

# AJR

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

## STRENGTH AND PROGRESS

### Meeting of the AJR Board

On January 26, the AJR held its annual Board meeting at Hannah Karminski House. The meeting was attended by more than 60 Board members from London and the Provinces. As in previous years, the reports covered not only the manifold activities which had been going on for some time, but also new tasks which were taken up during the past year.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Werner M. Behr (Vice-Chairman of the AJR), because the Chairman of the AJR, Mr. A. S. Dresel, was still convalescing from an illness from which, in the meantime, he has fully recovered. Mr. Behr first paid tribute to the following Board members and other friends who had passed away since the last Board meeting: Dr. Leon Zeitlin, Dr. Leo Engel, Mr. Juluis Feig, Dr. Fritz Goldschmidt, Mr. Kurt Friedlaender, Mr. H. J. Reifenberg, Dr. Rudolf Friedlaender (Manchester) and Mr. Bruno Woyda. He also extended a special welcome to the delegates from the Provinces: Mr. B. N. Bergmann (Glasgow), Mr. O. L. Einstein (Manchester), Dr. W. Munz (Birmingham) and Mrs. R. Simmons-Wolf (Birmingham).

In his report on the general activities of the AJR, Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary of the AJR) first dealt with the work for the *Old Age Homes*. He stated that the number of applicants still exceeded the number of vacancies arising, but that with the exception of Osmond House, the pressure had decreased to some extent. Therefore it may now be possible to admit to the four ordinary homes more people below the age of 75 who so far only had a chance in special cases. Whilst as before preference will always be given to applicants with limited means, whereas persons with comparatively substantial capital assets and current incomes will not be eligible, a raise of the financial ceiling is under consideration. The deficit for the running costs of the four Homes amounted to about £3,000 in 1968, but is expected to rise to about £4,500 in 1969. This does not, however, include major repairs, amortisation of capital and administration costs.

The position is different at Osmond House both with regard to the number of urgent applications and to finances. This Home has to accommodate persons who, due to their state of health, either can no longer stay in private accommodation or have to be transferred from the ordinary homes.

In view of the great pressure for admission it has been decided to erect a new wing, thus increasing the capacity of Osmond House from 37 to 52 beds. Due to the need for 24-hour attendance by the nursing staff, the cost amounted to £28 per head per week in 1968, resulting in a deficit of £25,000. For 1969, a deficit of £27,000 is expected.

*Hannah Karminski House* has continued to serve as a real communal centre. The *AJR Club* enjoyed a constant large attendance and there is a very great demand for the use of the Hall.

The speaker then gave particulars about the *Flatlet Home* at Avenue Road, Highgate. He paid special tribute to Mr. A. S. Dresel, whose constant initiative in expediting the scheme has been of decisive importance. It is expected that the home will be ready in the autumn. There will be a twelve-storey tower block with 48 one-room flats and a two-storey wing with four two-room and two three-room flats (one of them for the warden). All flats will have kitchens and bathrooms. There will also be two communal rooms, a communal kitchen and storage facilities. It is envisaged to appoint a warden who will be responsible for the administration and maintenance, and a nurse.

#### Flatlet Home Nearing Completion

The total cost amounts to £340,000. Of this sum £120,000 has been contributed free of interest by the Central British Fund (£80,000) and the AJR Charitable Trust (£40,000), and £220,000 will be covered by a 60-year mortgage from the Borough of Haringey. It is not yet possible to assess the rents to be charged, because they will depend on the rate of interest prevailing when the mortgage is drawn and on the amount of public subsidies for which applications are still pending.

The flatlets are meant for persons who in all likelihood will be able to manage their own households for some time to come. This means that there will be an upper age limit of 70-75 years at the time of admission, but each case will be considered on its own merits. The lower age limit will be about 60, and people who are still working will also be eligible. (An announcement about the submission of applications is published in this issue on page 11.)

The house will be named after Eleanor Rathbone, whose outstanding and courageous work for the refugees is well remembered by all of us.

The speaker also referred to *Charles Jordan House* at Finchley Road, N.W.3, an After-Care Home for persons discharged from mental hospitals. Like the other homes, this home has been financed by the Allocations Committee of the C.B.F. out of the heirless Jewish property in Germany, but it is administered by the Jewish Welfare Board. The AJR is represented on the House Committee by Mr. V. E. Hilton and Mrs. M. Williams.

The *AJR Social Services Department* has continued its important and useful activities, comprising questions of employment, accommodation and personal difficulties. There is a

very great demand for home help (paid and unpaid) required by constantly ailing and acutely sick persons who cannot manage their households and/or need help for shopping, etc. It would be greatly appreciated if any persons suitable for this kind of work contacted the Department (8 Fairfax Mansions, N.W.3; Tel.: MAIda Vale 4449).

As before, *AJR Information* has served as an indispensable link between headquarters and members. It has now been in existence for 24 years, and this continuity in itself testifies to the strength of the AJR. The journal endeavours to give reliable and balanced information on current events and in its feature articles deals with subjects of specific interest to people of our background.

Whilst the activities of the AJR now mainly comprise the work for the Homes, the general welfare work and the production of *AJR Information*, the organisation also closely follows up certain political developments, both in this country and abroad. One of the questions at present under discussion is the extension or abolishment of the *Statute of Limitations* for the prosecution of Nazis who had committed murder. Another question is that of the *immigrants from overseas*. The AJR is represented on the Camden Committee for Community Relations which works for the integration of these newcomers and also fights against discriminatory acts.

The AJR also took up the questions arising from the *Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1968* for those naturalised U.K. citizens, whose passports were issued abroad. A statement clarifying their position and describing the steps to be taken by them was published in the February issue of *AJR Information*.

As in previous years, there has been a cordial relationship and constant co-operation with a number of other organisations, e.g., the Camden Council for Social Service, the Council of Christians and Jews, the Jewish Welfare Board, Self Aid, and the Leo Baeck Lodge, which has made several generous annual contributions of 800 guineas each for the benefit of residents in the homes. The daily co-operation with the C.B.F. has resulted in most friendly personal relationships between the staff members of the two organisations, and the speaker paid special tribute to the joint secretary of the C.B.F., Dr. C. Kapralik, who is due to retire on March 31.

Turning to the questions of *organisation and finances*, Dr. Rosenstock stated that several thousand propaganda letters, together with copies of *AJR Information*, had been despatched to former refugees who are not members of the AJR. The rate of new enrolments is comparatively high. This also testifies to the reputation the AJR has built up for itself. As the work of the AJR will have to go on for a long time to come, it is highly essential to increase the number of members. Therefore, AJR members should supply the head office with names and addresses of friends of theirs to whom propaganda material would be sent if they are not yet members.

*Continued on page 2, column 1*

## STRENGTH AND PROGRESS

Continued from page 1

The last audited balance sheet revealed that in 1967 the income from subscriptions and donations amounted to £10,500 and the expenditure to £16,000 for current work and a further £2,000 for the Employees Termination Allowances Fund. The accounts for 1968 will be audited shortly. As far as can be seen at this stage, the increase of expenditure will have been counteracted by an increased income. There will, however, be a further increase of expenditure in 1969 due to the general rise of office costs, especially the higher postage rates which very much affect AJR Information.

It becomes increasingly important to strengthen the AJR Charitable Trust. The nucleus of the Trust consists of payments from heirless Jewish property in Germany received through the Council of Jews from Germany. The major part of these assets has been used or will be required for the establishment and maintenance of Hannah Karminski House and the Flatlets Home. The Trust has also supported the work of the AJR Club, but in time it will have to finance other charitable activities of the AJR as well. A number of members have signed covenants in favour of the Trust in lieu of part of their membership contributions to the AJR, thus giving the Trust the additional benefit of the taxes on their payments. It would be of great help if more members decided to make their payments under deeds of covenant. The covenants expire either after seven years or on the demise of the covenantor, whichever date is earlier. The Trust has also received donations, and several members had advised their friends to make donations to the Trust in lieu of personal gifts to them. Lastly, the Trust has been the beneficiary of a number of bequests in wills. Some testators bequeathed outright legacies. There were, however, also several cases in which members and friends of the AJR, who had no close relatives, left the major part of their estate to the AJR Charitable Trust.

Dr. W. Breslauer (Vice-President of the Council of Jews from Germany) reported on questions of restitution and compensation. He first paid tribute to the memory of Dr. F. Goldschmidt who for more than 20 years had taken a decisive part in the negotiations on restitution and compensation.

The speaker stated that, broadly speaking, no major new laws were to be expected. Some problems have arisen as a result of a decision by the Federal Constitution Court of July 24, 1968 (reported in the October, 1968, issue of AJR Information.—Ed.). This decision concerned the handling of certain claims which had been erroneously registered under the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG), but in fact came under the terms of the Federal Restitution Law (BRueG).

The draft of the final law on Social Insurance indemnification has been circularised among the organisations of persecutees. On behalf of the Council Dr. L. G. T. King has commented on it and proposed certain improvements.

Lastly, the registration of claims under the Equalisation of Burdens Law ("Lastenausgleich") has been extended to losses sustained in that part of the former German Reich, which is now the territory of the German Democratic Republic. (Further developments in this matter are mentioned in the report about the meeting with Herr M. Hirsch, M.d.B., on page 11 of this issue.—Ed.)

The speaker also stated that the Council of Jews from Germany continued to keep constant contacts with the German authorities concerned.

The reports were followed by a lively discussion in which the following executive and board members took part: Mrs. R. Anderman, Dr. F. E. Falk, Mr. B. N. Bergmann (Glasgow), Mrs. R. Berlin, Dr. W. Dux, Mr. O. L. Einstein (Manchester), Dr. R. Fuchs, Mr. F. Godfrey, Mrs. Elisabeth Goldschmidt, Dr. E. Gould, Mr. R. Graupner, Mr. H. M. Hirsch, Mrs. S. Horwell, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Dr. L. G. T. King, Dr. J. Loeb and Mrs. D. Segall. Apart from questions arising from the reports, the problem to which particular attention was paid was that of enlisting more voluntary helpers, especially among members of the younger generation. It was generally agreed that the manifold welfare tasks of the AJR for the benefit of both the residents of the Homes and of other members of the community would appeal to younger people and that ways and means of obtaining their co-operation should be considered in greater detail by the committees concerned.

As in previous years, this meeting of the "Parliament" of the AJR proved to be a most useful and important function. It provided the Board members with detailed information about the current activities, and the spirit of goodwill and solidarity, which determined the atmosphere of the proceedings, will be an encouragement for those in charge of the day-to-day work.

### DEUTSCHE SOZIALVERSICHERUNGSRENTEN UND BRITISCHE OLD AGE PENSIONS

Wenn Versicherte in Grossbritannien beginnen, eine britische Old Age Pension zu beziehen, so wandeln die fuer Grossbritannien massgeblichen deutschen Versicherungstraeger, naemlich die Bundesversicherungsanstalt fuer Angestellte und die Landesversicherungsanstalt Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg, haeufig auch gegen den ausdruecklichen Wunsch der Versicherten, eine Rente wegen

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Petition for Jews of Iraq

Following the recent tragic events in Iraq the Board of Deputies, supported by all the major Jewish organisations, is launching a petition which will be addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the following terms:

"We, men and women of the United Kingdom, appeal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to use his influence to persuade the Government of Iraq to permit the immediate departure of the Jews of Iraq.

"We also urge him to use his good offices with the Governments of the United Arab Republic and of Syria to allow the Jews in those territories to leave."

We urgently ask all our readers to help in collecting signatures among their Jewish and non-Jewish friends. The petition forms which have to be used, each of which contains space for up to 50 signatures, are obtainable from the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3.

Berufs- oder Erwerbsunfaehigkeit auf Grund des deutsch-britischen Gemeinschafts-Abkommens in ein kombiniertes deutsch-britisches Altersruhegeld um. Dies geschieht vor allem bei Frauen, wenn sie noch nicht 65 Jahre alt sind.

Es ist zwar nichts dagegen einzuwenden, wenn der deutsche Versicherungstraeger eine Rente wegen Berufs- oder Erwerbsunfaehigkeit bei Vollendung des 65. Lebensjahres in ein selbstaendiges deutsches Altersruhegeld umwandelt. Bei einer Umwandlung in eine deutsch-britische Gemeinschafts-Rente tritt aber in der Regel eine Schaedigung des Versicherten ein. Denn die Gemeinschaftsrente ist erfahrungsgemaess meistens niedriger als die Summe der britischen Old Age Pension und der deutschen Rente wegen Berufs- oder Erwerbsunfaehigkeit.

Gegen diese zwangsweise Umstellung der deutschen Renten durch die Landesversicherungsanstalt Hamburg und die Bundesversicherungsanstalt fuer Angestellte sind Prozesse angestrengt worden, die nunmehr rechtskraeftig zu Gunsten der Versicherten entschieden worden sind.

Bezuglich der Landesversicherungsanstalt Hamburg liegt ein Urteil des Landessozialgerichts Hamburg vom 23.7.1968 (Akt. Z.: I J Bf 115/67) vor, das ausdruecklich die Revision an das Bundessozialgericht zugelassen hatte. Die Landesversicherungsanstalt Hamburg hat keine Revision eingelegt und sich also mit dieser Entscheidung zufrieden gegeben.

Bezuglich der Bundesversicherungsanstalt fuer Angestellte erging ein Urteil des Sozialgerichts Berlin vom 16.5.1968 (S 1 An 4006/67), gegen das die Sprungrevision an das Bundessozialgericht zugelassen wurde, um eine beschleunigte Klaerung dieser grundsuetzlichen Frage herbeizufuehren. Die Bundesversicherungsanstalt legte auch im Einverstaeundnis mit der Klaegerin Sprungrevision ein, nahm diese aber dann spaeter zurueck. Sie hat sich also gleichfalls mit der fuer sie unguenstigen Entscheidung zufrieden gegeben.

Die Rechtslage ist somit sowohl in der Invaliden—als auch in der Angestellten-Versicherung zu Gunsten der Versicherten geklaert.

Wenn ein Rentenempfaenger, der deutsche Sozialversicherungsrente wegen Berufs- oder Erwerbsunfaehigkeit bezieht, nunmehr in Grossbritannien Old Age Pension beantragt und daneben zur Zeit dieses Antrags keinen Anspruch auf eine selbstaendige deutsche Altersrente hat, so muss er bei seiner Antragstellung ausdruecklich bemerken, dass dieser Antrag sich nur auf die britische Old Age Pension bezieht und nicht fuer den deutschen Versicherungstraeger bestimmt ist. Dann ist der deutsche Versicherungstraeger nicht in der Lage, an der bisher gewaehrten deutschen Rente irgendetwas zu aendern.

DR. L. G. T. KING.

### OESTERREICHISCHE SOZIALVERSICHERUNG

Waehrend der letzten zwei Jahre wurden in der oesterreichischen Sozialversicherung den im Auslande lebenden Pensionisten Beitraege zur oesterreichischen Krankenversicherung in Anrechnung gebracht.

Da dieser Beitragsleistung keinerlei Leistungsberechtigung gegenueberstand, hat das Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria auf Regierungsebene Vorstellungen erhoben. Diesen Vorstellungen hat die oesterreichische Bundesregierung Rechnung getragen und die juengst erlassene 23. Novelle zum Allgemeinen Sozialversicherungsgesetz verfuegt, dass von nun an den im Auslande lebenden Pensionisten keine Beitraege zur Krankenversicherung angelastet werden sollen.

C.I.K.

# HOME NEWS

## 1938 CABINET DISCLOSURES

Under the 30-year rule further revelations have been disclosed in British Cabinet minutes of 1938. This includes an alleged Nazi plan to inundate Britain with Jews to create a Jewish problem in the country. Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary of State for Home Affairs, on March 16, 1938, reported to the Cabinet that news of the Nazi plan had reached him through British military intelligence. Ministers dealing with the problem of Jewish refugees from Germany were instructed to bear in mind "the importance of adopting as humane an attitude as possible and at the same time avoiding the creation of a Jewish problem" in Britain.

In the minutes of a Cabinet meeting of November 16, 1938, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, suggested various parts of the British Empire where Jewish refugees could be settled, at least temporarily. The discussion followed a report to the Cabinet by Lord Halifax, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on American pressure for Britain, being closer to Germany topographically, to do more to prevent Nazi persecution of the Jews. Mr. Walter Elliot, Minister of Health, said that public opinion in Britain expected action to alleviate "the terrible suffering and humiliation which had been inflicted on many Jews . . . many of the Jews now being driven out of Germany would prove valuable citizens". The Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, suggested that in addition to offering territories in the Empire for settlement, Jews should also be allowed into Britain as temporary refugees. Finally, the Cabinet decided to issue a statement on its general views on the problem of Jewish refugees from Germany.

## SHECHITA BILL

A letter was sent to members by Miss Dorothy Sidley, general secretary of the Council of Justice to Animals and Humane Slaughter Association, on December 23, after Mr. David Ensor's Slaughter of Animals Bill was heavily defeated. The letter said that the result of the vote reflected yet another instance of Members of Parliament going against the wishes of their constituents. Miss Sidley stated that Mr. Ensor told her that during the week prior to the introduction of the Bill great pressure was brought to bear by the Jews on M.P.s who, she said, wield a tremendous financial influence inside and outside Parliament. The national press, said Miss Sidley, did practically nothing, and they were told the press was reluctant to do anything in the matter because the Jews were their largest advertisers.

## NEW G.L.C. CHAIRMAN

Mr. Leslie Freeman is to succeed another Jew, Sir Louis Gluckstein, as the new chairman of the Greater London Council. He has been nominated for the post by the Conservative majority on the council, and his election on April 29 will be a formality. Under its former name of the L.C.C. the Council's chairmen in recent years included Mrs. Helen Bentwich, Lady Nathan and Mr. Victor Mishcon.

## BELFAST Q.C.

Mr. Ronnie Appleton, of Belfast, who has been appointed a Queen's Counsel, is the second Jewish barrister in Belfast to receive this distinction. The first, Judge Bernard Fox, retired a few years ago.

## TOPOL IN BRECHT PLAY

The Chichester Festival Theatre will produce Brecht's "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" to open the season on May 13. Topol is to take the leading role of the drunken village clerk, Azbak, which he may "double" with the role of the singer. He has already played the role of Azbak in Hebrew in Israel.

## ANTI-ZIONISM AND ANTISEMITISM

### Settlement of Mr. Mayhew's Libel Action

Mr. Christopher Mayhew, Labour M.P. for Woolwich, received an apology from Mr. Maurice Edelman, Labour M.P. for Coventry North and the publishers of the *Jewish Chronicle* over an article by Mr. Edelman which, with reference to Mr. Mayhew's appearance in the TV programme "Your Witness", suggested that Mr. Mayhew was antisemitic. Announcing a settlement of Mr. Mayhew's libel action against Mr. Edelman, Mr. David Hirst, Q.C., Counsel for Mr. Mayhew, said that Mr. Mayhew had sympathised for many years with the Arabs in their misfortune in Palestine and was an outspoken critic of many aspects of Zionism, but he was not and never had been in any sense antisemitic. On the contrary, he had a long record of opposition to antisemitism and of support and friendship for Jewish people.

### MOTIONS ON BEIRUT AIRPORT ATTACK

On the order paper of the House of Commons two rival motions appeared following the Israeli attack on Beirut airport. The one view, by a group of pro-Arab M.P.s led by Mr. Ian Gilmour, welcomed the Security Council resolution condemning the attack. The other view was put in a motion by a number of M.P.s led by Mr. David Weitzman, regretting the resolution which condemned Israel's attack on Beirut airport. The resolution did not mention the raid on an El Al aircraft at Athens.

### PARLIAMENTARY PRO-ARAB GROUP

A Labour Middle East Committee has been set up by a group of 19 pro-Arab Labour M.P.s, in conjunction with Labour supporters throughout the country, to present the Arab case in the Middle East dispute.

### "PANORAMA" ON ANTISEMITISM

In a recent presentation of B.B.C.-1's "Panorama", British viewers were made aware that Iraq is not the only place of Jewish suffering in the world today. The Polish authorities refused to allow the B.B.C. to film inside Poland, but the programme highlighted the latent anti-Jewish campaign instigated by the Polish chief of the Security Service, General Moczar. The Polish Embassy, which was invited to participate, limited itself to a statement explaining the removal of Jews from important public positions by the need to replace them with younger men, denying that the Government had inspired antisemitism.

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## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### "Indoctrination and Youth"

Dr. Meir Gertner, reader in Modern Hebrew at London University, spoke on "Indoctrination and Youth". He stated that in Jewish families the gap between students and their parents was even wider than in non-Jewish ones, because there was often a greater difference in intellectual levels between the two generations and because of the secularity of universities. Parents were regarded by students as part of a disappointing society, and their place was gradually being taken by universities. This process had particular consequences for Jewish students because the secular universities encouraged their assimilation and divorced them from Jewish teachings.

### Synagogue Youth Clubs

At the United Synagogue's council meeting held in London recently, Mr. Raymond Goldwater introduced the report of the welfare committee, of which he is chairman. He painted a sombre picture of youth work within the United Synagogue, highlighting the lack of suitable premises and of young people to take charge of Jewish activities in synagogue youth clubs. One of the main reasons for the lack of suitable candidates to ensure the Jewish content of club activity was the absence of a career structure in the field of Jewish youth work to attract suitable candidates. Without them they could not expect any improvement in the clubs and in the Jewish content of their activity. Mr. Goldwater announced that a sub-committee had already recommended the appointment of a youth officer to a group of synagogue clubs. He suggested an inquiry to find out what Jewish young people wanted.

### Youth Sabbath

Organised by the Board of Deputies on a recommendation of its education and youth committee, the first Anglo-Jewish youth Sabbath was recently held throughout Britain. The board suggested that each synagogue contact Jewish youth organisations operating in its area to ask them if any of their members would be prepared to conduct part of the Sabbath morning service. Other suggestions were a kiddush for youth and a Sabbath afternoon social function for young people.

In a letter to all synagogue secretaries the board stated its hope that the service, highlighted by a special address from the minister, would be the occasion when congregations throughout British Jewry would have their attention focused on youth and be moved to a sense of commitment to their needs.

### Lavish Celebrations Deplored

At the annual melava malka organised by the Moortown Women's Mizrahi Organisation at Leeds, the Rev. Raymond Apple, minister of the Hampstead Synagogue, London, spoke on "Jewish education—facing the facts". He told the audience that the Jewish population of the country was rapidly diminishing and that their only guarantee of survival was Jewish education. It was his aim to see lavish barmitzvah parties abolished and the money thus saved put into Jewish causes in the child's name.

### New Willesden Rabbi

Rabbi Dr. A. Melinek is to succeed Rabbi M. Spira at the Willesden Synagogue. He has been at Bronesbury since 1951 and, before that, at the Stoke Newington Synagogue. He is also a lecturer in Talmud and Bible at Jews' College.

### Manchester Dayan's Prize

The City of Tel Aviv Rav Kook Prize for Literature has been awarded to Dayan I. J. Weiss, of the Manchester Beth Din, for his response on modern sha'alot. This is an unusual honour for a non-Israeli. Dayan Weiss has been the senior member of the Manchester Beth Din for 20 years. The presentation, to be made in Tel Aviv, also includes a cash award.

# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Negro Antisemitism

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art has withdrawn the book, "Harlem on My Mind," which serves as a catalogue for the exhibition of the same name. The museum gave as its reason criticism from various city groups of the book's introduction, which has been condemned as antisemitic and racist.

As for the exhibition, the Negroes complain that it shows only the squalor of the Black ghetto and none of the positive aspects of their history.

The introduction to "Harlem on My Mind" was written two years ago by Miss Candice Van Ellison, a Negro girl, then 16, as a paper for her class work in a high school. The usual antisemitic clichés about exploiting landlords and shopkeepers are included, and the introduction ends: "... psychologically, Blacks may find that anti-Jewish sentiments place them, for once, within a majority. Thus, our contempt for the Jew makes us feel more completely American in sharing a national prejudice."

In a "disclaimer of racialism" inserted into the soft-cover copies of the book the museum had on sale, Miss Van Ellison regretted any racist overtones which were inferred from passages quoted out of context, but she defended her introduction as being true, and refused to withdraw it.

Random House, which published the hard-cover edition of the book, has admitted that it made a serious error of judgement, but states the hard-cover editions cannot be recalled from the bookshops. Mr. Bennett Cerf, the chairman of Random House, a Jew, has apologised for the introduction, stating that the offending passages in the book would have been changed if he personally had edited it.

A special committee on racial and religious prejudice was set up by the Mayor of New York. Its report states that there was a "substantial basis" for the mayor's concern over the manifestations of racialism and antisemitism stemming from the recent teachers' strike in New York. The "vicious anti-White attitudes" of some Negroes contained "a dangerous component of anti-semitism."

On a New York radio programme regularly broadcast by Mr. Julius Lester, a Negro author and commentator, an antisemitic poem by a 15-year-old Negro girl was read, dedicated to Mr. Albert Shanker, the head of the United Federation of Teachers, which called the strike. The poem, among other things, accused Mr. Shanker and Jews generally of taking over the school system "to perpetuate White supremacy". The United Federation of Teachers is mainly Jewish in membership. The mayor announced that "appropriate action" had been taken against two Negro teachers who had made antisemitic statements.

### Synagogue Fire in New York

A further synagogue fire occurred in New York, though arson is not suspected. The synagogue is Shaaray Tefila in the Far Rockaway district of the city, whose present minister is Rabbi Walter S. Wurzelberger, the editor of "Tradition", the publication of the Rabbinical Council of America.

There have been no serious antisemitic incidents in the neighbourhood, which is predominantly Jewish, but the president of the Far Rockaway Jewish Community Council said he was "seriously concerned" by this and other recent synagogue fires.

Last November, when a fire started by vandals destroyed part of the Yeshiva of Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn and burnt seven Sifrei Torah, the Mayor of New York, Mr. John Lindsay, ordered a special police protection of synagogues and religious schools.

The Shaaray Tefila incident brings the number of synagogue fires to 13. The synagogue was insured for £162,500, but it will take about £425,000 to replace it. Until it is rebuilt, services will be held in an adjoining four-storey building.

## NIXON'S ADMINISTRATION

A second Jew has been appointed in President Nixon's administration. The Austrian-born Jewish economist, Professor Arthur F. Burns, a long-time friend of Israel, has been appointed top adviser on domestic affairs. Dr. Henry Kissinger is the other appointee, with the rank of special assistant.

### Jewish Governor for Maryland

For the first time in the 335-year history of Maryland, a Jew has been elected to the governorship of the State. Mr. Marvin Mandel will fill out the two years of the unexpired term of the Vice-President, Mr. Spiro Agnew.

Since 1827 when Thomas Kennedy put his "Jew Bill" into the State Assembly, many Jews have served in various capacities in Maryland. The Bill eliminated the requirement that all office-holders must take the oath as Christians.

Mr. Mandel has been in the Legislature for 16 years, for the past six years as Speaker. He was born in Baltimore of an Orthodox immigrant family from Eastern Europe.

### RABBI VISITS VATICAN

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel, professor of Jewish ethics and mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, met members of the Vatican's Secretariat for Christian Unity in Rome. "Important projects" for the promotion of Christian-Jewish understanding and collaboration were discussed by the Rabbi and the members of the Secretariat.

### MOSLEY PROGRAMME ON CANADIAN TV

Mr. Eugent Hallman, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's vice-president, has replied to a telegram of protest from Mr. Louis Herman, Q.C., the chairman of the community relations committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith. The telegram was sent after an appearance by Sir Oswald Mosley on a C.B.C. television programme.

Mr. Hallman said this appearance was a "bad error of judgement". "To assume that Mosley's recent book and public appearances in the United Kingdom would result in anything but a television effort on his part to justify his record... was naive and misguided". He regretted the distress Mosley's appearance had caused among certain Canadians, "particularly among the members of the Canadian Jewish community". He emphasised, however, that he would not want to bar from the air individuals whose records or views were held to be reprehensible or distasteful by many Canadians.

## Gorta Radiovision Service

(Member R.T.R.A.)

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## GOODWILL IN BELGIUM

As the result of discussions by the Belgium sub-commission for promoting relations between Christians and Jews, it has been decided that legends of former centuries depicted in the description of some of the works of art in St. Michael's Cathedral in Brussels should be removed. They are to be placed in perspective and interpreted against the background of the ideas prevalent in those times.

The works include some stained-glass windows and paintings and a number of the famous Gobelin tapestries, showing Jews recoiling in horror at the burning in 1370 of co-religionists accused of sacrilege against the church. With the agreement of the Jewish religious authorities, the sub-commission also decided that guides must give visitors adequate modern explanations of those events.

### GENERAL PIERRE KOENIG 70

A dinner was held in Paris in honour of the 70th birthday of General Pierre Koenig, president of the France-Israel Alliance. Over 250 French personalities, including ten Gaullist deputies, attended.

### SPAIN GIVES JEWS STATUS

The Spanish Minister of Justice has acceded to a petition submitted two years ago by Jewish community leaders requesting full legal status and freedom to worship. After 476 years the law of 1492 has thus been rescinded and the Inquisition legally brought to an end. Spain's first formal synagogue since the Expulsion of the Jews in 1492 has now been consecrated in Madrid.

At the inaugural ceremony various dignitaries representing the Spanish Government were present, including the Mayor of Madrid, representatives of the Archbishop of Madrid, and ecclesiastics of all denominations in Spain. Present also were Dr. Solomon Gaon, the Haham of the Sephardi community in Britain; Rabbi David Kahana, the Chief Rabbi of Argentina; and Rabbi Harold Gordon, the vice-president of the New York Board of Rabbis.

### SALONIKA JEWISH COMMUNITY

Mr. Dick Benveniste, a veteran communal worker, has succeeded Mr. Mentos Molho as president of the Salonika Jewish community. Mr. Molho, who was appointed only a year ago by the Greek Government as chairman of the board of the Jewish community, has resigned due to ill-health. The Jewish population of Salonika, which before the Second World War amounted to 60,000, does not exceed 1,500. Most of Salonika's Jews were deported by the Nazis and perished in Auschwitz.

### HATE CAMPAIGN IN ITALY?

At a press conference called by leaders of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities and of the Rome Jewish Community, attention was called to threatening phone calls to prominent Jewish and non-Jewish personalities, the circulation of antisemitic leaflets, and anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish slogans daubed on city walls.

Dr. Renzo Levi, the vice-president of the Union of Italian Jewish communities, stated that these episodes were not new in Rome and in Italy. The community had ignored them on previous occasions without even notifying the police. The situation was, however, different today from that of several years or months ago. The purpose was to ascertain if these manifestations were once more the squalid expression of solitary individuals hankering for the past, not worth consideration, or if they were connected with antisemitic manifestations occurring practically everywhere in Europe.

# JEWRY IN THE EAST

## RUSSIA

### Jewish Cosmonauts

Lieutenant-Colonel Boris Volynov, the 34-year-old commander of the Soviet spaceship Soyuz-5, involved in the first link-up in space, is a Jew. Volynov's mother (his parents were divorced when he was a child) was a Jewess, Evgenia Izrailovna, a physician by profession, now pensioned, who was awarded the title of "Merited Doctor of the Russian Republic."

Georgi Beregovoy, one of the cosmonauts who undertook a space mission some months ago, is also believed to be Jewish. The names and patronymics of both Volynov's and Beregovoy's wives would also appear to be of Jewish origin.

### Gaoled for Protest

Three young men, two Jewish and one non-Jew, have been gaoled for preparing a protest against Soviet policy in Czechoslovakia. The accused received one, three and four years' imprisonment respectively. They were arrested in August, 1968, whilst formulating their letter of protest. This was quite legal and was to have been transmitted to the Soviet authorities. The protest letter was, however, termed "anti-Soviet literature" at the trial.

### Anti-Zionist Campaign

A Jewish writer, V. Rabinovich, is leading a new campaign against Zionism. His latest article appears in the newspaper "Sovetskaya Rossya". Rabinovich says that the essence of Zionism has not changed throughout the decades. Israel is a country which has all the evils of class oppression and national inequality. Lenin, states Rabinovich, stressed that Zionism had always been hostile to Marxism. Today, as in the past, Zionist propaganda had an anti-Communist slant.

Zionism and fascism were based on rabid nationalism, on the chauvinism of the self-seeking bourgeoisie which asserted the special "rights" of one nation by trampling underfoot the rights of another nation, by economic exploitation, political oppression and, sometimes, physical extermination of other peoples.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

### Student's Funeral

Three leading Jewish personalities were among the crowds following the coffin of Jan Palach, the Czech student who burned himself to death in protest against the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia. They were Professor Ota Sik, Professor Eduard Goldstuecker and Dr. Frantisek Kriegel.

Professor Sik, a former Deputy Premier of Czechoslovakia and Professor Goldstuecker, a former diplomat and chairman of the Czechoslovak Writers' Association, paid a surprise visit to Prague. This was for the swearing-in of Members of the National Assembly and, as both were sworn in, they gained immunity from arrest.

But their visit to Prague was an act of courage as it is common knowledge in Czechoslovakia that they are in constant danger of detention by the Soviet occupation authorities in readiness for a show trial of "Zionists". Professor Sik has returned to Basle to continue research there, stating that he would remain in contact with the Czechoslovak Economic Institute of which he is the director. Professor Goldstuecker has resumed his post at Sussex University. Both men intend returning to Czechoslovakia when their work abroad ends.

Dr. Kriegel, who stayed in Czechoslovakia during and after the Soviet invasion, was recently elected to the managing board of the Medical Workers' Trade Union, which is regarded as a gesture of appreciation to this Jewish doctor. As a member of the Czech Communist Party delegation, he refused to sign the treaty with Russia agreeing *post facto* to the stationing of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia last summer.

## POLAND

### Antisemites Dismissed

The head of the "Zionist" (anti-Jewish) section in the Polish Ministry, Tadeusz Walichnowski, has been dismissed. He directed inquiries into the racial origins of party members and their Jewish connections, and was instrumental in the purge of many Jews.

Ryszard Gontarz, editor of the fortnightly "Law and Life", and another leading anti-semitic, has been dismissed from the party and forbidden to publish any writings. His anti-Russian sentiments rather than his antisemitism may have brought about his downfall.

### More Jews on Trial

The series of anti-Jewish trials in Poland has been climaxed by the trial of four Jewish Warsaw University students. They were charged with crimes "particularly dangerous during the period of State reconstruction."

In another trial, Mr. Karol Modzelewski, a Jew and the adopted son of Poland's first post-war Foreign Minister, also a Jew, and Jacek Kuron, a non-Jewish lecturer, were gaoled for 3½ years.

A further trial of a group of students is expected. Some of them were arrested last November.

### Jewish Emigration Continues

The anti-Zionist campaign in Poland has not yet been disavowed, although reports suggest that the Communist Party chief, Mr. Wladyslaw Gomulka, is taking the offensive against the faction led by Major-General Mieczyslaw Moczar, mainly responsible for the wave of antisemitism in Poland.

Jewish emigration continues and the night train from Warsaw to Vienna has for months past usually included a contingent of about 25 Jewish emigrants. This was reported by a correspondent in the London "Economist" who stated that, although the Polish authorities can have no objections to the Jewish exodus, they are making it as unpleasant and difficult as possible. A Jew has to renounce his Polish nationality at police headquarters before he can obtain emigration papers. The emigrant has no legal possibility of transferring any savings or other financial resources abroad, and there is a strict limit on the amount of household goods and other material possessions he can take with him.

## BAGHDAD HANGINGS

Protest demonstrations over the hanging of nine Jews in Baghdad were held throughout Britain. The day after the hangings, a demonstration took place in London, in which a large number of non-Jews participated. Prayers and kaddish were recited outside the Iraqi Embassy in Queensgate, Knightsbridge. A memorial service was held at the Bevis Marks Sephardi synagogue, attended by representatives of all sections of Anglo-Jewry, including most executive members of the AJR. In the congregation were brothers of two of the victims who now live in Britain.

Jewish organisations throughout the free world have issued statements and organised demonstrations and meetings to protest against the hangings.

At the Cenotaph in St. Peter's Square, Manchester, 4,000 people at a torch-light demonstration recited kaddish in unison. The Newcastle community held a protest march, together with members of other denominations. Memorial services were held in Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool and many other towns.

At least 200 M.P.s of all parties have signed a Commons motion deploring the hangings, Mr. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, stated in the Commons that he was urgently considering what action could be taken on humanitarian grounds to help those still awaiting trial in Iraq. He said that Britain could make no formal intervention since all those involved in the trial appeared to be Iraqi citizens.

The Cairo newspaper, "Al Ahram", criticised the Iraqi Government for exhibiting the corpses of the 14 alleged Israeli spies, including nine Jews, who were executed. The paper said the timing of the hangings could only have harmed the Arab cause. It also jeopardised moves by the United Nations and the big Powers to promote a settlement in the Middle East and gave Israel an occasion to launch a propaganda drive against the Arabs.

U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, issued a statement noting the hangings with "regret and concern". He feared "that the repercussions of this unhappy development are likely to impede efforts" towards a Middle East settlement.

The United States Secretary of State, Mr. William P. Rogers, said that "the spectacle of mass executions is repugnant to the conscience of the world". The United States had no diplomatic representation in Baghdad since Iraq broke off relations in 1967 and was not "in a position to comment on the facts surrounding the trials". But on humanitarian grounds the executions were a matter of deep concern to the United States.

## "LET MY PEOPLE GO"

Let My People Go, an international campaign, has been launched to secure the release from prison of Jews in Iraq, Egypt and Syria, and for their right to emigrate from Arab countries. The campaign is organised by the World Jewish Congress, the International Relief Organisation, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the American Joint Distribution Committee. U Thant has been asked by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, President of the W.J.C., to use his offices to promote these objectives, and to arrange for a United Nations investigation of the situation of Jewish minorities in the Arab world.

The United States and other nations have been urged by Senator Edward Kennedy to help Iraq's remaining 2,500 Jews to emigrate. The United Nations, he said, could play a role and the Iraqi Jews could go to the United States under present U.S.A. immigration laws. The Dutch Foreign Minister has stated that Iraqi Jews will also be welcome in Holland.

## MOROCCO

Pupils of the Etz Chayim yeshiva have been attacked, and local Arabs have intimidated anyone attempting to enter Jewish-owned shops. There is also incessant anti-Jewish propaganda in the press and on the radio.

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J. Raphael

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BUECKEBURG HEINE FAMILY?

A study on Jewish life and affairs during the 200-year period before the emancipation (1648-1848) in one of the minor and rather idyllic German principalities has been compiled by Hans-Heinrich Hasselmeier. It is published under the title "Die Stellung der Juden in Schaumburg-Lippe" in the series of Schaumburger Studien (Heft 19, Verlag Grimme, Bueckeburg, 1968, 139 pp., 9 illustrations). The author has delved into a considerable amount of documentary record material from State Archives and other collections (Bueckeburg, Hannover, Stadthagen, Detmold). He has also drawn on newspaper articles and pamphlets as well as on the findings of Dr. Heinrich Schnee. Furthermore, two manuscripts, Ludwig Lazarus: "Friedhofliste Hannover" (undated) and Carl Krueger: "Die juedischen Familien in Bueckeburg vor 70 Jahren" (dated 17.3.1965), are listed in the bibliography. On the other hand, not included in the quoted literature is Dr. B. Brillings' essay, "Heinrich Heines Berliner Verwandte und deren Vorfahren," which appeared in the 1955 Yearbook of the "Verein fuer die Geschichte Berlins". In any case, Hasselmeier has written a valuable, entertaining book and told, with great understanding, the story of the Schaumburg-Lippe Jewish population, a typically rural community, mainly settled in the small residential town of Bueckeburg.

The story begins with a general description of Kehilla life in those times, followed by a survey of the "Judenschutz" institution and its implications on religious, social and economic developments in matters that concerned the Court Jews of the region (Hoffaktoren, Hoflieferanten), those residing as accepted "local citizens" and others, the so-called "outlandish" Jews, permitted to be employed in Schaumburg-Lippe. Some ten pages of the treatise are devoted to the situation inspired and created by the appearance on the Bueckeburg scene of Isaac Heine (Heyne) from Rinteln (Weser) who, in the course of events, became the acknowledged "founding father" of the Heine family. The year was 1682. Young Isaac, ambitious and full of energy, had arrived at the special invitation of Count Friedrich Christian, and was soon granted the necessary "Schutzbrief". Two years later he started his services at the Court, endowed with the privileges and perquisites of his official position, known as "Schlossjude". In fact, he was the very first Jew in the principality permitted to acquire a house already in 1688.

Jews had been living in Bueckeburg before, but with Isaac Heine's arrival a number of fundamental changes took place in their

Kehilla. He himself and the Bueckeburg descendants of his family—this should be said here at once—were proud Jews, adhering to their tradition, in many instances acting as leaders in the Jewish community, as influential spokesmen, as promoters of societies for mutual assistance and welfare, and occasionally even supervising the appointment of religious teachers. Isaac Heine's commercial successes and the respectability of his position had a beneficial effect on the standard of the whole Jewish Kehilla.

But it was equally obvious that the distinguished career of this man caused uneasy feelings in the town. Complaints, ventured by the envy of Christian competitors and by other motives, finally aroused suspicion and hatred, and by 1717 Isaac Heine had to go into "exile". He left for near-by Detmold where, very soon, but for a brief period only, he and his son Solomon were appointed "Hoffaktoren". In 1725—according to archival documents—Isaac Heine was again in Bueckeburg, emerging there as financial adviser to the new Count Albrecht Wolfgang. Hasselmeier relates that Isaac Heine died in 1742 at the age of 86, during a lawsuit conducted at the Supreme Court of Appeal (Reichskammergericht) in Wetzlar.

This part in Hasselmeier's story contradicts somewhat Brillings' assertion (made in the above-mentioned essay) according to which Isaac Heine had spent his last years in Berlin, where his death occurred in 1734, consequently reaching the age of 78. However this may be, it appears that after 1730 old Isaac's capabilities were conspicuously overshadowed by the rising efficiency of his son-in-law, Moses Leser. This may well have been a good reason for Isaac Heine to keep away from Bueckeburg. His real successor, however, in the second Heine generation was Levi Heine, a businessman of importance. In 1733 he obtained his "Schutzbrief", and thirty years later, 1763, after prolonged negotiations, he purchased a comfortable house in the Lange Strasse. This property remained in the family's possession for exactly 90 years, until 1853. It was, as Heinrich Heine once euphemistically called it, the "Stammberg" of all the Heines and was generally regarded as their "ancestral seat".

Levi Heine, on the death of Count Wilhelm of Schaumburg-Lippe, retired from his official commitments as Court supplier, and confined his activities to the welfare of the Jewish community. Two of his sons, Daniel and Joseph, took over the family business. Recognised as "Hofjude" in some earlier years, Daniel married the daughter of the rich Court agent Heinemann Spanier, with whom he went into partnership. Later, he even bought his

own house. His younger brother Joseph continued to occupy their father's home in Lange Strasse.

Daniel Heine was the head of the third Bueckeburg generation. He had no sons, and so it happened that one of his daughters, Edell, married her cousin Levi, a son of Joseph Heine. Daniel died in 1818, but about eight years earlier he had made arrangements for his "Schutzbrief" to be conferred on his son-in-law Levi, who subsequently rose to the leadership of the fourth Heine generation. Meanwhile, this Levi and his father Joseph had immensely strengthened their economic importance by setting up a banking enterprise. New major trends and expanding contacts in commerce and finance, at the dawn of the 19th century, turned members of the Bueckeburg Heines into effective promoters of a new outlook within a greatly changed era. These people could no longer be defined as a tolerated or protected group of "Hoffaktoren". Hasselmeier refers to the constantly widening scope of their transactions. Joseph Heine's business travels carried him all over Europe. But there were also voices in some circles of the Court society and elsewhere which expressed fear and doubt, even asserting that the Heine bank no longer deserved the general public's confidence and trust. Indeed, the situation grew dangerous and tumbled into uncertainties and risks. Hasselmeier's report at this stage of Heine business affairs then gives Dr. Heinrich Schnee's account of the collapse and bankruptcy. The Heine firm was in liquidation. Their home in the Lange Strasse, now named the "Haus der Bankrotteure", had to be sold.

With this decline and fall, the Court tradition of the Heine family was not quite terminated. Joseph Heine's youngest son, Simon, a medical doctor by profession, was in 1828 appointed "Hofrat" (Privy Councillor) in Schaumburg-Lippe, and worked at the Court. In conclusion, Hasselmeier adds a few paragraphs about ancestor Isaac Heine's son, David Simon, who, after having made his way to Hannover, established—together with his son, Heymann Heine—the line of the Hannover Heines. They, too, were succeeding as privileged "Hofjuden", leading in international trade and finance, with numerous useful connections in almost every European country. The fact that they were also the ancestors of the poet Heinrich Heine makes their historical record still more illustrious.

Hasselmeier's chapter, within the purpose of his study, is the chronicle of the Bueckeburg Heine family as Court Jews. Yet—what happened to these people afterwards in their struggles and conflicts with the challenge of the emancipation epoch? Of course, old Bueckeburg was no longer the rallying point of their hopes and expectations. But they were the same stubborn, enterprising people, not easily overcome by setbacks. They dispersed over the entire region between Bielefeld, Paderborn, Muenster. Bearers of the name could be met in many places, in rural townlets, where they were living as modest traders, honoured citizens and as good Jews—until the disaster came in the 1930s.

Surely, some of the Bueckeburg family went abroad after the great closing-down at home. By chance, this writer learned of a certain Leopold Heine whose name was entered in the register of the Jewish community in Vienna (Israelitische Kultusgemeinde, Wien), Austria, with the remark that he was born in 1847 in Bueckeburg, Germany. But nothing else, not the slightest indication about his person, his occupation, his fate, is known. Only one date is recorded: in 1887, at the age of 40, he requested that his name be removed from the list of the Jewish community.

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## BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

### GABRIELE TERGIT 75

We send our very best greetings and wishes to Dr. Gabriele Tergit on the occasion of her 75th birthday on March 4. The usual word "congratulation" would be out of place in this case, for Mrs. Tergit recently lost her husband, the excellent architect, H. J. Reifenberg, after long suffering. His work, in particular for a number of old age homes, done with unusual insight into the needs of the occupants, will be known and gratefully remembered by a wide circle of our readers.

Gabriele Tergit's work as an author of distinction has not always found the recognition it deserves, and therefore a short survey might be welcome. She was very well known in Berlin in those years that are now often, and rather inaccurately, called the "Golden Years", although the gold, and all that it means, had disappeared entirely from the scene, and been replaced by paper. On that paper, however, Gabriele Tergit wrote with charm and energy. She was a highly esteemed contributor to the "Berliner Tageblatt" of Theodor Wolff, whose name has now been given to one of the higher-class annual prizes for outstanding journalistic work. There used to be very few prizes in those days, but there was a kind of *consensus omnium*—a much better thing, in our opinion—about literary work of merit, and Gabriele Tergit's highly illuminating and witty "Käsebierebert den Kurfürstendam", published by the then rising star in the publishing world, Ernst Rowohlt, was recognised as such, and, not the least distinction, widely read.

Her career as a writer was cut short by the events we all know. With her husband she first emigrated to Israel, or Palestine at the time, where she lived for a number of years, to settle down finally here in London.

A great novel "Die Effingers", a Jewish family saga, begun already before the Second World War and published only afterwards, has been slow in winning the recognition it deserves. It has been re-published recently and, we hope, will take its place in the slender line of books preserving the memory of a fateful chapter in the history of German Jewry. We may mention in this connection, that Gabriele Tergit deals with her subject not only as a writer, but also with the very solid training of the academic student of history under the auspices of her teacher, Friedrich Meinecke, the last of the now disappearing school of liberal, and truly liberal, historians in Germany. Her wide knowledge of cultural history has also benefited a number of smaller books such as "Kaiserkron und Pänien rot" and "Das Tulpenbüchlein"; these have found a large public, even in translation, and show her gift of the "light touch" blended with wider outlook and often surprising insight into the historical background of her subjects.

We should also mention the care Mrs. Tergit has devoted to her work as the secretary of the P.E.N. Club of German speaking Writers abroad, with the centre in London. Only recently, she edited a volume of autobiographical essays and sketches by the centre's members—again a document of a chapter which is nearing its close.

Mrs. Tergit, as we know, is working again on a new great novel, destined to be a sequence to her "Effingers" story, and we salute her energy and spirit with our best wishes for the future.

RICHARD FRIEDENTHAL.

### GUIDO KISCH 80

Despite the 80 years which he recently completed in Basle, Professor Guido Kisch has remained remarkably alert, active and, at times, also fond of travelling. The historian of law, who for a long time past has also substantially promoted research into Medieval legislation on Jewry, wrote at least 15 books and published more than 300 scholarly articles. His book on "Gestalten und Probleme aus Humanismus und Jurisprudenz—Neue Studien und Texte" was among last autumn's production of the publishers Walter de Gruyter (Berlin).

Kisch's most outspoken and visible side-line is Jewish history in general. For decades he has taken a special and profound interest in the history of the Jews in German-speaking countries and in Czechoslovakia, and in bibliographical compilations connected therewith. He belonged to the team of scholars who, until November, 1938, edited the ZGJD, the *Zeitschrift für die Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland* (Berlin). He has been a Board Member of the New York branch of the Leo Baeck Institute since its inception.

A son of Professor A. Kisch, the Prague rabbi and scholar, Guido Kisch studied law, economics and history in his native town. He was a lecturer in Leipzig until 1919, became a full professor in Königsberg/Prussia, and from 1922-1933 taught in a similar capacity at Halle/Saale. When he had to leave Germany, he worked as a research professor at the Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. After the Second World War he was frequently a visiting professor, primarily at Swedish, Dutch and Swiss universities. He finally settled in Basle, because over the years his links with the ancient university of that town had become intimately close.

E. G. LOWENTHAL.

## Old Acquaintances

**27 Years Later:** Carola Neher died on June 26, 1942, in a Russian prison. It is only now that the existence of her one son has been discovered. He is a composer and music teacher living in Odessa under the name of Anatolowitsch Bekker. His mother who was the actress and widow of Klabund, was born in 1900 in Munich. Her second husband was the Communist, Anatol Bekker, whom she followed to Moscow in 1933. Five years later the couple were arrested and accused of spying for Trotsky. Anatol was executed in 1937 and Carola was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. Their son grew up as a Russian, speaking only Russian. Until recently he knew nothing of his parents. Margarete Buber-Neumann was the last person who saw Carola Neher, and 76-year-old Erich Wollenberg confirms the story.

**Austria:** Gustav Manker has succeeded the late Leon Epp as director of Vienna's Volkstheater.—Attila Hoerbiger will appear in Brecht's "Puntilla" at the Burg.—Gina Kaus, who lives in Hollywood, adapted Jean Kerr's "Armer Richard" for Vienna's Konzerthaus-Theater.—Paula Wessely and Sebastian Fischer are to appear in Eugene O'Neill's "Alle Reichtuemer dieser Erde"; Boy Gobert will direct "Lady Windermere's Fan" at the Burg.—Leopold Lindtberg will produce "Jedermann" in Salzburg this year.—Fritz Kortner is to produce Lessing's "Emilia Galotti".

**Behind the Wall:** In East Berlin Wolfgang Heinz has been responsible for the production of the 50th anniversary celebration of the foundation of the K.P.D. (Communist Party in Germany). Ernst Busch sang all the old songs of the movement.—Walter Felsenstein's 25th production is Prokofieff's "Liebe zu drei Orangen".

**Milestones:** Opera singer, Hans Hotter, has celebrated his 60th birthday.—Breitkopf & Haertel, the music publishing company, celebrates its 250th anniversary.—Twenty years ago Brecht's "Berliner Ensemble" was launched in East Berlin with the production of "Mother Courage".

**Germany:** Detlef Sierck will direct Tennessee Williams' "Koenigreich auf Erden" at Hamburg's Thalia.—Carl Ebert's son, Peter, will produce Lehar's "Merry Widow" in Augsburg.—Annemarie Hase gave a solo performance for the Berlin Jewish Community.—Grete Mosheim appears in "Arsenic and Old Lace" in Munich.—H. J. Rehfish's "Oberst Chabert" will be revived at Hamburg's Kammerspiele.

**Obituary:** Franz Theodor Csokor, president of the Austrian P.E.N. Club, playwright and grand old man of Austrian letters, died in Vienna at the age of 84. He survived the war in Yugoslavia.—82-year-old Betty Fischer, co-star of the late Hubert Marischka, who also starred in numerous operettas by Oskar Straus, Lehar, Fall, Kalman and Stolz, has died in Vienna.—Marina, the 17-year-old daughter of author Hans Habe, was murdered in Beverly Hills.

**Home News:** Ken Adam is the art designer for the forthcoming "Peter Pan" film which will star Mia Farrow.—Rudolph Cartier produced "These Men are Dangerous" for BBC-2. TV.—Michael Sarne, whose real name is Scheuer, has scripted and directed his first full length film "Joanna"; his parents were refugees.—Billy Wilder came to London from Hollywood to direct his new film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes".—Irene Prador will appear in a new television series.

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## SHE WAS WITH US, YET FAR AWAY . . .

### Else Lasker-Schueler Centenary

One day early in the nineteen-forties my friend Hans and I met her at the main post office. Else Lasker-Schueler looked as white as a sheet, her usually brilliant eyes were dull and she appeared to be about to faint. Although she normally declined assistance, even that offered her by friends, this time she willingly allowed herself to be escorted across the road and fortified with a cup of coffee in a restaurant. As soon as she had recovered her strength somewhat, she attempted to apologise with an embarrassed smile: "The flesh is weak, but the heart is young."

Regretfully, it was no longer so young. A few years later, early in 1945, she was to be taken from us shortly before her 76th birthday.

Else Lasker-Schueler came to Jerusalem from Switzerland in 1939. At first she lived in a small and simple hotel in the city centre, but later moved to a furnished room farther out. She had always felt at home in heavenly Jerusalem. Even in Berlin early in the nineteen-twenties, when congratulating my friend on his engagement, she made him swear "by Zion" that he loved the girl. . . .

Soon after settling down here in this terrestrial Jerusalem—in so far as such a restless soul could ever be said to settle down—she built up a new dream world for herself, a world in which she would reconcile Jews and Arabs by opening communal fun fairs and children's playgrounds, where bedrooms and bathrooms would be supplied for all the poor children of the city, both Jewish and Arab, and benches provided. Her programme, which she developed in endless conversations and was found written down after her death, also demanded more food for the children (Point 6 of the programme ran: "As long as a single child still hungers, God renounces every synagogue"), more care for pack-donkeys ("One should speak to influential Arab priests") and chest examinations for young newspaper vendors.

Yet the piercing black eyes saw far beyond the paradise of primitive shapes and colours that her imagination conjured up and which she described in childlike words. The small figure absentmindedly hurrying through the streets of Jerusalem, clad in a somewhat odd array of garments, with huge earrings encompassing her round face under the invariable black fur hat, formed a striking contrast to the normal daily routine of the city. Whenever she stopped, grateful to anyone who would listen, wonderful ideas would sometimes emerge from her unbelievably naïve utterances. And if a poem was conceived at a café table or, more rarely, in the furnished loneliness of her inhospitable room, it was occasionally one which, like others produced earlier in Germany and Switzerland, will appear together with those of Goethe and Hoelderlin in German readers and anthologies for centuries to come.

From time to time Else Lasker-Schueler took on a really concrete piece of work. This was when she was preparing and making arrangements for the "Kraal", a discussion and lecture group which she had founded. She was then completely changed, enlisting lecturers, conducting the necessary negotiations with those in charge of suitable meeting-places, usually classrooms, but also clubrooms or synagogue halls, writing out the invitations

and sending them off. On the evening itself she would sit at the cash-desk herself, before self-confidently taking the chair. The "cash-desk" was part of the décor and was, indeed, much more important to her than the amount of money collected, which could hardly have covered the costs.

She could manage to persuade anyone to lecture; no one liked to hurt her by refusing. Speakers at the "Kraal" included Professor Ernst Simon (once on Martin Buber and then on the significance of the prophet Jeremiah), the historians, Dr. Alexander Bein and Dr. Ismar Freund, writers such as Werner Kraft, Gerson Stern and Shalom Ben-Chorin, and leaders of the internal Jewish administration like Dr. Georg Landauer. Once the "Kraal" issued invitations to a "living newspaper." Else Lasker-Schueler announced that the contributors would include herself, Rabbi Dr. Kurt Wilhelm and several Jerusalem journalists; my name was also on the invitation card. Two days after the meeting I received the following polite postcard: "Der Kraal dankt sehr herzlich fuer den Spoken Beitrag, Lieber Adon (and Geverett). Greetings der Indianer vom Kraal am River." Like this letter of thanks, the invitations were also always written in a strange mixture of German, English and Hebrew (in Latin characters).

A most memorable date for many of her Jerusalem friends was July 20, 1941, when she gave readings from the manuscript of her recently completed play, "Ich und Ich". It is probably impossible to perform this work, since in the main it is a surrealist reflection of the visions of the poetess. Yet it has considerable value as dramatic reading and as an autobiographical document.

"Ich und Ich" makes use of certain Faust motives. Its first scene is set on an open-air stage erected before David's Tower in Jerusalem. The great kings of Israel and Judah are seated in one of the boxes, and another we see Max Reinhardt specially summoned from Hollywood for the performance—an opening that, together with the prologue, is reminiscent of the "Prelude in the Theatre" in Faust. Most of the play itself takes place in Jerusalem and during its course we meet several contemporary well-known figures from that city. The second part of "Ich und Ich" is located in Hell, where Hitler, encased in barbed wire, Goering and other Nazi leaders have attempted an invasion with the rest of their army. At last happens before the Devil capitulates to God, and Hitler and his company sink into the sea of lava. Prophetically the poetess foretells—four years before the actual end of the "Fuehrer" in the Chancellery Bunker: "Er hinterlaesst nicht Asche, nicht das kleinste Haeufchen Schutt! Es folgt ein unerloester Tod dem Antichrist und Antijud".

After this reading Else Lasker-Schueler remained with us—and far from us, for

another four years. Towards the end she rarely lived in the world of reality. In the worst period of the Second World War she sent a note to Heinz Gerling, the secretary of the Association of Jewish Immigrants from Germany, asking him to arrange for the Allies to stop bombing the Ruhr, especially Wuppertal, her home town, to which she had regularly been sending money as long as possible for the upkeep of her parents' graves.

During the war years, when postal communication between Palestine and countries beyond the Mediterranean was virtually severed and writers could hardly depend on receiving royalties from abroad, understanding friends raised funds to provide Else Lasker-Schueler with an adequate income. She often gave the money to those in need—those who appeared to her to be in need. But this was just as much part of her nature as her inclination to buy "glittering baubles," which, as with the Prince of Thebes, in her eyes seemed like valuable jewels. Although in the end the money was paid out to her in weekly instalments, she scorned any suggestion that it should be used more sensibly than her own fanciful ideas found proper.

Else Lasker-Schueler suffered an attack of angina pectoris early in 1945 and was removed to the Hadassah Hospital which was then still on Mount Scopus to the east of Jerusalem. After several days of suffering she died on January 22. It was not a long journey to her last resting-place—which was not to be a place of rest. Many friends accompanied her. In the last days of fear and spiritual anguish she had found solace and comfort in the goodness of Rabbi Dr. Wilhelm and it was he who declaimed in German the poem she had composed here: "Ich weiss, dass ich bald sterben muss." The poets, Shmuel Yoseph Agnon and Gerson Stern, recited the Kaddish. Later on Leopold Krakauer, the painter and architect, whom she greatly admired, carved a headstone for her grave from a rock taken from the Judaeon wilderness. It bore nothing but the name, "Else Lasker-Schueler", incised in Hebrew lettering.

For two decades, until the Six-Day War, the age-old cemetery on the Mount of Olives was cut off from the Jewish western part of the city. When the Jordanian administration came to an end and the Jews were able to return, they found hundreds of gravestones destroyed and the cemetery traversed by a broad motor-road that shortened the old highway to Jericho and Amman by several kilometres. With the aid of maps and descriptions the Jewish cemetery authorities worked for many months to locate and replace the gravestones and one day they also found the roseate glowing stone bearing the name of Else Lasker-Schueler. Apparently it had been tossed by a bulldozer on to the southern bank of the new motor-road and lay half-embedded in earth and covered with weeds, but practically unharmed. The grave itself could no longer be found. Perhaps it lay beneath the road surface itself or under the embankment raised in the course of its construction. . . .

Else Lasker-Schueler's literary remains are in Jerusalem in the professional care of her duly appointed executor, the writer Manfred Sturmann. An archive has been dedicated to her memory, including both her literary remains and all the posthumous publications about the poetess. As is only natural this archive has already become a centre for research on Lasker-Schueler and has stimulated the interest, amongst others, of various young German students of Germanistics who have used the authoress as the subject of their doctoral theses.

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# ABSCHIED VON FRITZI MASSARY

## Einmalig und Unvergesslich

Zum letzten Mal stand Fritzi Massary 1938 im Londoner "His (jetzt "Her") Majesty's Theatre" in "Operetta", die Noel Coward eigens fuer sie geschrieben und komponiert hatte, auf einer Buehne. Dann trat sie endgueltig ab und zog sich nach Kalifornien zurueck. Dort ist sie vor einem Monat nach einem Fall in ihrem Heim im Alter von 87 Jahren gestorben. Ihre Programme, Kostueme, Bouquet-Schleifen, Kritiken und Andenken liegen irgendwo in Koffern im Tessin. Jedes Jahre flog sie nach Bad Wiessee, wo sie sich mit ihrer einzigen Tochter Liesel traf.

Wie Unrecht haben wir ihr getan, wenn wir schon in den zwanziger Jahren ueber ihr Alter Witze machten; denn die Massary war ja damals erst Anfang Vierzig. Sie war blutjung, als sie 1902 im Berliner "Metropol Theater" (Direktion Richard Schultz) debutierte. Schultz hatte sie im Wiener "Ronacher" in "Venedig in Wien" den Schlager "Ich hab einmal ein Raescherl g'habt" singen gehoert und sie sofort engagiert. 200,000 Goldmark investierte man in Viktor Hollaender's "Herren vom Maxim"; ihr Hauptcharakter war "Im Liebesfalle—da sind sie alle—ein bischen tralala, . . .". Ueber Nacht eroberte sich die Massary Berlin und startete eine ganz neue Mode. Sie loeste den Typ der "Gibson Girls" ab und stellte auf der Buehne keine Halbwelt-sondern eine richtige Dame dar. Eigentlich war sie nicht schoen und ihr Singen konnte man auch nicht grossartig nennen. Aber sie war eine Persoenlichkeit mit dem "je ne sais quoi", stand weit ueber dem Unfug der Operettenhandlungen und zauberte

Champagner mit einem Augenaufschlag und einem Achselzucken im Theater. Unvergesslich und unnachahmlich, wie die Massary eine grosse Treppe hinunter zu gehen pflegte.

### "Auf ins Metropol"

Gardeoffiziere durften nur in Zivil ins "Metropol" und der deutsche Kronprinz bekam einmal Stubenarrest, als sein Vater erfuhr, er sei in der Behrenstrasse gesehen worden. Jede Premiere war ein Ereignis, dem "tout Berlin" beiwohnen wollte. Die Revuen, die Viktor Hollaender unter Titeln wie "Neustes Allerneustes", "Auf ins Metropol" oder "Der Teufel lacht dazu" schrieb, waren hochaktuell und funkelten mit Anspielungen auf das ewige Pech des Grafen Zeppelin oder das staendige Buddeln auf den Berliner Strassen. Fritzi Massarys Partner war gewoehnlich Josef Giampietro, der vorher bei Max Reinhardt im "Nachtasyl" gespielt hatte und im Frack oder Uniform gleichermaßen unwiderstehlich wirkte. Die komischen Rollen spielte der quecksilbrige Guido Tielscher, der um die Jahrhundertwende Berlin mit dem Gassenhauer "Haben Sie nicht den kleinen Cohn gesehen" elektrisierte. 1911 gastierte die Massary in Muenchen in einer Rokoko-Operette von Latouche, in der auch Max Pallenberg mitwirkte. Sie verliebten sich, konnten aber erst sieben Jahre spaeter heiraten, weil der hinreissende Komiker erst geschieden werden musste.

Jean Gilberts "Kinokoeningin" ist wohl die erste Operette gewesen, in der ich sie sah;

Giampietro sang "In der Nacht, in der Nacht, wenn die Liebe erwacht". Leo Falls "Madame Pompadour" (mit Ralph Artur Roberts, Eduard Lichtenstein, Emmy Sturm, Hilde Woerner und Erich Haskel), "Die Perlen der Kleopatra" und wie all die Massary-Erfolge dieser Jahre hiessen, wurden eigens fuer sie geschrieben. Eine Zigarette wurde nach ihr benannt und Pallenberg ohrfeigte den Feuilletonchef des "Berliner Tageblatt", Fred Hildenbrandt, der etwas Haessliches ueber Fritzi geschrieben hatte. Als das glueckliche Ehepaar einen Teil seines Vermoegens beim Zusammenbruch der Amstel-Bank verlor, nahm ganz Berlin daran Anteil.

Zur rechten Zeit wechselte die Massary dann ins andere Fach ueber. Ihr Schwiegersohn Bruno Frank uebersetzte die "Erste Mrs. Selby" fuer sie und schrieb ihr mit "Nina" einen Bombenrolle ohne Musik. Das Publikum lag ihr weiterhin zu Fuessen. Zum letzten Mal stand sie in Oskar Straus' "Eine Frau, die weiss, was sie will" auf der Buehne, erst in Berlin und dann in Wien. Es war eine Mutterrolle und Ellen Schwannicke war ihre Tochter. Dann geschah das Entsetzliche: Max Pallenberg, ihr geliebter "Bulli", kam bei einem Flugzeugunglueck in der Tschechoslowakei ums Leben und eine Welt brach fuer Fritzi Massary zusammen. Nun war Alles verloren und ihr blieb nur die Tochter Liesel, die mit ihr nach Hollywood ging.

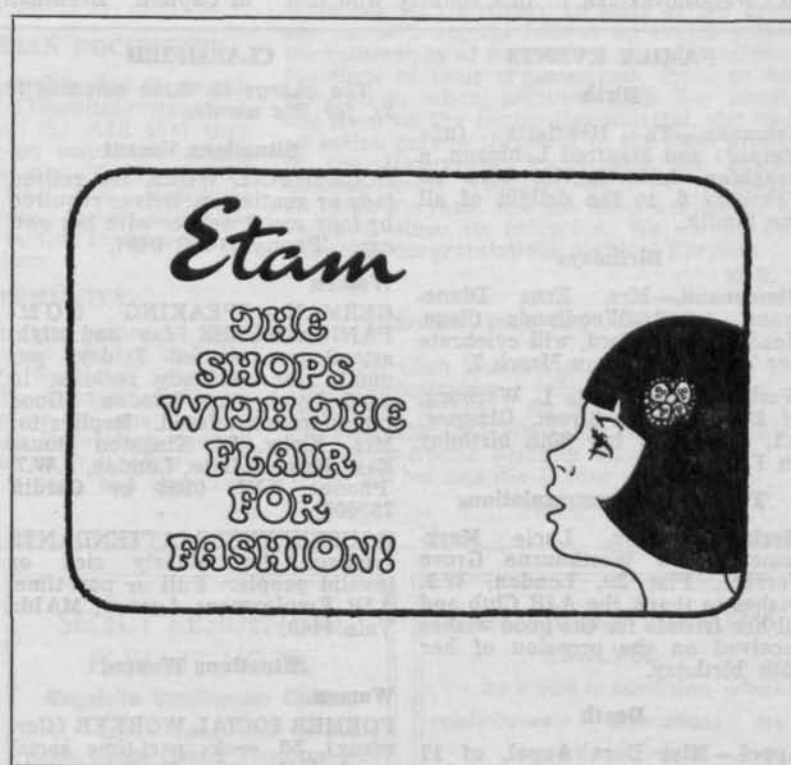
Das deutsche Fernsehen hat vor ein paar Jahren ein Interview mit der Massary gebracht, und Leute, die es gesehen haben, berichten, die einmalige Persoenlichkeit dieser wunderbaren Kuenstlerin waere auch im Alter unveraendert zu erkennen gewesen. Mit ihr ist ein halbes Jahrhundert unserer Vergangenheit dahingegangen.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### KURT SCHWARZ

Mr. Kurt Schwarz, who died in London on February 4, was before the war deputy editor of the "Prager Boersen-Kurier", one of the best-known economic weeklies in Central Europe.

After his arrival in this country, following the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939, he created an organisation of industrialists and businessmen who had also immigrated to England from Czechoslovakia. This organisation developed into the British-Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce. Schwarz became its secretary and remained in this position until the Chamber was dissolved after the Communist coup in 1948. The object of the organisation was twofold: On the one hand to give assistance to Czechoslovak emigrants who had set up businesses in this country, and on the other to prepare for the re-establishment after the war of trade relations between the U.K. and Czechoslovakia. In the latter function Mr. Schwarz co-operated closely with the Benes Government after its establishment in this country.

When, in 1942, the Relief Committee of Jews from Czechoslovakia was formed in London, he was one of its founder-members. Later he became the Chairman of the Committee, an office which he held until his death. He also represented the Czechoslovak Jews in various other charitable organisations such as Self Aid and the Allocations Committee of the Central British Fund. When, after the events of August, 1968, a new wave of emigrants from Czechoslovakia arrived in this country, he co-operated closely with the organisations which undertook to give them assistance.

Mr. Schwarz also gained special merits by establishing after the war an organisation of ex-Czechoslovakians in this country who had

been hit by the Czechoslovak measures of nationalisation and expropriation, and his contribution to the preparatory steps which eventually led to the British-Czechoslovak Compensation Agreement of 1948 was of considerable importance.

Countless ex-Czechoslovakians who suffered persecution and material damage are deeply indebted to Mr. Schwarz for his unflinching efforts on their behalf.

R.H.

### DR. FRITZ ARNHOLZ

PROF. WALTER PAGEL and PROF. SIEGFRIED STEIN write:

Dr. Fritz Arnholz, who died recently after an illness borne with great fortitude, was a well-known and much-beloved medical practitioner in South-West London. He was born in Berlin in 1897, the son of Joseph Arnholz, who was for many years director of the family concern, the grain and banking merchants Preuss and Riegner, and a cousin of Professor Hugo Preuss. After completion of his studies, a thesis *Ueber das Erysipeloid*, earned him the special recommendation of Professor Rosenstein, the internationally renowned surgeon of the Berlin Jewish Hospital.

Dr. Arnholz opened a general practice in the Skalitser Strasse which he held for some 15 years. In the dark period before the outbreak of the Second World War he also acted as medical adviser to the Zionist Aliyah Department, a task to which he gave the full warmth of his personality. When he came to this country in 1939 he first worked as a house physician at various hospitals. Later he served with the Royal Medical Corps which he left after the end of hostilities with the rank of Captain. Eventually he established a prac-

tice of his own in Fulham, where his dedication to his profession, his innate humanity and, perhaps not least, his extraordinarily fine and unobtrusive sense of humour, helped to relieve the sorrow and pain of many of his patients.

The companions of his leisure were the great works of literature. He was also a pianist of professional standard and excelled himself as an interpreter of engravings, notably those of Hogarth and his predecessors. His memories of his earlier personal contacts with Heinrich Zille, who might well be described as a latter-day Hogarth, formed an inexhaustible treasure, which only he, the student and lover of man, could have been privileged to experience.

His was a stoic Jewishness or, if the reverse order is preferable, a Jewish stoicism, taking a genuine and completely unaffected delight in all noble aspects of the spiritual life and, at the same time, readily and gently accepting the inevitable: the load of human suffering and the finiteness of our existence. The assessment of, and the distinction between, the two facets of his inner life is very difficult indeed. Yet it is certain that the spark of legacy of three thousand years kept on glimmering within him. As a student he joined the Zionist Movement and became an active member of the Juedische Volkshem. Later on he took up the study of Hebrew seriously and published some translations from the Machzor and also from Bialik and Agnon. They appeared in the admirable "Quellenhefte" on Jewish festivals, sponsored by the Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland in 1937 and 1938. Right to the end he retained an inscrutably deep attachment for Jewish things.

The exemplary nobility of his character will always stay in the memory of his friends in this country, in Israel and in the United States. Our warmest sympathy goes out to his wife.

### FAMILY EVENTS

#### Birth

**Lehmann.**—To Henrietta (née Steiner) and Manfred Lehmann, a daughter, Julia Ingrid, born on February 6, to the delight of all the family.

#### Birthdays

**Dienemann.**—Mrs. Erna Dienemann, of 3 Woodlands Close, Headington, Oxford, will celebrate her 70th birthday on March 7.

**Warburg.**—Mrs. Lotte L. Warburg, of 258 Kenmuir Street, Glasgow, S.1, celebrated her 80th birthday on February 5.

#### Thanks for Congratulations

**Merksamer.**—Mrs. Lucie Merksamer, of 6 Westbourne Grove Terrace, Flat 29, London, W.2, wishes to thank the AJR Club and all her friends for the good wishes received on the occasion of her 75th birthday.

#### Death

**Appel.**—Miss Dora Appel, of 17 Queens Court, Hampstead Way, London, N.W.11, passed away peacefully on February 5. Deeply mourned by her sisters, relatives and friends.

**Auerbach.**—Dr. Jacob Auerbach, of 35 Belsize Avenue, London, N.W.3, died on February 14 after 54 years of happy marriage. A beloved father and grandfather.

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### Piano Wanted

**WOULD ANY READER** be willing to donate an upright piano in reasonably good condition for the use of residents of a Jewish After-care Home? Please reply to the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, marking correspondence "Piano."

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**WIDOW**, Continental, middle forties, tall, attractive, independent, wishes to meet kind gentleman. Object matrimony. Box O22.

**WIDOW** would like to meet gentleman, aged between 60 and 70, independent. Object companionship/matrimony. Box O26.

**LADY**, early fifties, well educated, attractive, comfortable home, independent means, would like to meet Continental gentleman 55-65. Object companionship/matrimony. Box O28.

**WIDOW**, independent, with many interests, wishes to meet cultured gentleman in good financial circumstances, under 65. Object companionship/matrimony. Box O23.

## ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

### FLATLET HOME SCHEME

#### Submission of Applications

As readers will have seen from the front page article of this issue, it is hoped that the Flatlet Home at Avenue Road, Highgate, will be ready in autumn. All persons who in the course of the past years had applied for admission, were contacted by the AJR Office a few weeks ago and requested to complete and return a questionnaire in case they are still interested in the scheme. Applicants who have not received the questionnaire because they have meanwhile changed their addresses and persons who so far have not registered their applications should write to the AJR Office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, now and ask for questionnaires (stamped and addressed envelope to be enclosed). The applications whose number will in any case, considerably exceed the number of flats available, will be scrutinised in due course and those applicants whose cases appear urgent will be asked to an interview. The procedure will unavoidably take some time. The ultimate decision will not be made dependent on the date on which the application was received but on the degree of urgency. For the reasons explained in the front page article it is not yet possible to assess the rentals to be charged.

### NEW LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION BAZAAR

#### Donation to AJR

As on several previous occasions, the New Liberal Jewish Congregation donated 25 guineas to the Welfare Department of the AJR out of the takings of its latest Chanukah Bazaar. This gift is greatly welcomed indeed, not only because of its practical value but also as an expression of the appreciation of the AJR's activities for the benefit of those under the care of its welfare department.

### JEWISH WELFARE WEEK

#### Address by Minister of Health

The Jewish Welfare Board will promote a "Jewish Welfare Week" during the period March 21-28. The purpose of "Welfare Week" is to publicise as widely as possible the importance of the social services provided by voluntary organisations for the benefit of the Jewish community. The first major event will be a public meeting on Monday, March 24, at 8.15 p.m., when Mr. David Ennals, M.P., Minister of State for Health, will speak on "The Role of the Voluntary Organisation in the Welfare State". Admission tickets (free of charge) and further particulars about "Welfare Week" may be obtained from the Jewish Welfare Board, 74a Charlotte Street, London, W1P 2AH (Tel.: 636 1644).

### MEETING WITH MR. MARTIN HIRSCH, M.d.B.

On the occasion of his recent visit to London, Rechtsanwalt Martin Hirsch, member of the Federal German Parliament, gave representatives of the Council of Jews from Germany the opportunity of discussing with him current questions of restitution and compensation. Herr Hirsch was chairman of the now defunct Parliamentary Committee on Restitution and is now deputy chairman of the Parliamentary "Kriegsfolgenausschuss" whose terms of reference also include questions of restitution. Dr. Walter Breslauer (Vice-President of the Council) presided over the informal gathering and welcomed Herr Hirsch as a staunch and expert fighter for the interests of the victims of Nazi persecution. In the course of the discussion, Herr Hirsch stated that a new Implementary Order to the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG) would be promulgated shortly by which the annuities under that law would be increased retroactively from July 1, 1968, and that a further increase was to be expected from July 1, 1969 onwards. The investigation of the allegedly wrong calculation on which the "Tabellen" of the BEG annuities are based, is still going on, he said, and a decision by the Supreme Federal Court is not to be expected before 1970. Herr Hirsch also reported that a law ("Leistungsgesetz"), envisaging payments under the Equalisation of Burdens Law (Lastenausgleichsgesetz) for losses sustained in that part of the former Reich which is now the territory of the German Democratic Republic, was being prepared.

The main reason for Herr Hirsch's visit to London was a meeting under the auspices of the German Cultural Institute, at which he gave an address about the political situation in the Federal Republic. Dealing with the chances of the N.P.D. in this year's Federal elections he said that, even if the worst forecasts should prove right, the party would remain in such a minority that it could not exert an influence on the policy of the new parliament.

### APPEAL FOR AUSTRIAN DOCUMENTS

The "Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes" (Wipplingerstrasse 8, 1010 Vienna 1) informed the AJR that they intend to open a Museum commemorating the period of Nazi persecution. They would be grateful if readers who can contribute exhibits (documents, photos, letters and commemorative objects) pertaining to the persecution got in touch with them.

### VIENNA COMMUNITY

The League of Active Jews gained 14 seats in the Vienna Jewish community, and Dr. Ernst Felsberg has been re-elected president of the community. The League of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime lost one seat but retained five; the Jewish Federation (united Zionist parties) retained its four seats; Klal Israel (Orthodox) won a seat, and the Communists lost their seats.

### HEINRICH STAHL COMMEMORATED

#### Meeting in Berlin

To mark the centenary of the birth of Heinrich Stahl, the Berlin Jewish community held a memorial meeting at which the main address was given by Dr. Hans Lamm. The speaker gave a vivid picture of Stahl's outstanding personality. As Chairman of the Berlin Jewish community during the darkest period of its history, Heinrich Stahl voluntarily stayed with his fellow Jews though it would have been very easy for him to emigrate. He was deported to Theresienstadt where he met his death in 1942. His attitude to Judaism was shaped by a conservative rather than a liberal or even social revolutionary approach, Dr. Lamm said, and the aspirations of Zionism did not appeal to him. Dr. Lamm also dealt with Heinrich Stahl's outstanding professional achievements as a leading personality in the Victorian Insurance Combine. Tributes to Stahl's memory were also paid by Herr Heinz Englaender.

### FORMER RESIDENTS OF STETTIN

#### Information Required

The Central Office for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes is looking for particulars about proceedings by the Sondergericht in Stettin which on March 27, 1942, passed a death sentence on the Jewish merchant, Berthold Levy, for alleged "Rassenschande" and misuse of identity papers. The Investigation Office would particularly like to know the names of the adjudicating judges. As the trial took place after the outbreak of war, it is unlikely that details are known to our readers. However, any information which might be of indirect help should be sent to: Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen, 714 Ludwigsburg, German Federal Republic (Aktenzeichen VI 416 1173/68).

### MRS. CLARA FREYHAN 90

On March 16, Mrs. Clara Freyhan will celebrate her 90th birthday. In spite of her great age she still eagerly follows up events within the community of former refugees and attends functions of their organisations. Prior to her emigration, when together with her family she lived on the Berlin Hansaviertel, she took an active part in the work of the local groups of the Democratic Party and the Jewish Central-Verein. Together with her husband, Dr. Max Freyhan, she has been a member of the AJR since its inception. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Freyhan.

W.R.

### Glueckwunsch des AJR Club

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# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## IMMIGRATION

There are now several thousand settlers in Israel from Australia and New Zealand; 311 people emigrated to Israel from those countries in the last eight months of 1968. With the Jewish population of Australia and New Zealand at about 75,000, this means that the rate of emigration to Israel is three-and-a-half times of that from Britain and 14 times of that from the U.S.A.

The American Joint Distribution Committee and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (Hias) on the one hand, and the Jewish Agency on the other, have reached agreement that absolute priority shall be given to encouraging all Jewish refugees arriving in Austria to settle in Israel.

## SOVIET EMIGRANT

Mr. Pima Haim Mazur, a Soviet Jew who settled in Israel before the Six-Day War and then left for Europe in December, 1967, has returned to Israel with his wife and son. When Mr. Mazur first came to Israel from Kiev he was employed as an announcer on the Russian service of Kol Israel. Mr. Mazur said that, although he was provided with everything, he had missed his family terribly. He had criticised certain practices in the country, but never published his words abroad.

Seven months after first coming to Israel, he went to Vienna, where he was eventually reunited with his family. He said he had never asked to return to the Soviet Union.

## JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADERS MEET

One-hundred-and-sixty-eight Jewish communal organisation leaders from 44 organisations in 26 countries met in Jerusalem to confer on what their groups can do to assist the survival of the Jewish people and strengthen Israel. The British delegation included the Chief Rabbi, Dr. I. Jakobovits; the Haham, Dr. S. Gaon; the president of the Board of Deputies, Alderman Michael Fidler; Sir Barnett Janner, M.P.; and Sir Isaac Wolfson.

The conference agreed to impress on their members the vital need for emigration to Israel and for strengthening Jewish education at all levels. Education, regardless of ideological content, was to be given priority in the allocation of community welfare funds.

There was also agreement for organisations to do their utmost to counter Arab hostility by bringing the truth of Israel's earnest desire for peace to public attention.

## DEFINITION OF A JEW

Rabbi I. J. Unterman, the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, stated that any attempts to modify the definition that a Jew is a person born to a Jewish mother or one who has been converted to the faith according to the halacha, will be firmly resisted by Israel's Orthodox rabbis.

This stand was taken in advance of the Orthodox rabbinical emergency conference held in Jerusalem. The conference's aim was to consolidate Orthodox opinion against motives to amend the law, arising from the application by Lieutenant-Commander Benjamin Shavit to the Supreme Court to register his two young children as Jews by national group and of no religion.

In November the Supreme Court deferred a decision, the nine judges sitting in the case recommending the deletion of the "national group" entry on identity cards. This was rejected by the Cabinet.

The State, declared the conference, could not be allowed to adopt a definition of a Jew which differed from that of the rabbinate, as this would lead to "two nations" and would also impede the diaspora's struggle against assimilation.

## EX-LUFTWAFFE SERGEANT CONVERTED

Haifa's rabbinate has agreed to convert Herr Oscar Anton (Asher) Eder, a 43-year-old German citizen and former Luftwaffe sergeant who settled in Yokneam nine years ago. He applied for conversion a year ago, stating that he had been searching "for a true religion" in many parts of the world and, after years of living in Israel, he wished to be a Jew. In view of his earnestness, his study of Judaism which he practised meticulously, the rabbis at last agreed. Several people, including officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, testified to his sincerity.

Herr Eder was born in Nuremberg, joining the Hitler Youth at the age of 13 and later being drafted into the Luftwaffe.

## U.N. SCIENCE CENTRE

A £400,000 project has been approved by the governing council of the United Nations Development Programme, to help establish a National Science Teaching Centre in Israel, so that the most modern science teaching methods should always be available at all levels of education. The scheme will be directed by Unesco.

## HELP FROM SVETLANA

An undisclosed sum of money for the restoration of the Jewish quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem has been donated by Mrs. Svetlana Alliluyeva, the daughter of Stalin. Mr. Teddy Kollek, the capital's Mayor, when recently in America, was informed that Mrs. Alliluyeva wished to give part of her earnings from her book to the Mayor's fund for restoring the Jewish quarter. The money will be spent on refurbishing the ruins of a Crusader church.

## OBITUARY

### DR. S. H. STEINBERG

Dr. S. H. Steinberg, Editor of *The Statesman's Year-Book*, died on January 28, in his 70th year. He was born in Goslar and, from 1925 to 1933, was joint editor, together with Walter Goetz, of the *Propyläen-Weltgeschichte*. When he lost this position, he was invited by London University to become a research fellow at the Courtauld Institute. During the war he was, after his release from internment, first assistant master at Sedbergh School and later an English Liaison Officer with the London Branch of the American Office of War Information. In 1945, he became editor of *The Statesman's Year-Book* and concurrently assistant editor of *Chambers's Encyclopedia*.

### MRS. LUCY BORCHARD

Mrs. Lucy Borchard, who died in Hampstead at the age of 91, was until 1938 head of the Hamburg Fairplay Tug Company. From 1933 she devoted her great energies and resources to enable Jews to escape from Nazi Germany. She herself left in 1938 and, with her son, K. Borchard, founded the Fairplay Tug and Shipping Co., and Borchard Lines in London. She was a helpful friend to many of her fellow refugees and also lent her support to the AJR and other refugee organisations.

### COL. BYRON JACOBS

Colonel Byron Jacobs, O.B.E., who recently died at the age of 79, was for over 20 years the chairman of the Ex-Service (1943) Association, the organisation of refugees from Nazi oppression who volunteered for service in H.M. Forces during the Second World War. His association with the then technically "enemy alien" members of the British Forces started in December 1939, when he was posted from the Reserve to Richborough Camp, the training centre of the non-British pioneers.

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