecturer at the University of his native town, he held the Chair of the Theory of Probability and Statistics in Goettingen University.

for they do not know what lies behind it all. I was recently visited by an English social worker, whose special field of activity is care for the aged. She, too, like many of my visitors, was amazed and delighted by the beautiful modern rooms, but I felt a certain reserve in her manner and I think saw what was passing through her mind: "Here we have all this luxury; how does it compare with the sort of places our old people have to live in?" I felt almost ashamed of our better circumstances, and yet she could hardly be expected to understand that the possibility of creating this Home came out of our own sufferings and that it is the result of a desire to try to give those who have suffered a peaceful and contented old age. But what has been given to us gives us a responsibility too; the responsibility of appreciation.

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING . . .

There are more children in Israel in proportion to the total population than there were in 1948, but, at the same time, the percentage of aged people has also risen. According to the latest statistical abstracts (State of Israel: Facts and Figures, 1956), the medium age brackets of 15 to 44 years, which form the backbone of the country, are proportionately on the decline and make up only 20 per cent of Israel's inhabitants (last year 26 per cent). In the first six months of the year, the population—now at 1,827,000, of whom 202,000 are non-Jews—grew by 38,000: 52 per cent due to natural increase and 48 per cent due to the migration balance. While the youngest age-group of up to 14 years has gone up to 33.5 per cent in the Jewish sector, it has shot up among the non-Jews to 45.7 per cent. Roughly 45 out of 100 Israelis are over 44.

Town and Country

The movement "From Town to Village" has not yet had any effect on the distribution of the population. 1,267,614 People live in towns and under half-a-million in villages, yet 150,000 among the villagers are Arabs. Some 60,000 families comprising a total of 230,000 persons, are in the care of social welfare bureaux, and 80,000 immigrants are still accommodated in temporary dwellings (as compared with 211,000 three years ago).

The State machinery is run by just over 40,000 civil servants, including a police force of 6,000—of whom 282 are policewomen and 373 Arab and Druze policemen. The 3,866 physicians ought to provide one doctor per 240 residents, but in the Negev and the border areas 1,000 and more people have to make do with one doctor. 100 Hospitals, with 12,218 beds, form a bed rate of 6.9 per 1,000 persons, which is still considerably under the normal rate of 10.

Jews like to travel. 7,828,000 Inter-urban bus trips were made during the year, covering 85 million kilometres, and inter-urban taxis, catering for two million passengers, added another 23 million kilometres. In comparison, Israel's State-owned railways make slow progress and have only now, for the first time, exceeded the three million passenger mark. Travel data to and from abroad shows that 19,000 more people arrived than departed. 63,164 Passengers arrived in Haifa port and 37,759 departed. In the airport of Lod the balance was just the other way round: 36,361 arrived and 43,191 left the country. 6,850 Hotel rooms were available to approximately 50,000 tourists—an increase of 25 per cent of this "invisible" export. "Visible" exports, too, have picked up and the trade gap has been narrowed, though by no means closed. As against 11.7 per cent in 1949, exports now constitute 27.1 per cent of all imports—in absolute figures 88 million dollars to 325 million dollars.

Citrus fruit still heads the export list, followed by polished diamonds. Progress in agriculture was steady and the irrigated area, 300,000 dunams in 1948, has now been extended to one million

dunams. Industry shows a rise in the production value at current prices from £150,000,000 in 1949 to £1,045,000,000 in 1956. Simultaneously, water consumption quadrupled and has reached 1,000,000,000 cub.m, and the consumption of electric power tripled and now exceeds 1,000,000 k.w.h. The national income amounts to £1,700,000,000 (as compared with £1,500,000,000 in 1955), a rise of 7½ per cent in real income, after considering the rise in the cost of living.

Coming to the lighter side of life—theatres have lost nothing of their popularity and the figure of 1,600,000 spectators would suggest that each Israeli, during the year, has seen one of the 2,500 performances provided by five professional companies. Deducting, however, the large number of young children and of people who cannot yet follow a Hebrew play, the theatre-going public, though smaller, is much more devoted. Of course, the theatres cannot compete in figures with the 160 cinemas, commanding a seating capacity of 100,000. 340 Films—204 made in Hollywood—were seen by 26,000,000 people, which, roughly, means that every Israeli goes once a fortnight to the pictures.

Musical life, as always in Israel, was vivid. The Philharmonic Orchestra gave 135 subscription concerts, attended by 19,000 subscribers, and in addition 45 special and military concerts. About 28,000 music lovers attended the 48 concerts of the Kol Yisrael Orchestra. There are approximately 260,000 radio sets listening to Kol Yisrael, which was on the air 20 hours daily, on three different wavelengths, with three different programmes. A ramified musical education included 13 conservatoires, 70 school orchestras, some 400 school choirs, and a Gadna youth orchestra of 90 young musicians.

Israeli Press

Of the 20 dailies in Israel, 14 are in Hebrew, one each in English, Arabic, French, Hungarian, and two in German. Two papers each are published on alternate days in Yiddish, Polish, Rumanian, and Bulgarian, each pair providing a daily news service. About 320 other periodicals appear on the news-stands, roughly 200 in Hebrew, and the rest in 11 other languages. About 1,000 books were published during the past twelve months in Hebrew, of which 25 per cent were translations.

While over 255,000 Jewish pupils attend approximately 1,000 elementary schools under the tutelage of 11,000 teachers, secondary education is still sadly lagging behind, with 145,500 pupils, 70 schools, and 1,157 teachers. 3,150 students have enrolled at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and 1,654 at the Haifa Technion. 23,623 Pupils attended 116 Arab elementary schools and were taught by 837 teachers, and 906 pupils studied in six Arab secondary schools, with 50 teachers. Among the 7,000 children attending Christian missionary schools, there are still 1,200 Jewish children, although the figure was slightly higher in previous years.

LAW BROUGHT TO LIFE

"A Day in Court"

In previous years, this journal used to carry a recurrent feature "Law and Life." A recent publication by Professor E. Cohn* provides an opportunity to resume that tradition again. Its very merit is that it succeeds in bringing law to life.

Similar to Cohn's Manual of German Law, his new book—based on a lecture delivered before outstanding German jurists—is of fascinating interest for ex-German lawyers working in this country. Its subject is English court procedure, so vastly different from what goes on in German courts. Every lawyer knows that text-books on court procedure (as compared to those on substantive law) somehow never give the feel of reality. No student ever could learn his "Zivilprozessrecht" or "Strafprozessrecht" from books. It was only when he became a "Referendar" that he got a grip on it by practice.

Professor Cohn, in his new book, has again proved his mastery as a teacher. He describes, or rather enacts, the proceedings from the start of a case to its culmination on the day of trial, the "Gerichtstag" or Day in Court. The "Gerichtstag" is the centre of gravity in English court procedure, the trial by a judge who has not prepared himself by studying the files and who hardly knows more about the case than the names of the litigants. The whole case is built up and developed orally. For the German lawyer, this is a thing unheard of, and as the discussion following Cohn's lecture shows, nearly unthinkable. The German procedure with its mockery of the principle of oral presentation (*Mündlichkeitsprinzip*) is quite as unthinkable for the English lawyer. Other features typical of English procedure and discussed by Professor Cohn are, of course, cross-examination and the examination of litigants in the witness-box under oath.

How English court procedure has come about, and why and how it works, is shown by Professor Cohn with a wealth of detail. As this article is addressed to laymen, I must refrain from going into details myself. The significance of the book, however, the aspect which makes it unique, is its way of presentation, of "putting it across." Terms such as these are usually applied to dramatists and actors. Well, what Cohn has achieved might indeed be called dramatisation. If law as such is not static, procedure certainly is not. It is action, and the reader of Cohn's book has the feeling of following that action on the stage of the court. On the other hand, Cohn's presentation is far from popular journalism. If it is vivid and even gripping, it is profound and scholarly at the same time. The very method of presentation is the outstanding feature of the book. The reasons why Cohn has chosen this new method are explained in the introductory chapter. Cohn shows that law of procedure requires special handling by its very nature: presentation in the shape of an "Erlebnisbericht"—otherwise it cannot be made to live but remains dry as dust.

Dr. E. SCHAEFER.

* Der englische Gerichtstag, Heft 56 der Veröffentlichungen der Arbeitsgemeinschaft fuer Forschung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Westdeutscher Verlag Koeln u. Opladen, 80 pages.

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A GERMAN ANALYSIS OF EMIGRATION

The Bulletin of the Federal German Information Office "Das Parlament" publishes in two supplements a detailed analysis on the subject "Probleme der Emigration aus dem Dritten Reich," by Dr. Walter A. Berendsohn, formerly Hamburg, now Professor for German Literature in Stockholm. The author first gives a survey of the measures of the Third Reich against Jews and political opponents of the Nazi régime and of the difficulties of emigration. Whilst quite a few Jews, especially of the younger generation, left Germany during the first years of the régime, the majority stayed until the pogroms of November, 1938, made them realise that there was no hope for them. However, after having settled in another country and in spite of what had happened, they retained their attachment to German culture. Only the second generation was really integrated into the new environment. They usually kept aloof from older groups of German emigrants because they were afraid that many of them had Nazi leanings.

Among the works listed in the analysis are pub-

NEW LIGHT ON PSYCHOLOGY

Publication by a German Jew

Dr. Felix Mayer's book on "Dynamische Tiefenpsychologie" deals with the dynamic subconscious and conscious factors of man, as a race and as an individual, from the psychological and psychopathological points of view. The author approaches his theme first by criticising Freud's and Jung's analytical theories as being too narrow, although acknowledging their values. He builds up his own hypothesis by considering the meaning and values of object and symbol transference; the constructive surface-ego and its relation to the rhythmic principle of order. Play, phantasy, and logos are next considered. Proceeding from play and neurosis to the propensities of creative man, the author emphasises that creative man has to be seen in connection with his environment, so that the values of his talents and achievements can be properly recognised. The book is possibly somewhat encumbered by repetitions of similar ideas and not always convincing hypotheses, but otherwise it is well written.

H.H.F.

*Verlag Paul Haupt, Bern/Stuttgart. Fr./DM 16.

lications commemorating the "Warsaw Ghetto," e.g. "Tagebuch" by Miriam Berg and "Poems" by Hermann Adler. Turning to the emigrants' share in intellectual warfare Professor Berendsohn, *inter alia*, recalls the co-operation of Heinrich Fischer and Bruno Adler with the B.B.C. The best-known features of Adler were the two series "Kurt and Willie" and "Frau Wernicke." Robert Lucas (Ehrenzweig) was the author of "Briefe des Gefreiten Hirnschal."

The author also gives a comprehensive survey of books, periodicals, and newspapers produced by emigrants before and during the war. He recalls the fate of authors who, in their despair, committed suicide, e.g., Stefan Zweig, Kurt Tucholsky, Ernst Toller, Walter Benjamin, and Walter Hasenclever. In conclusion Dr. Berendsohn describes the present position of emigrants in various countries of resettlement quoting in detail from the brochure "Dispersion and Resettlement," published by the AJR.

DEATH OF DR. I. N. STEINBERG

Dr. Isaac Steinberg, who for a short time was a member of the Bolshevik Government after the Russian Revolution, died in New York on January 2, at the age of sixty-eight years.

He was born in Russia and, as a student, was sentenced to exile in Siberia for revolutionary activities. He was appointed Commissar of Justice in Lenin's first Government, but soon fell out with the Party and, after having been imprisoned, escaped to Germany where he lived until 1933.

Dr. Steinberg was the founder of the "Freeland League for Jewish Territorial Colonisation," whose object was the cultural resettlement of Jews outside Palestine. In 1953 he published "In the Workshop of the Revolution."

Correction

In the obituary published in last month's issue, the late Mr. Emil Rabold was erroneously described as the Editor of Berlin's *Welt am Sonntag* (a Communist paper). In fact, however, he was the Editor of *Die Welt am Montag*, an independent democratic weekly paper.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LEO BAECK MEMORIAL ISSUE

Sir,—I should like to pay tribute to the truly admirable way your paper commemorated our revered leader, Dr. Leo Baeck, after his decease. The supplement to your December edition was an outstanding achievement of editorship.

When the ten years' jubilee of AJR Information was dealt with in an article in January 1, 1956, you stressed the thanks due to the authors and contributors. At that time I expected that readers would react in pointing out, by letters to the editor, that the merit of giving the magazine an unusually high standing and status rests, in the first instance, with him. In this assumption I have been disappointed. Allow me, please, to make up for this omission now, if belatedly. I am sure that a large number of readers share my admiration both for the Leo Baeck supplement and for the quality of your paper in general.

Yours, etc., E.S.

B.B.C. BROADCAST ON THE LATE DR. LEO BAECK

The esteem in which the late Dr. Leo Baeck was held in this country was reflected in a broadcast delivered in his memory in the Home Service on Sunday, January 20, by the Very Reverend W. R. Matthews, Dean of St. Paul's.

The speaker described it as a privilege to pay tribute to this outstanding Jewish personality. Dr. Baeck's work, he said, had been based on a synthesis of modern scholarship and Jewish faith. He had also promoted understanding between the religious denominations. The Rev. Matthews quoted from a letter written by Dr. Baeck several years prior to the advent of Nazism, in which, with his deep foresight, he had warned of the danger of the Germans one day replacing religion by Germanism. He also recalled Dr. Baeck's courageous stand against the Nazi persecutors from 1933 onwards. Dr. Baeck had survived the horrors of the Theresienstadt Camp "as some might say by chance, but, as the religious-minded would contend, by Providence."

Dr. Baeck had loved England, his adopted country, where he had embarked on manifold new activities.

"His example teaches us that man can have a triumphant life in the most difficult times if he is rooted in the Kingdom of God," the Rev. Matthews concluded.

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AJR GENERAL MEETING

As readers will see from the announcement on the front page of this issue, the AJR General Meeting will be held on Monday, February 18, at 7.45 p.m., at 1 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6.

Since the last General Meeting was held, the work of the AJR has progressed in many fields. This applies both to the establishment of Homes for the aged and to the social services rendered at the AJR headquarters. In the sphere of restitution and compensation, important new developments have taken place, and the AJR and its associated organisations have constantly safeguarded the interests of the community they represent.

It will be the object of the General Meeting to give members a detailed account of these and many other activities, and it is hoped that our friends will avail themselves of the opportunity of acquiring up-to-date and first-hand information on the matters involved.

The Agenda for the General Meeting will also include the election of the honorary officers. The following proposals are submitted by the Executive:

President: Mr. A. Schoyer.

Management Committee (Executive): The present Executive members stand for re-election. They are: Dr. H. Reichmann (Chairman), Mr. A. Dresel (Vice-Chairman), Mr. M. Pottlitzer (Treasurer), Mr. W. M. Behr, Mr. H. Bendhem, Dr. W. Berlin, Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld, Mr. S. Bischheim (Trustee), Mr. H. Blumenau, Dr. F. E. Falk (Trustee), Dr. F. Mann, Mr. A. Wechsler (Trustee), Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary).

It is proposed that Mr. V. E. Hilton, who is at present a Board member, be elected as a member of the Executive.

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, Mr. E. Berent, Mr. S. Boehm, Dr. J. Bondi, Dr. W. Breslauer, Dr. R. Bright, Rabbi I. Broch, Rabbi C. E. Cassel, Dr. F. R. Engel, Dr. L. Engel, Rabbi Dr. M. Eschelbacher, Mr. L. Eschwege, Dr. E. Eyck, Mr. J. L. Feuchtwanger, Dr. H. Fleischhacker, Mr. K. Friedlander, Dr. R. Fuchs, Mr. F. Godfrey, Dr. F. Goldschmidt, Dr. E. Gould, Dr. L. Guttmann, O.B.E., Mr. S. F. Hallgarten, Mrs. G. Hambourg, Mr. E. Haymann, Mr. A. W. Heller, Mr. Herbert Hirsch, Dr. A. R. Horwell, Dr. A. Kaufmann, Mrs.

F. Kochmann, Mr. L. Kritzer, Dr. H. W. Kugelmann, Dr. H. H. Kuttner, Dr. H. Lawton, Mr. J. Lowenthal, Mr. Ludwig Loewenthal, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Mr. E. Marx, Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum, Dr. H. Neufeld, Mrs. H. Philipp, Mr. E. Plaut, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. E. Reifenberg (Gabriele Tergit), Mr. A. Reimann, Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger, Mr. R. Schneider, Mr. P. E. Shields, Mr. E. Speyer, Mr. Hugo Stern, Dr. A. Straus, Mr. A. Straus (Edgware), Mr. G. L. Tietz, Dr. U. Tietz, Dr. Alfred Wiener, Mr. F. J. Wittelschofer, Mr. B. Woyda, Dr. Leon Zeitlin, Rabbi Dr. W. van der Zyl.

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

It is proposed to elect as new members of the Board: Mr. A. Berglas, Mr. H. S. Garfield, Mr. A. Hausdorff, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Mr. A. Loewenthal, Dr. E. Rachwalsky, Mr. J. Sachs, Mr. F. Samson, Mrs. M. Schurmann, Dr. W. Selig, Mr. G. Streat, Mr. F. W. Ury.

20th ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN SELFHELP

To mark the 20th anniversary of its foundation, "Selfhelp" (New York) has issued an excellently prepared and illustrated brochure, giving an account of the organisation's manifold activities. Regarding the tasks to be faced, care for older people is now in the foreground.

The organisation runs a Residence Club, as it is called, in Newark. It also places old people in so-called "foster" homes.

The two main problems facing the organisation today are employment for older people, and homes and ambulatory care for the aged.

THE HYPHEN

The February programme includes a talk by the Rev. Herbert Richer, B.A., on "Liberal Judaism and Israel" (February 24 at 7.30 p.m., at 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3.).

The Hyphen is a group of young people who meet frequently for various activities such as talks, rambles, and social functions. If you would like to know more about them, write for details to Miss Gabriele Stern, 32 Ossulton Way, N.2.

85TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. HUGO AUFSEESSER

We have particular pleasure in conveying our sincerest congratulations to Mr. Hugo Aufseesser, of 190 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, who, though it is hard to believe since he appears to be much younger, will be celebrating his 85th birthday on March 2.

Throughout the years Mr. Aufseesser has been a pillar of strength to the Cambridge refugee community and, as Chairman of the local AJR group, is closely associated with our cause. Because of his upright character, his agile mind, and, last but not least, his wonderful sense of humour, his fellow-refugees have invariably developed deep feelings of attachment to him.

Prior to his emigration, he was a prominent merchant in Munich, where he was the proprietor of a firm dealing in household and kitchen utensils.

We are sure all Mr. Aufseesser's many friends will wish to join us in wishing him undiminished strength and vigour for many years to come, and continued happiness with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

DEATH OF MR. F. KENT

It is learned, with deep regret, that Mr. F. Kent (formerly Knoepfmacher) suddenly passed away at the age of 70 years.

Prior to his emigration, he was a well-known lawyer in Teplitz-Schoenau (C.S.R.). On coming to this country, he took a leading part in work for his fellow-refugees, especially as Chairman of the Self-Aid Association of Jews from Czechoslovakia. He was also actively associated with the B'nai B'rith (Leo Baeck) Lodge and served as its President for two years.

In his capacity as a lawyer, Mr. Kent was the trusted friend and adviser of many of his compatriots. He also fought, with vigour and undaunted optimism, for just measures in the field of indemnification.

His was a strong personality and he had a wide-spread knowledge but, at the same time, he was a modest and kind-hearted person.

All those who knew him will cherish his memory with feelings of gratitude and affection.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birth

Brenner, Clive and Ellen (née Marcus) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Anthony M. S., on December 22, 1956, 3/20 Heath Drive, N.W.3.

Death

Mr. Siegbert Kadisch, M.P.S., 55 years, of 175 Goldhurst Terrace, London, N.W.6 (formerly Berlin-Wilmersdorf), passed away peacefully after 10 months' illness. Deeply mourned by his wife, Debora, and daughter, Margaret.

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Personal

WIDOWER (48), living in provincial town, secure position, fond of arts, nature, and good living, wishes to meet lady who would make him a good wife. Box 115.

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MISSING PERSONS

Enquiries from AJR

Mr. Carl (Charles) Daniel, born Krefeld, his wife, Regina Daniel (née Baum), born Krefeld 2.6.1902, Bruchstrasse 10, child Gordon Daniel, born London in March, 1942. Last known address: Duncan House, St. George's Avenue, Northampton.

Miss Stella Wiener, born 13.3.1898 in Austria. She was a chemist and bacteriologist. Last address in 1947: Sandford Road, Moseley, Birmingham.

AJR AT WORK

AJR SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Employment Agency: The labour situation improved in January, but, although extra jobs were available, more applicants contacted us for work. The rise in prices, especially of rent, is one of the main reasons for more people urgently needing work.

Accommodation: The situation is really desperate. Only a few rooms were offered with rentals at £2 10s.—£3, and heating extra. Our people are forced to take these rooms, although reluctantly—they must have accommodation even if they have to economise on food. The fact that so far a suitable site for a flatlet house could not be found aggravates the nervous state of many of those for whom accommodation in such a house would be the only long-term solution.

Employment for Hungarian Jewish Refugees wanted: The Hungarian refugees have permits to work here, but have no connections to obtain work. There are language difficulties for them at the public Labour Exchange as, in addition to Hungarian, only very few speak a little English and/or some German. Quite a few of the refugees wish to stay in this country permanently but some want to emigrate to other countries.

We would be very grateful for offers of permanent or temporary employment, especially in firms where there are persons who can speak Hungarian. Among the applicants are motor mechanics, a goldsmith, an economist, and a specialist for coach repairs and rubber vulcanisation.

AJR Club

The attendance at the AJR Club is steadily increasing. As previously stated, the Club premises at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, Swiss Cottage, are open every afternoon (4 to 7 p.m.) from Sunday to Thursday, and in the evening (7 to 10 p.m.) on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. All interested members and their friends are cordially invited.

The following forthcoming functions will be of particular interest:

On Sunday, February 10, at 5 p.m., the well-known authoress, Gabriele Tergit, will read extracts from her own books; on Sunday, March 3, at 5 p.m., a special function will be held to mark the first anniversary of the foundation of the Club, at which the singer, Hilde Zweig, and Rudi Offenbach will appear.

AJR BIRMINGHAM MEETING

Almost one hundred people attended a meeting held in Birmingham on January 13, under the auspices of the local branch of the AJR and of the Ex-Service (N.B.) Association.

After a brief introductory report on current AJR activities, given by Dr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the AJR, Dr. H. Herzog, legal adviser of URO, gave a detailed description of the present position in the field of restitution and compensation. He dealt, especially, with those provisions of the Federal Indemnification Law, 1956, which covered indemnification for loss of career, and he also gave practical advice on questions of procedure.

The audience greatly appreciated the arrangement of the function, because it provided them with information not as easily obtainable in the provinces as in London. Quite a few of the non-members present decided to join the AJR after they had realised that the manifold achievements for the benefit of the community were a direct result of the constant efforts of the AJR and its associate organisations.

Mr. L. Kew took the Chair at the meeting and Dr. M. Deutschkron moved the vote of thanks to the speakers.

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