

AJR

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Sir Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P.

JUDGEMENT ON NUREMBERG

An abyss of time seems to separate us from the terrible events which led to the setting up of the Nuremberg Tribunal in 1945. For some, those events are regarded as merely part of an historical past which should now be consigned to the limbo of things forgotten and best forgotten. I do not accept this view. It was vital that the record of those terrible events should be authoritatively made, and not forgotten. It is right that I should point out that whereas Allied prosecutions of Nazi war criminals ended in 1949, the Germans themselves continued the prosecution of the criminals. The pity is that judgements in these cases have not been given much wider publicity, so that the barbarities of Nazi rule may be more widely known and condemned.

The German tragedy was the extent of the success of the brutal suppression of the German opposition and the triumph of Nazi propaganda. As a result Germans of every profession, every occupation, became committed to Hitler's murderous cause. It was my painful experience at Nuremberg to discover that some of the worst villains in the dock — the scar-faced Kaltenbrunner; Hans Frank, the Butcher of Poland; Seyss-Inquart, the tyrant of the Low Countries, and others were themselves lawyers who had been educated at some of Germany's finest universities. From the poison of racial propaganda, when it is the only voice that is allowed to be heard, no profession, no class, no nation is immune. Indeed, it is my belief that the Nuremberg trial is of abiding value and significance because the terrible events which led to it were faithfully recorded for all time. That record remains as a warning for all time, not only of the evil of racial hatred but of the capacity of twentieth-century mass extermination of innocent men, women and children, when the communications media of press, publishing and broadcasting fall into totalitarian hands.

The magnitude of the trial reflected the magnitude of the crime that had to be examined. First, world war: in Europe over 10 million dead, soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians killed in battle; townships wrecked from my own constituency in West Ham to Stalingrad, farms and fields laid waste; then the appalling aftermath of the war, and the disease and hunger that spread. Secondly, genocide, a new word to describe a crime that goes back beyond Herod, but which lawyers before have never set out to punish — the deliberate attempt to destroy whole nations and races. Thirdly, mass murder — millions put to death in cold blood as a deliberate matter of State policy. The names of Auschwitz, Treblinka, Dachau, Buchenwald, Mauthausen, Maidanek, Oranienburg are names of shame in human history. Fourthly, slavery: seven million men, women and chil-

dren taken into slavery, starved, beaten and murdered. Finally, as I have said, the perversion of the German population, about whose conversion to Nazism Baldur von Schirach, who turned German youth into a pliant instrument, confessed at the trial: "It is my fault that I educated German youth for a man who committed murders a million-fold."

When all the criticisms of Nuremberg have been studied, the outstanding fact remains that the record of the trial is an answer for all time to the apologists of Nazism.

Critics have not been lacking who have called the trial judicial humbug. Sometimes these critics almost in the same voice commended the immediate shooting of the accused without trial. It would have been a poor start for the attempt, however tentative and however limited its success, to establish an ordered system of justice between the nations if the vital question of the guilt or innocence of the Nazi leaders had been decided by lynch law. Nuremberg was such an attempt, given international approval by no less than 23 nations. That the attempt has not yet succeeded is no fault of the trial or of the principles it so clearly propounded. For the first time in history, an International Court administered international criminal law. The theory that States only, and not individuals, are the subject of international law was refuted.

As the years went by, after the outbreak

of war in 1939, details of the Nazi outrages filtered increasingly through to London, where the governments in exile were centred. On January 13, 1942, the Declaration of St. James emanating from Inter-Allied Conferences on the Punishment of War Crimes, repudiated the idea that the Nazi atrocities could adequately be dealt with "by acts of vengeance on the part of the general public" and decided that "the sense of justice of the civilised world required that the signatory powers place among their principal war aims the punishment through channels of organised justice, of those guilty of or responsible for these crimes."

The following year the United Nations War Crimes Commission was set up in London. It collected the evidence and prepared for the trial of the accused. This was the momentous background of our Nuremberg endeavours.

One limitation on the scope of the trial confronted us at once. That was the doctrine of "military necessity". As a result of its application, aerial bombardment of population centres—from pre-war German attacks on Guernica and Barcelona, and the wartime raids on London, Coventry, Belgrade, Hamburg and Berlin, to Dresden, Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, were all excluded from criminality by the exigencies of warfare and the outcome of military pressures. None of these became the subject of proceedings.

The temptation, therefore, to say that war is war and everything goes, and that law has no part in it, is great. But the fact is that the existence of laws of war has imposed some restraints on armed forces. Mankind is better off with them than without them. Without them more hospitals would have been bombed, more of the millions of prisoners-of-war have been murdered.

The next category of crimes condemned at Nuremberg was crimes against humanity. These have been condemned by every civilised legal system. It is true that they had not previously been tried before an international court. But an international system which had no means of punishing the mass murders of Auschwitz would be a mockery. To contend that the murderers should go scot-free, because when they closed the doors on the gas-chambers no legal machinery for dealing with them had been set up, would make law the denial of justice. Bearing in mind the conditions prevailing in Germany in 1945, an international tribunal was the least objectionable solution. Humanity produces apologists for everything, even brutal racialism. No crime is too horrible, no perversion too grotesque for its defenders not to be found. Against them, Nuremberg provides—or should have provided—an imperishable fortification for every race everywhere.

I have said—should have provided. Looking back over the events of the last quarter of a century and at the events of today, I fear it is too much to claim that it did.

Continued on page 2, column 1

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

reminds members and friends of the

GENERAL MEETING

on Thursday, June 8, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House,

9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3

I

Reports on AJR Activities

Treasurer's Report

Election of Executive and Board

(The list of candidates submitted by the Executive was published in the previous issue)

II

Dr. Walter Schindler:

ORIGIN AND ENVIRONMENT

Psychological Aspects of the Jewish Refugee Problem

Non-members are not entitled to vote, but are welcome as guests at the meeting

JUDGEMENT ON NUREMBERG

Continued from page 1

The Nuremberg trial while it lasted was a successful co-operation between all the countries the Nazi Government had assailed. But even before it ended, the cracks in that edifice began to show.

The international formula began to wither away, but not at once. On December 10, 1946, the United Nations Assembly adopted a resolution which affirmed the principles of the Charter and the Judgement of the Nuremberg Tribunal. This, then, became part of International Law which every civilised nation is under a duty to respect and apply. I cannot emphasise this too strongly. It explains why, for instance, as Professor Telford Taylor has expressed it in his challenging book, "Nuremberg and Vietnam: An American Tragedy", in the United States, far from being forgotten, the Nuremberg trials are invoked today, not in connection with a war that is ancient history to everyone under 50, but as part of what he calls "the seething anguished debate over the war in Vietnam which is shaking our society to its foundations".

The matter was expressed with his customary forcefulness by Mr Justice Jackson in one of his addresses to the Nuremberg Tribunal: "While this law is first applied against German aggressors, if it is to serve any useful purpose it must condemn aggression by any other nations, including those which sit here now in judgement".

Today, if a World Ombudsman, a Recording Angel, were to ask the average Russian, American, Englishman, Pakistani, Indian, Chinese, Egyptian, Israeli, South African or Greek—if you were to examine the conduct of your Government since the war in the light of the principles which were applied to Germany at the Nuremberg Trials, would it emerge unscathed? No doubt the political historian will one day give us the answer: I doubt whether it will be reassuring.

Before Nuremberg, war crimes proceedings were usually taken against the small fry. At Nuremberg we identified the primary guilt of the top of both the military and civilian hierarchy. Later in 1949, in what was among the last of the War Crimes Trials in the British Zone, it became my duty to take part in the trial of Field-Marshal von Manstein. Despite the refusal of the Russians to assist in that trial, he was convicted on the strength of captured German documents, of neglecting his duty as a military commander to ensure the humane treatment of prisoners-of-war and of disregarding his duty as a military commander to ensure public order and safety within the area of his command. Military circles both here and elsewhere expressed grave

concern as to how such a verdict might affect them. I remain quite impenitent.

The Nuremberg Charter and Judgement did not contain any definition of "war of aggression", but acted on the principle that aggression is easier to recognise than to define and that on the proven facts it was easy to recognise aggressive war in the various Nazi invasions of European countries. It was indisputable that neither Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Greece nor the Soviet Union had attacked Germany. Applying aggression as a test of criminality it seemed clear where the blame lay. Nuremberg, however, left unresolved the question of how "aggressive war" should be defined. Whereas nature abhors a vacuum Foreign Offices apparently don't. This is what happened. The problem was examined during the 1951 Session of the Assembly of the U.N. It came to the momentous conclusion that it was both possible and desirable to achieve a definition of aggression by referring to "the elements which constitute it".

Failure by the U.N. to define aggressive war, after a series of inconclusive committees from 1953 until 1965, was also partly responsible for the failure to establish an international criminal court. That matter came before the General Assembly in December, 1950. A committee of 17 States was set up to consider it. It included the United Kingdom, India and Pakistan, Israel and Egypt. The committee met in 1951 and "formulated proposals regarding some of the more important questions to which the creation of an international criminal court gives rise". The record of the committee adds: "It did not wish to give their proposals any appearance of finality". Of that there was no serious risk.

The General Assembly of 1952 expressed to the committee its appreciation for its valuable work, then appointed another committee. This held 23 meetings in 1953. Incidentally, Pakistan did not send a representative. The U.N. report on the committee's deliberations records: "Some members expressed the conviction that, in the present stage of international relations and international organisations, any attempt to establish an international criminal jurisdiction would meet with unsurmountable obstacles. As an ultimate objective an international criminal court would be desirable, but its establishment at the present time would do more harm than good. The rigid maintenance of criminal justice was likely to endanger the maintenance of peace". Did the angels weep?

It was left to the General Assembly to decide what, if any, further steps should be

taken towards the establishment of an international criminal court. That was duly done in the 1954 General Assembly. Its decision was to postpone consideration of the question of an international criminal jurisdiction until, if you please, the General Assembly had taken up the report of the Special Committee on the question of defining aggression. The wheel had turned full circle. It was a certain means of killing the project. The fact is that the project was, and is, premature.

Until mankind creates a climate of world opinion in which war itself can be eliminated, an international criminal tribunal, with jurisdiction over all nations, cannot come into being. To pronounce this on a day when two half-starved peoples are killing, instead of feeding and clothing, each other, is a measure of how remote that eventual outcome is. It was not the outcome that those of us who laboured at Nuremberg a quarter of a century ago expected, though towards the end it was an outcome that we feared. Yet I have no regret that I spent a year of my life at Nuremberg helping to expose and punish the vile and cruel fomenters of hatred and violence between peoples and races. The lessons we spelled out were clear. Humanity ignores them at its peril.

From the 16th Noah Barou Memorial Lecture, given by the Rt. Hon. Sir Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P.; H.M. Attorney-General, 1964-1970; Member of British War Crimes Executive.

TAXATION OF PENSIONS

A Recent High Court Decision

Article IX of the Double Taxation Agreement between this country and Germany provides that pensions paid to United Kingdom residents "in respect of present or past services or work, out of public funds of the Federal Republic" shall be exempt from United Kingdom tax in cases where the recipient is a German national or holds dual nationality (British and German). Pensions paid to former officials of Jewish communal bodies in Germany are included in this category, but not German Social Insurance Pensions.

It was recently held by the High Court, in the case of *Oppenheimer v. Cattermole* that the Nazi decree of November, 1941, depriving German Jews resident outside Germany of their German nationality, could not be recognised as valid law in this country. The Court also considered other provisions of the German and British law relating to nationality and came to the conclusion that all such German Jews had retained German nationality. Those who had acquired British nationality by naturalisation, had dual nationality. The Public Servants Pensions paid in these cases were therefore exempt from U.K. tax.

It is understood that the Inland Revenue has appealed against the High Court decision and the matter will in due course come before the Court of Appeal whose judgement may be expected within four to six months. If any tax in respect of a German Public Pension is outstanding, or payable in July as second instalment, under assessments made for the year 1971/72, it is suggested to ask for deferment of payment by reference to the case of *Oppenheimer v. Cattermole*.

We will report further on this matter when the decision of the Court of Appeal is available.

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HOME NEWS

LORD JANNER 80

On June 20, Lord Janner, Grand Old Man of Anglo-Jewry, will celebrate his 80th birthday. His long-standing signal services in public and Jewish life have been widely recognised in many ways. After a successful career as a member of the House of Commons he was elevated to the peerage and made a Freeman of the City of Leicester, his former constituency.

Lord Janner's Jewish activities are mainly carried out under the auspices of the Board of Deputies, whose President he was from 1955-64. He is now Chairman of the Board's Foreign Affairs Committee, and in this capacity involved in the fight for underprivileged Jews in various countries. He attends to his onerous duties with the same devotion and energy with which he helped the victims of Nazi persecution in previous times. His compassion, understanding, experience and courage have been invaluable to Jews in this country, in Israel and many other parts of the world. We ourselves benefited from his qualities on many occasions. Whenever we approached him we could rely on his helpfulness. Numerous instances come to mind when he lent us his support. His assistance in getting the compensation payments exempted from taxation is only one of the many examples.

We have reason to assume that our feelings of friendship for him are reciprocated because he has repeatedly told us how much he appreciated the efforts of the AJR. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Lord Janner and wish him undiminished strength and vigour for many years to come.

"THANK-YOU, BRITAIN" FUND
LECTURE BROADCAST

The "Thank-You, Britain" Fund Lecture by Roy Jenkins on "British Foreign Policy Since 1945" (reported in last month's issue) was recorded by Radio 3 and broadcast on April 29. Introducing the lecture the announcer explained to the listeners that the fund had been raised as an expression of gratitude by refugees from Nazi persecution, who were admitted to this country.

The broadcast also included the opening remarks of the chairman of the lecture, Sir Isaiah Berlin, C.B.E., who told the audience that the fund had been established by people who were spared the fate of the Six Million on the Continent, and that the proceeds were used for the award of Fellowships and the arrangement of annual lectures on subjects pertinent to the welfare of Britain. Though the contributors to the "Thank-You, Britain" Fund had no ulterior motives when establishing the fund, it is certainly to be welcomed that the broadcast of the lecture helped to make their gesture known to the wider public.

FELLOW OF ROYAL SOCIETY

The list of newly-elected Fellows of the Royal Society, referred to in our last issue, also includes Professor Fritz Joseph Ursell, Beyer Professor of Applied Mathematics, in recognition of his contribution to the theory of water waves. Professor Ursell is a member of the AJR. We extend our heartiest congratulations to him.

REDUCED LONDON BUS FARES
FOR ELDERLY

Several London boroughs have introduced concessionary passes by virtue of which elderly people may at certain hours and days travel on London buses at reduced fares. The terms differ from borough to borough. In some boroughs persons are only eligible if they draw Old Age Pensions, in others it is sufficient that they have reached pensionable age, i.e., 65 (men) or 60 (women). Readers who wish to obtain further particulars are advised to get in touch with the Citizens' Advice Bureau or the town hall of their borough.

DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF "JEW"

Mr. Marcus Shloimovitz, of Manchester, has been conducting a one-man campaign for the past three years for the deletion of descriptions of the word "Jew" in Oxford dictionaries. At his request a writ has been issued against the Clarendon Press, which publishes the Oxford range of dictionaries, to prevent it from publishing "derogatory and defamatory" definitions of the word "Jew".

According to the writ, the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines "Jew" as "a person of Hebrew race, an Israelite, applied to a grasping or extortionate usurer, or a trader who drives hard bargains and deals craftily".

Mr. Shloimovitz said he asked for the injunction since his consistent approaches to the publishers have been unsuccessful. Such descriptions of the word were vicious and a deliberate misinterpretation of the faith and race of the Jews, he declared.

His campaign has been supported by politicians, Churchmen and legal experts. Mr. Edward Heath in 1969 described the definitions as historical relics which had passed out of the vernacular "and no doubt this should be reflected in dictionaries". The Archbishop of Canterbury has expressed "entire understanding" of Mr. Shloimovitz's "very natural distaste at these definitions", and Lord Salmon has "warmly agreed" with the attempt to eliminate "such offensive and vulgar definitions".

YOUNG LIBERALS PROTEST

A petition delivered to the Israel Embassy in London by the Union of Liberal Students accuses the Israeli Government of torturing prisoners and of the arbitrary deportations of Arabs. One of the signatories to the petition, which is part of the union's national campaign against Israel's treatment of prisoners, was Mr. David Steel, the Liberal Party's Chief Whip. He is the first leading member of the Liberal Party to associate himself publicly with such accusations, so far made only by the Young Liberals.

Mr. Steel has stated that he was not consulted about the inclusion of the petition in the students' campaign report on "alleged political prisoners in Israel" and that his signature could not, therefore, possibly be taken to approve of everything else in the report.

B.B.C. HITLER FILM

A B.B.C. documentary, "If Britain Fell", which has been the subject of controversy and opposition, will be shown on television later this year. German plans for the massacre of British Jews if Hitler had occupied this country will figure in the three-hour documentary. Part of the programme will deal with what happened to European Jewry, particularly to the Jews of Holland.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Endowments for Brain Research

Two gifts of £250,000 each have been made to the Brain Research Trust of the Institute of Neurology. The Miriam Marks Trust has established the Miriam Marks department of neuro-chemistry at the Institute, and the second gift, by Sir Michael Sobell, will be used to expand the department of neuro-physiology.

Princess Anne at Ravenswood

The new Annie Lawson School, part of a £300,000 development project at Ravenswood, the Jewish village for mentally handicapped children at Crowthorne, Berkshire, was opened by Princess Anne, Britain, she declared should be proud of Ravenswood Village for the pioneering work it is doing for mental health. The new building was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson, through the Variety Club of Great Britain.

Yvonne Mitchell opens Exhibition

At the nineteenth Jewish Child Art Exhibition, held at the Ben Uri Art Gallery, London, 250 paintings were exhibited. Miss Yvonne Mitchell, the actress, was a surprise judge at the exhibition, having offered to attend the opening after hearing about it during the Warsaw Ghetto memorial meeting for youth, which she attended earlier in the day. She described the paintings as "divine," "gay," "fresh" and "colourful".

Young Jews and Holocaust

Giving the address at the annual martyrs' memorial service at the South Manchester Synagogue, the Rev. Felix F. Carlebach accused young Israelis of tending to forget events in Jewish history, such as the Holocaust and the Warsaw Ghetto siege. The attitude of young sabras was "We would have died with our boots on—they couldn't have placed us against the wall". But, said Mr. Carlebach, the victims of the Holocaust gave their souls in the name of God.

Lady Shinwell

The new, 75-year-old bride of 87-year-old Lord Shinwell was formerly Mrs. Sarah Hurst, who has known Lord Shinwell for many years. She is the daughter of the late Mr. S. S. Stungo, J.P., one-time president of the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation. By her previous marriage she has two sons, one a farmer and the other, George Hurst, the well-known conductor.

Prof. E. J. Cohn Synagogue President

Professor Ernst J. Cohn was elected President of the North-Western Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens. He has been associated with the congregation since he came to this country and took a leading part in its development as a member of the Synagogue Council. Professor Cohn succeeds the late Professor Norman Bentwich.

Yiddish Writer 75

At a gathering at the Bernhard Baron Settlement, Aldgate, Friends of Yiddish celebrated the 75th birthday of the writer, Mr. A. N. Stencl, when his poems were read and his songs sung. Lady Henriques presented Mr. Stencl with a Plaque of Jerusalem, and the writer read his latest poem, "When You Become 75."

Birmingham Community's Decline

In the opinion of the Rev. Sidney Gold, chief minister of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, if the present decline in the vitality of Jewish life in Birmingham is permitted to continue, the very existence of the community may be called in question in 20 years' time. There was a steady drift away from the community, and Mr. Go'd felt that it was vital that a great effort should be made now before the trend became irreversible, to bring about a more active and more involved community.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

FORMER CHIEF RABBI OF EGYPT

Rabbi Haim Douek, the former Chief Rabbi of Egypt, who left Cairo quietly in March with a Spanish passport, is living in a modest hotel in the centre of Paris. He has no plans for the future. Before Israel's independence in 1948, Rabbi Douek ministered to the religious needs of a community of about 63,000, looking after the interests of his community also during the difficult years of the Arab-Israeli conflict since 1948. Today only about 400 Jews remain in Egypt.

In an exclusive interview with the Jewish Chronicle, Rabbi Douek paid tribute to France, Italy and Spain for issuing passports so that many hundreds of Jews could leave Egypt after the 1967 Six-Day War.

Rabbi Douek, interpreted through a son, said that except for some excited youths the Egyptian people were never aggressive towards the Jews in the days after the Six-Day War. By and large the highest Egyptian authorities were "correct" even in applying their anti-Jewish policies. Many people were interned during Israel's War of Independence in 1948, said Rabbi Douek. With the opening of the Six-Day War he confirmed that many Jews were arrested and were not allowed to receive visitors for five or six months. The official reason given for arresting the Jews was that it was done to protect them. Some were released in 1968 so that they could celebrate Passover and it was then that it was learned with horror, declared Rabbi Douek, of their terrible conditions in prison. They were beaten up and tortured and some of the cruelties inflicted were indescribable.

ANTISEMITISM IN ARGENTINA

A delegation from Daia, the representative organisation of Argentine Jewry, met Dr. Arturo Mor Roig, the Minister of the Interior, to express the community's deep concern at the extremist antisemitic campaign being conducted in all parts of the country. Dr. Mor Roig said the Government would watch the situation carefully and take action as necessary.

The delegation pointed out that the antisemitic campaign was mainly disseminated by Dr. Walter Beveraggi Allende, a university professor, under the guise of anti-Zionism.

Dr. Allende, one of the leading antisemitic agitators in Argentina, has formed a "National Anti-Zionist Command" and claims that "all social and economic sectors of our fatherland" are represented in the organisation. The professor also alleged that there is a secret Jewish plot to foment disruption in the country with the aim of setting up a Jewish State in the provinces.

HISTORIC SPANISH SEDER

In Torremolinos about 80 visitors from Britain and Ireland this year celebrated what is claimed to be the first communal seder in southern Spain since the expulsion of the Jews in 1492. Malaga and Marbella Jewish community leaders joined in. Rabbi Abraham B. Toledano acclaiming the service as heralding the rebirth of Jewish life in southern Spain.

It was suggested that a commemorative tablet recording this year's historic Passover services be installed in the synagogue, later to be transferred to a larger synagogue and Talmud Torah to be built on land donated by a member of the congregation. Nearly £400 was collected at the service as a contribution towards the new synagogue.

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

are held regularly on the Eve of Sabbath and Festivals at 6.30 p.m. and on the day at 11 a.m.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

INDIAN HONOURS

Major-General Joseph Samson of the Indian Army, who is a member of Bene Israel, has received the Param Vishist Seva Medal, equivalent to the British CB (Companion of the Bath). This award was also recently given to Major-General "Jake" Jacob, the Chief of Staff of the Indian Army operating in East Pakistan.

Rear-Admiral B.A. Samson was the commander of the Indian Navy before he was appointed chairman and managing director of the State-owned Mazagon dock in Bombay, one of the few profitable public undertakings in the country. He has now been elected president of the Indian Engineering Association, and is the first Jew associated with the public sector of the Indian economy to receive this honour. There is no relationship between the two Samsons.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Conference in Berlin

For the first time since the end of the war Berlin was the venue of an international Jewish conference. Delegates from twelve European countries, including Rumania and Yugoslavia, and representatives of the "Joint" and the World Union of Jewish Students, met in that city under the auspices of the "European Council of Jewish Community Services", for an exchange of views and experiences between European Jewish communities, many of which had ceased to function under the Nazi occupation and were only re-established after the war. The 24 delegates discussed the preparation of a large conference to be held in Paris in November, to which about 400 representatives from 18 European countries will be invited. On the occasion of the meeting they were the luncheon guests of Berlin's First Mayor, Klaus Schuetz.

FORMER EICHMANN AIDES SENTENCED

Franz Novak, former aide of Adolf Eichmann, was sentenced at his fourth trial in Austria to seven years' hard labour for organising the transport in 1944 of more than 400,000 Jewish men, women and children from Hungary to Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, where most of them were murdered. Novak, who is not in custody, is appealing. The Austrian Supreme Court ordered a retrial after each of the previous proceedings in 1964, 1966 and 1969.

Another former assistant of Eichmann, ex-SS Major Friedrich Bosshammer, was in West Berlin sentenced to life imprisonment for taking part in the deportation of about 3,300 Italian Jews during the war, later murdered in Auschwitz.

BELSEN DESECRATION

The memorial site at the former Bergen-Belsen Nazi concentration camp near Hanover has been desecrated. The Jewish memorial, the international memorial and the sandstone wall at the site were painted with anti-Jewish slogans. Written in German they declared "We will have peace only when the Jewish pack is expelled from Germany". Wreaths laid on the memorials were also removed and burnt.

FANNY HENSEL EXHIBITION IN BERLIN

To mark the 125th anniversary of the death of Fanny Hensel, the sister of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, an exhibition was held in the Mendelssohn Archives of the State Library in Berlin-Dahlem. Some of the exhibits were shown for the first time, among them numerous compositions of this gifted, versatile woman, parts of her diary, letters and a poem dedicated to Goethe.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

JEWRY IN THE EAST

MOSCOW COMMUNITY CHAIRMAN SACKED

Mr. Shulem Royzen, the chairman of the Moscow religious community who was appointed only a few months ago, has been dismissed from his post. It is reported that his dismissal may be a result of his having allowed a ceremony commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising to take place in Moscow's central synagogue.

His successor is Mr. Ephraim Kaplan, until now the superintendent of the synagogue building. Mr. Royzen will remain a member of the synagogue's managing committee.

DANCERS ANGER KIROV

Valery Panov, a leading dancer with the Kirov Ballet Company in Leningrad, has been dismissed by the company because he sought to emigrate to Israel. He faced two stiff police interrogations and a letter from him to Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, the Party chief, supporting his request, further angered the authorities.

Panov, formerly Shulman, is the most prominent Jewish artist so far to apply to go to Israel. Since Nureyev's defection in Paris in 1961 he has been regarded by many as the Kirov's star soloist.

Galina Rogozina, Panov's non-Jewish Russian wife, who also applied to emigrate to Israel to be with her husband, has been transferred from leading to minor roles in the company.

JEWISH WARTIME HERO DETAINED

An appeal to the Polish Government to allow the emigration of Mr. Leib Domb (Leopold Trepper) has been signed by eleven Members of Parliament and 150 other Swiss personalities. Mr. Domb headed the successful Soviet "Red Orchestra" spy network during the Second World War. He resigned from communal leadership during the Polish anti-Zionist campaign in 1968 and has been under house arrest in Warsaw since last summer.

The dispatch of the appeal was announced at a press conference in Geneva attended by Mr. Mikal Broide (Trepper), Mr. Domb's son, who came from Copenhagen. The appeal stated that Switzerland was conscious of the situation if Hitler's dream had materialised, and possessed feelings of gratitude for men like Trepper, who were among the architects of the defeat of the Nazis.

POLISH GOVERNMENT DISMISSAL

Mr. Eugeniusz Szyr, who was Deputy Prime Minister and the last Jew occupying a prominent position in the Polish Government, has been dismissed. He now has a lesser administrative post as chairman of a newly formed State economic council.

BULGARIAN JEWS HONOURED

The Bulgarian Communist Party publishing house has published a biography of Itso Samouilov, also known as Emil Shekerdjiisky, a Bulgarian-Jewish Second World War Resistance hero who died fighting the Nazis. On the 60th anniversary of his birth tributes were paid all over Bulgaria to his life and struggle.

A plaque in memory of Israel David Gialdetti, killed in 1944, was unveiled in front of his house in the town of Yambol. In memory of Moise Benbassat, Efraim Bentzion and Hamim Bally a plaque and a bas-relief were unveiled in Haskovo.

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FAREWELL TO PEM

A FAITHFUL FRIEND

I first met PEM in print. That was in 1927 and at the time he was a cub-reporter, writing for a scandal-mongering sheet, the "Berliner Herold", and making a name for himself by cocking a snook at a number of fellow-journalists of the various newspapers. And I was one of his early victims.

His style was racy, his sense of fun outrageous but never vindictive, and my wife thought there was a lot in what he said so unkindly about me. She wanted to meet him. This happened a few weeks later, at the Gala Night of one of the films and thus started a friendship which was lasting and getting deeper and closer with the passing of the years.

PEM, the typical Berliner, was—as so many of them—not born there. He came from Beeskow and his early career was, strange to relate, in banking. His military career, starting in 1918 by guarding Russian P.O.W.'s at Lehrter Bahnhof, terminated in 1940 when he was evacuated from Dunkirk.

It took PEM not long to become a star reporter. He soon joined the "12Uhr Blatt", an unorthodox and lively outfit, where Rolf Nurnberg was the leading spirit and Vicky began to publish his first cartoons—hardly out of school. As a reporter—and he insisted all his life to remain one—PEM's range included "Sechstages-Rennen" in the Sportpalast, Variété like Carow's outside the West End, up to and including a trip to Paris to discover the promising director of "Sous les toits de Paris", René Clair.

All the time PEM was free and independent. He never joined the rat-race; he preferred inviting to being invited and when he attacked—and he did so most of the time—he never struck to wound.

After 1933, we kept up contact, first in

Prague, later in Vienna and then in our refuge in London. In the emigration PEM had hit on "PEM's Privatberichte" (later, in England, retitled "PEM's Personal Bulletins" and written in the Editor's quaint personal English) as a means of keeping a widely dispersed circle in contact with each other. A considerable achievement which ended on Friday, April 21, when the issue—written by his old friend Willi Frischauer—bore no serial number. It finished with the information that PEM had entered a clinic to restore his health.

The following Monday he died.

PEM, used to a bachelor's life for many years, had the good fortune to find in Hilde a loving comrade and understanding friend. The "lady of leisure" did him proud; she gave him the warmth he needed and the happiness which had eluded him before.

Two of the books he wrote epitomise the subjects so near to his heart: "Strangers Everywhere", his first adventure in literature, biographies of some fellow-refugees at the time when they were rebuilding their lives. And, of course, "Heimweh nach dem Kurfuerstendamm", a best-seller for years.

For nearly forty years PEM has recorded an era, showing changes and inter-relations of a once closed literary community. Now the Chronicler himself is gone.

HANS FELD

AN EPOCH HAS CLOSED

PEM wrote a gossip column like "Londoner's Diary" in the *Evening Standard* in the form of a News Letter. But looking back, these 1,532 News Letters are the chronicle of all the "in-people" of theatre, film, radio, books of the 'twenties in Berlin. Quite on his own, with his typewriter, he was a gatherer of the dispersed, a centre for the forgotten, an institution. His enthusiasm for the people who had succeeded in appearing again on the screen or in obtaining small or big parts on the stage in Brighton or Basle or London, was catching. He remained what he had been; a Berlin Jew, hard working, careful.

When the British evacuated him from Dunkirk and the order was given that all weapons should be thrown into the sea, he could not stand this waste. He put as many as possible into his blouse.

PEM was loyal, integral, just, courageous, truthful. He was passionately fond of people, of talking to all and sundry or, as he put it in the obituary which he wrote of himself, he "loved gossip and food, hated walking and the country". He wrote "Heimweh nach dem Kurfuerstendamm", 50,000 copies sold, and a great book "Strangers Everywhere" published at the wrong moment, in autumn 1939. It is a collection of gripping profiles portraying our people in London, their misery and their glamour—one of the very few documents of the life of our community in London, but not only in London. It was his moral stature which counted in the end, his suspicion of commercialism, his contempt of success. "Gerechten Sinns", wrote Kerr of him.

He ends his touching own obituary with the words: "He probably wanted to be loved by others but was sure to have many enemies". But this is not true. For forty years he was an unpaid public relations officer, he rescued people from oblivion, he brought hundreds in touch with each other. No, no enemies. A great loss. A good man has died. An epoch has closed.

GABRIELE TERGIT

Old Acquaintances

END OF A COLUMN

PEM's column has been a standing feature of *AJR Information* almost since its inception. Now, with a heavy heart, the Editor has to announce that it has come to an end. Its faithful contributor, PEM, is no longer among us, and he cannot be replaced. Readers will miss him sadly. In his particular field, he served as a link with our past. He told us how those we knew were getting on after we had lost sight of them. In the course of time, the "Milestones" paragraph increasingly referred to people who had attained the ripe age of eighty. Yet even more symptomatic was the growing number of those who had reached their journey's end. Now he has joined their ranks.

We know that many readers first turned to the "Old Acquaintances" column when they received a new issue of *AJR Information*. Very often, they wished to obtain some additional information on one item or another. In his untiring helpfulness PEM conscientiously volunteered to answer their questions.

To have PEM as a contributor was a boon for every editor with whom he worked. He knew what was required and, as far as the administrative side was concerned, he made life easy by the unfailing punctuality with which he delivered his copy. His Berlin brand of straightforwardness was blended with an unsurpassed cordiality and loyalty to his friends and colleagues. There was also, strange as it may sound to the uninitiated, a sense of humility in him. I remember that once, when he informed me of the death of an outstanding literary personality, he suggested that somebody of a different standing might be better qualified to write an appreciation. Yet within the sphere in which he had lived and worked for half a century—stage, film and cabaret—he was the uncontested authority.

He leaves a void—not only in the right-hand column of this page, but in the minds and hearts of all who knew him.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

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LEADING ANGLO-JEWISH FAMILIES

Anatomy of the "Cousinhood"

Chaim Bermant's fascinating work on the old-established Jewish families in England,* their beginnings, peak period and gradual disintegration makes us again aware of the structural changes which Anglo-Jewry underwent during the 35 years since our arrival in this country. In the 'thirties and 'forties most of the leaders of the Jewish religious, political and welfare organisations were descendants of families which had rendered service to the community for many generations. To some extent we may still come across their names in various spheres of Jewish activities. Yet they are now in the minority. Today, the dominant role is played by those whose parents or grandparents came from Eastern Europe at the turn of the century.

Chaim Bermant's work is, therefore, not only to be welcomed because it throws light on many aspects of Anglo-Jewish history, especially up to the First World War; it is also well-timed because the epoch which it covers has come to an end. The book is based on thorough first-hand research which is, however, presented in a journalistic rather than a scholarly vein. The reader is thus spared the dry style which sometimes mars historical treatises, and the book abounds in felicitous formulations and witty remarks. On the other hand, the borderline between irony and flippancy is not always properly heeded.

Enterprising Businessmen

Enhanced by genealogical tables the book centres around seven families: the Cohens, the Rothschilds, the Goldsmids, the Montefiores, the Bearstead Samuels, the Samuels and the Sassoons. All of them had come to this country from Holland or Germany in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, with the exception of the Sassoons who came from Baghdad via India a few decades later. They arrived not as victims of persecution, but as businessmen who had already prospered in their countries of origin and were attracted by the opportunities of the rising Empire. Notwithstanding temporary setbacks, e.g., among the first generation of the Goldsmids, they were blessed with success. Inter-marriage between the families helped add wealth to wealth, and there were some who retired from business and lived on their capital built up in early age or inherited from their forefathers. Moses Montefiore is an example of the first group, and his great-nephew, Claude, belongs to the second category. Both used their freedom from business duties for the benefit of their fellow-Jews, one by his work as the helper to the suppressed abroad, the other by his activities in the spiritual field. Yet there were others for whom wealth just served as the prerequisite for a life of leisure. One of them, Frank Cohen, who was 36 when his family bank was dissolved, has been enshrined in contemporary literature as the central character in C. P. Snow's novel "The Conscience of the Rich".

The founder of the premier upper-class Jewish family was Levi Barent Cohen (1747-1808) who had come to London from Holland. His descendants in the male line include, among others, Lord Cohen of Walmer, Sir Robert

Waley Cohen and his son Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen (Lord Mayor of London 1961/2), and Sir Andrew Cohen (Governor of Uganda 1952-57), to quote only a few examples. By the marriages of Levi Barent Cohen's daughters into the Rothschild and Montefiore families and by other marital links in subsequent generations, Levi Barent Cohen has in fact become the progenitor of most members of the cousinhood and also of some scions of the English aristocracy.

In their religious outlook, most families were conservative and observant of the ritual laws. This gradually ceased, but all the same up to the recent past, some of their members, following the tradition of their elders, held office with the United Synagogue. They frankly admitted the paradox that they were lay heads of an Orthodox institution without abiding by the laws of Jewish Orthodoxy. Eventually, their places were taken by the sons of the immigrants from Eastern Europe. On the other hand there was much religious fervour among some of those who segregated from Orthodoxy. Lili Montagu, the author states, observed the dietary laws, and the deep religious feelings of Claude Montefiore and Basil Henriques are also recorded.

However, though no longer observant, marriages "out of the faith" were frowned upon. Even a man of public status like Herbert Samuel for several years severed contacts with his daughter's children when they married Gentiles. In the course of time, this too has changed and, as the finishing chapter of the book reveals, marriages within the fold have become the exception rather than the rule. In some cases, e.g., in that of the present Lord Rothschild, the first, divorced, wife and mother of the heir, Jacob, was converted to Judaism.

Antisemitism in Public Schools

In spite of the social standing, their descendants had to endure antisemitism during their public school days. The book mentions several examples where a boy's childhood was marred in this way: Edwin Montagu (later Secretary of State for India), Robert Henriques (soldier, farmer and author) as well as members of the Rothschild and Goldsmid families. To some extent, the difficulties were supposed to be mitigated by the establishment of "Jewish houses" in Clifton College (still functioning), Harrow, Cheltenham and The Perse, Cambridge (all three now defunct). In this way the Jewish pupils could observe the Jewish dietary laws and also be provided with religious tuition and services in the schools which, after all, were Christian foundations. The arrangement certainly helped the alumni to retain and strengthen their feelings of belonging and self-respect. On the other hand, by accentuating the difference to the majority the segregation in Jewish houses sometimes also became counter-productive. Nowadays, the Jewish house at Clifton College, for three generations under the guidance of the Polack family, is no longer attended by the children of the old families, but by those of the later immigrants.

To look after the poorer members of the community was always considered as a paramount obligation and, throughout the generations, members of the Cohen family held office with the Board of Guardians (now Jewish

Welfare Board). Many members of the cousinhood were also active in the Jewish settlements and clubs in the East End. Yet one of them, the late Basil Henriques, founder and warden of the Oxford and St. George's Settlement, went a step further. He took up residence in his East End settlement, where his wife and helpmate, Lady Henriques, still resides. This is unique, not only in Jewish social work of this country, but probably also abroad and has, in any case, no parallel in pre-1933 Germany.

From the end of the last century onwards, the poor to be looked after were in the main the pogrom victims from Czarist Russia. Their plight involved, however, also another problem: the admission of the persecutees to these shores. It was a problem for both the Government and for the "Cousinhood" which had to shoulder the financial responsibility for the new arrivals. They were generous, but even their resources had their limitations. Yet at the same time the admission of aliens was also a political problem. At all times and in all countries assimilated Jewish communities have been afraid that large-scale Jewish immigration might create or increase antisemitism and endanger their own position.

Care for the Persecuted

Care for the Jews abroad was prompted by feelings of solidarity and also stimulated by England's position as a world power during the last century. The central figure was Moses Montefiore with whose life and work the author deals extensively. Yet the others, too, used their influence. Some kind of pressure could be exerted in the commercial field. There were instances when bankers refused loans to Eastern Governments. When, in 1908, King Edward VII was about to embark on a State visit to Russia, he received a plea from the Rothschild brothers to intervene with the Czar on behalf of their persecuted fellow-Jews. Yet the author also records a different kind of plea: Sir Ernest Cassel (not a member of the "Cousinhood") asked the King for an introduction to the Czar in connection with a proposed loan.

The impact of the happenings in Germany was of a different kind and more intense than that of the persecution in the East because there a Jewish community was persecuted which had attained a position similar to that of the Jews in Britain. In one way or another, practically all leading families and their outstanding representatives, took their share in the rescue efforts.

While help for the under-privileged at home and abroad was considered a matter of course, as long as it remained in the sphere of philanthropy, it became controversial when, by the ascent of Zionism, it developed into a political issue. Only few members of the old families were supporters of early Zionism. Among them were Sir Francis Montefiore and Herbert Samuel who, as a member of the Cabinet, in 1914 submitted to the Prime Minister a memorandum on the establishment of a Jewish Home in post-war Palestine. Equally, the Second Lord Rothschild would not have been chosen as the addressee of the Balfour Declaration if he had not been in agreement with its object. Yet most other members of the old families were antagonistic.

One of the most violent opponents was Edwin Montagu, like his cousin Herbert Samuel a member of the Government at the time of the Balfour Declaration. He felt that the conception of a Jewish "national" home made the Jews members of a Jewish nation

Continued on page 7, column 3

*Chaim Bermant: *The Cousinhood—The Anglo-Jewish Gentry*. Eyre & Spottiswoode, London, 1971. 466 pp. £5.

From the Other Side

CHRISTIAN HOLY PLACES IN ISRAEL

When the Israeli army occupied the eastern part of Jerusalem on June the 7th, 1967, the Holy Places of the three great religions in the Western World came under Jewish rule. What the Jordanians took for granted—being in charge of sanctuaries beyond their spiritual compass—became a deep and painful problem of responsibility for the Jews. The German-born scholar, Walter Zander, undertook the enormous task of giving a historical survey of the Christian situation,* both utterly objective and passionately engaged for justice and peace.

Mr. Zander's objectivity is based on painstaking research of tremendous complexity: his 190 (!) references begin with the epistles of St. Jerome (*Migne Patrologia Latina*), St. Augustine and St. John Chrysostom and end with relevant commentaries in *Le Monde* and *The Times*, including Leibnitz's *Consilium Aegyptiacum* and such esoteric pre-war works as Valmar Cramer's "Kreuzpredigt und Kreuzzugsgedanke von Bernhard von Clairvaux bis Humbert von Romans". The author's "engagement", however, is entirely his own, although no one who links this concept with vociferous manifestations of political folly would call him engaged. But about the celebrations at Easter, 1968, he succeeded in writing these lines: "No serious incidents disturbed the celebrations. But some of those who had witnessed the Christian festivals in the preceding years

commented on the sadness which now had overshadowed the events. Partly this sadness was certainly caused by the war and all its tragic consequences of destruction, dislocation and separation, but it is well possible, and indeed likely, that, apart from the Arab-Israeli war, many were uneasy or bewildered because the power over the Holy Places of Christendom had passed into the hands of the Jews".

Unbiased Assessment

No sides are taken, but in the wrapping of sober reporting the whole compassion and the longing for peace of a just man is enclosed. It is not surprising therefore, that the question of law and legality in every respect is given main consideration, and the juxtaposition of the solemn Arab declaration of 1949 and the Israel Draft of an Agreement (incidentally submitted only ten days after the former) makes exciting reading—particularly between the lines of erudite legal verbiage.

Mr. Zander sees the meeting of Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I in Jerusalem, 1964, as a turning point in the history of the two churches and hopes that the Christian Sanctuaries "after being for centuries objects of strife and dissent—may now become symbols of Reunion". His is an utterly reliable reference book—and a reference book written with love.

* Walter Zander: *Israel and the Holy Places of Christendom*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. 224 pp, appendices. £2.70.

Leading Anglo-Jewish Families

Continued from page 6

to the exclusion of their position as Englishmen. "How can I negotiate with the peoples of India on behalf of the British Government", he exclaimed, "if I may be told that I belong to a nation whose homeland is Palestine?" The Declaration, he told Lloyd George, pushed him "back into the Ghetto". Lord Balfour could not understand this attitude. "Why do Jews oppose the idea of a Jewish State?" he asked Weizmann, "why can I afford to be a Zionist and not they?" In Bermant's view the answer is that "Balfour had no doubts about his own identity, while the Montagus, Montefiores and other anti-Zionists, though old-established . . . and of high rank, still had uncertainties; they still felt the need to assert their patriotism". It would have been helpful if Bermant had explained whether the uncertainty of the anti-Zionists which he implies is meant to refer to their identity as Englishmen or as Jews. The confusion arises from the fact that if a Gentile is a Zionist, or rather a pro-Zionist, he is in sympathy with a Jewish nationhood, whereas a Jewish Zionist is supposed to identify himself with it. Only recently, in his address at German Brotherhood Week, Nahum Goldmann stressed that the problem of "dual loyalty" could not be solved by claiming that it did not exist.

The book vividly describes the social pattern of the cousinhood, their assimilation to the country life of the English gentry, their connections with the Court and their financial transactions.

Many famous and lesser-known personalities are brought to life in outstandingly written unbiased profiles, and the book is also a mine of information for the genealogist.

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Ernest Hearst

THE CULTURAL COUNTER-REVOLUTION

A Study on German Nationalism

The relationship between nation and individual has been the subject of much learned discussion and nowhere more so than in Germany. In these speculations the nation often figures as the individual writ large, subject to the same urges and passions which dominate the citizens, who in their totality constitute the national whole. Even though the aptness of this simile may well be questioned, the so-to-speak nationalized person it postulates merits some attention. For where outside a lunatic asylum would one be likely to meet creatures so single-mindedly devoted to the cult of self-adulation, so obsessed with their virility, so mean, greedy and disdainfully contemptuous of their equally afflicted fellow-beings, so utterly devoid of all grace, generosity and compassion? Indeed it would be quite as amusing as salutary to watch these grotesque monsters act out their parts on a stage, each claiming to be not only the incarnation of all virtue but also the inspiration behind every human achievement since the dawn of history. To the enthralled onlooker the boasting and ensuing battling would appear less as the tragedy these puffed-up national egos are under the illusion of enacting, but more as a knockabout and immemorably funny Punch and Judy show. The real tragedy is, however, that these grotesque monsters, *les bêtes froides* in de Gaulle's words, are real enough, that the stage they bstride is our world and that we ourselves are the ultimate victims of their posturing.

If self-congratulatory and bombastic nationalism is much of a muchness in any country, it has nowhere within the orbit of Western civilisation found so enthusiastic a response as among German intellectuals. Ernst Keller in his erudite and well documented study *Nationalismus und Literatur* (Francke Verlag, Bern und München, 1970, Sfr. 35) is able to show how speculation about the national identity, mission and relevance constantly preoccupied not only the lunatic fringe of backward looking romantics as in other countries, but also men of undoubted stature and intellectual brilliance. Their contribution to the eventful triumph of Nazism cannot be underrated, for as one of them, Edgar Jung once pointed out (*Deutsche Rundschau*, June 1932): "It is we who have done the spade work, especially among the educated classes . . . I respect the fighting strength of the victorious Gauleiter . . . But this success does not give them the right to underestimate their spiritual champions" While this champion perished in the course of the Röhm purge, others like Jünger, Spengler, Heidegger, George, Benn, Kolbenheyer, Binding dissociated themselves later more or less discreetly—unlike Ernst Wiechert who did so publicly—from a regime whose path to power they had so assiduously smoothed. What makes Keller's enquiry into the thought processes of German nationalists and even of opponents like Klepper, Bergengruen, Renn and Anna Seghers so fascinating, is his ability to lay bare the strands of concepts and emotions which nourished and sustained an ideological superstructure of unique malignancy.

The sense of mission which, culminating in the notion of the master race, allowed Germans to consider themselves quite seriously as the providential tools of human progress and indeed survival, has been traced back by

Keller to Fichte's (1813) *Reden an die deutsche Nation*. Here a difference is claimed between the "spontaneously natural (*ursprünglich*) German" speech and the neo-Latin languages "at best animated by a surface vitality while already dead at the roots". These semantic disparities are taken to express fundamental differences in the national character; Germans, according to Fichte, were "elemental people" (*ein Urvolk*), the people of the beginning and of life, while the outside world (*Ausländerei*) inevitably spelled "alienation from the simple origins (*Ursprünglichkeit*) and death". These fantasies, propounded by one of Germany's most respected "idealist" philosophers to restore national self-confidence after a humiliating defeat, exerted a long-range and powerful influence on Germany's intellectual elite. Echoes of this presumed German closeness to the purpose, origin and meaning of life reverberate not only in Langbehn's *Rembrandt als Erzieher*, a long and justly forgotten turn of the century best-seller, locating the precious "elemental, even barbaric force and simplicity" more specifically among the author's fellow *Niederdeutsche*, but also in Thomas Mann's quite untenable distinction between culture and civilization.

While concern for *Ursprünglichkeit* led the otherwise far from jingoist Stefan George to pray in World War I for the triumph of his "fair haired band" lest "all true nations be defeated by the Anglo-American standard ant", it evoked in Ernst Jünger far more sinister and apocalyptic visions. War in *Der Kampf als inneres Erlebnis* becomes "a liberation from all restraints . . . an ecstasy beyond all ecstasies, a boundless frenzy like the raging of the elements". Predictably he, therefore, preferred a Tamberlain "looting, raping, roasting and killing with intense and passionate earnestness" to the "leading (World War I) statesmen still squabbling as to who ordered the initial attack". Admittedly when confronted with Nazi atrocities two decades later, Jünger noted (Diary, December 1941): "There are infamies touching the world at the very core of its ordered relationships which compel even a man dedicated to the cult of beauty to consecrate himself to the pursuit of liberty". Honourable, no doubt, this reluctant acceptance of a moral challenge seems, however, strangely half-hearted for a man of his forcefulness and almost derisory in the face of the witnessed outrage.

Worship of the elemental necessarily implied a repudiation of the democratic-humanist traditions as well as the science-based industrial structures which form the very basis of Western civilisation. Their more or less total rejection is so general among right-wing intellectuals, not only German ones, that it can be counted among the distinguishing characteristics of the Fascist mentality. The erosion of the belief in a sane and rational order and the inherently liberating power of technology started, as Keller shows, innocently enough among the *Wandervögel*, Germany's dissident and "idealistic" youth movement. Denouncing the authoritarian and bourgeois establishment of the Kaiser's Germany, the guitar strumming young men and maidens who congregated at the *Hohen Meissner* in 1913 pledged themselves "to serve the community in the spirit of the things to come";

guided by "the purity of their instincts" they repudiated the "insincerities" of a "senile culture", conducive to nothing but "intellectual waste and emotional atrophy". Denouncing the prevailing "rationalistic civilisation and its lack of spontaneity", they hoped to rediscover "the wholeness of life away from the miasma of the big cities". But even in the context of 1913 any hopes of returning to the assumed simplicities of rural life were wildly escapist.

Disenchantment with life in the modern machine age permitted its literary aesthetes to exploit two equally nostalgic and explosive myths. One based on the "blood and soil" syndrome, extolling ancient and rustic modes of life, affected men like Blunck, Wiechert, Kolbenheyer, not to mention the hacks who produced Nazidom's *Trivialliteratur* (trash). With his *Volk ohne Raum* Grimm gave this genre an aggressively expansionist twist, the image building title, moreover, did much to popularise the "living space" notion both inside Germany and abroad. Disillusionment with the urbanised industrial society also added a new dimension to age old anti-Jewish resentments. Refurbished as antisemitism they conveniently invested "the Jew" with all the noxious features of an unloved age; he, the quintessential corrupter of hallowed national and social traditions, either as the capitalist exploiter or the socialist agitator haunts the works of almost every reactionary author since the days of the industrial revolution.

Apart from the glorification of the elemental, their endemic antisemitism and their congenial loathing of the industrialized "mass society", the writers of the German right share, Keller demonstrates, one other common feature, the notable concern for "meaning". Their heroes, unlike their British, American or French counterparts are never satisfied with the mere problems of individuation, of coming to terms with their own self; they are under a compulsion to probe "deeper and further" in the faustian quest to grasp the meaning of life. They gain this insight when they discover that meaning can only be imparted by larger and more permanent entities, entities like the state, the nation, race or class. The assumption that individual endeavour attains significance and value only by conforming to the underlying aspirations of a greater whole has also coloured the works of resistance writers like Klepper and Bergengruen, not to mention Communists like Renn and Seghers, and it is at this point that they too turn their backs on the rational, humanist and democratic traditions with their respect for the rights and dignities of individual man. While the collapse of Hitler's Reich has shattered many of the obsessions of Germany's right-wing intelligentsia, some are being resurrected again and have lost none of their potency by parading under the banners of adolescent left-wing revolutionaries.

UTILISATION OF GERMAN ARCHIVES

A recently published list of 1,300 works based on municipal and State archives reveals that only few of them deal with the fate of the Jews in German cities and regions. They include publications on Jews in Baden-Wuerttemberg (six volumes, 1966-1969), Braunschweig (1966), Heilbronn (1963), Luebeck (1968), Muenchen (1967), Nuernberg (1965), Stuttgart (1964) and Vierns (1965). There are, however, further publications which are not specifically based on archival material, and which appeared in periodicals and collections of essays. Altogether the amount of literature on the subject published since the end of the war is quite impressive. Nevertheless the ground so far uncovered is still very wide.

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

"MILITARY COUP IMPOSSIBLE IN ISRAEL"

In Israel where the army establishment plays such an overriding role and military preparedness is the order of the day, the question sometimes arises: Is Israeli society permanently immune to a military coup, or is the risk of a take-over a real possibility?

This question was recently posed by a student newspaper to three senior lecturers of the Hebrew University's Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Yeheskiel Dror, Dr. Moshe Lisk and Dr. Emanuel Guttman.

Professor Dror's evaluation is that right now a military coup is impossible in the State of Israel. He warned, however, to be alert to the influence of military thought on the administration and would not say that Israel was forever immune to the danger of a military take-over. His conclusions are based on a number of factors:

The Israeli senior officers' cadre is without any uniform doctrine and ideology. This is evidenced by the controversies dividing reserve officers—controversies which probably exist in the regular army as well, without ever coming to public knowledge. Furthermore, the background of the officers' corps is that of democratic Zionism. Lastly, Israel's Army, based on reserve units, is the least militaristic army in the world.

Professor Dror feels that it is far more important to examine the influence of military thinking on politics and economy. In his opinion the composition of a political élite should be balanced, and variety should be maintained. "Democracy does not mean that all Ministers are party functionaries of considerable seniority. It is of vital signi-

fiance that people who have proved their worth in non-political fields—army, foreign service or science—should also reach the Cabinet". He thinks that the recent public storm aroused by the former Chief of Staff, Bar Lev, joining the Government and by the contemplated appointment of another ex-Chief of Staff, Yitzhak Rabin, now Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., was out of proportion.

A number of principles should be safeguarded to maintain a correct and effective function of the political system and public administration. No quota should be determined in advance for the participation of Generals in the Cabinet, although it is not desirable that a General move immediately to a Cabinet post without any lapse of time between his military duties and his new appointment. Moreover, it is essential not to turn such a transfer from headquarters to Cabinet into a fixed feature. A General should enter the Government only if found suitable on a personal level and not because of his military past and achievements.

Dr. Lisk believes that no society is immune to the possibility of a military coup, although such a possibility seems at present far removed in Israel. This kind of danger exists in a society where there is a sharp gap between the political leadership and various population strata, and where the political leadership is incapable of coping with the demands of fringe groups. In such situations powerful groups, among them military ones, can be tempted to choose a violent solution. An additional pre-condition to a take-over by army circles is that the senior

officers' cadre should be a group with professional status, ideologically distinct and homogeneous. These conditions do not exist in Israel. Israel has a long tradition—dating back to the days of the Jewish community in Palestine during the British Mandate—of a combination of military and political men, without complete separation between the political and military aspects. It is just this separation which can create two distinct, and usually estranged, élite establishments.

In Israel the officers' cadre has deep roots in a democratic society. Jewish culture does not foster militaristic values. In Dr. Lisk's view, recent developments around the transfer of military leaders to political key positions should be examined from two points of view: on a short-range basis such influence is positive: the Israeli army is an important reservoir of excellent manpower. On a long-range basis such a development spells certain dangers. The Cabinet appointment of two former Chiefs-of-Staff will strengthen the tendency whereby young people see a military career as the safest way to leadership. Very few of the younger members of the Government have ever reached their positions without a prior military career. This process is not healthy for democracy, Dr. Lisk concludes.

Dr. Guttman says that a military coup in Israel is as little likely as a Communist revolution. Israel is a civilian society. As customary in Israel, the transfer of military men to political life is legitimate and positive, he assures. It could be dangerous only if military men entered the Cabinet as a group and not as individuals. The military route is merely one of several roads leading to the key positions in the country's political system.

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IN MEMORIAM

MRS. HELEN BENTWICH

Mrs. Helen Bentwich, C.B.E., widow of the late Professor Norman Bentwich, died on April 26 at the age of 80. She not only took a constant and active interest in the work of her distinguished husband, but was an outstanding personality in her own right. For more than 30 years, from 1934 to 1965, she was a Labour member of the London County Council, where her chief interest was education. In 1956/57 she was chairman of the L.C.C.

Like many London Jews and Jewesses of her upbringing and generation, she did social work in the Jewish East End in her early days. She retained her associations with that work as Vice-President of the Brady Club. She also co-operated with her husband in the work for the rescue of the Nazi persecutees, and before the Second World War became a full-time organiser of the Movement for the Care of Children from Germany. Personal links between her and the newcomers were forged when the Bentwiches settled in Sandwiche to be near Richborough Transit Camp.

The memory of those days was revived only last year, when Mrs Bentwich was one of the speakers at the unveiling ceremony of the Memorial Plaque. Shortly afterwards her book about the History of Sandwiche (reviewed in our February issue), which carries a special chapter on the Camp, was published. After Norman Bentwich's death a year ago she strengthened her association with various Jewish causes which her husband had served.

DR. CURT PROSKAUER

The dental surgeon, Dr. Curt Proskauer, died in New York in his 85th year. In Germany he was custodian of the historical collection of the Breslau University Dental Institute from 1919 to 1923 and, from 1923 to 1933, Director of the German Institute for the History of Dentistry in Berlin. In New York, Dr. Proskauer was Curator of the Museum of Dental Surgery at Columbia University. He also published several books and a great number of articles in German and American dental periodicals.

MR. ADOLPH ABEL

In Adolph Abel, who after a prolonged illness passed away on April 30, the Manchester Refugee Community has lost one of its outstanding members. He was born 73 years ago in Luetgen-Dortmund, but spent most of his earlier years in Duisburg. He established himself as a designer and manufacturer of measuring instruments, which were then sought after by the textile industry in Rhineland-Westphalia.

Very soon his instruments also found acceptance in England and, when the Nazis came to power, Adolph Abel emigrated to this country. At the advent of the Second World War he founded the firm of Trumeter Co. Ltd. in Manchester for the manufacture of a wide range of instruments, many of which were required by the Government for the war effort. After the war the firm continuously expanded and its products are now world wide.

Throughout his life, Adolph Abel took a keen, active interest in Jewish and refugee affairs. As a Zionist, he was a member of the Theodor Herzl Society and worked for the J.N.F. During the war he joined the Refugee Industries Committee. In 1947 he became one of the five founders of Morris Feinmann Home, and since then, until his death, was active for the benefit of the Home as a trustee and secretary of the Management Committee. He gave much of his time to Self Aid for Refugees as their Manchester representative.

Adolph Abel enjoyed a happy family life with his wife Greta and his children and grandchildren. A warm-hearted man, he made many friends and was highly respected in industry as well as in the city of Manchester.

F.H.K.

STEFAN WOLPE

The composer, Stefan Wolpe, died in New York at the age of 69. Born in Berlin, he was a representative of the Berlin Musical Expressionism. His compositions include Lieder, choir and orchestra works, the cantata "Yigdal", and the music to the film "Palestine in War".

DR. JULIUS BRAUNTHAL

Dr. Julius Braunthal, secretary of the Socialist International, recently died in London. Born in Vienna 81 years ago, he was a leading Austrian Marxist. He settled in Britain before the Second World War. While an assimilated Jew, Braunthal was an enthusiastic supporter of the Labour Zionist movement. He visited Israel several times and on his last visit a short while ago donated his library to Beth Berl, the Mapai educational centre. In his autobiography "In Search of a Millenium" (1945), Braunthal stressed that the roots of the socialist idea were in Jewish messianism.

MR. ROBERT WERNER

Mr. Robert Werner, Chairman of the Manchester J.N.F. Commission, died in his early sixties. He was an active Zionist since his youth. When his parents left their native Cologne to live in Israel he stayed behind in Germany, and in 1939 took part in the rescue of Jewish children by helping them to get across the German-Belgian border. When the German police became aware of this he continued to work from the Belgian side and later went to England.

After the war, he entered the business world in the field of plastics. Mr. Werner was an interested member of the AJR. His wife is the authoress of a novel based on the fate of Jewish refugees. We extend our sincerest sympathy to her and her family.

DR. JULIUS HEINEMANN

Dr. Julius Heinemann (Leicester), who recently died in his 77th year, was an interested member of the AJR almost since its inception. Before he came to this country, he practised as a lawyer in Fulda. He made a considerable contribution to the strengthening of Orthodox Judaism in Leicester and for many years taught in the Hebrew classes. His vast knowledge and inimitable humour earned him the esteem, respect and affection of all with whom he came into contact", writes a leading member of the Leicester Hebrew Congregation.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthday

Mayer.—Mr. Hans Mayer (formerly Stuttgart), of 3 Wellfield Avenue, Muswell Hill, London, N.10, celebrated his 75th birthday on May 18.

Marriage

Sinai—Black.—The wedding of Miss Linda N. Sinai, daughter of J. K. Sinai, 124 Heywood Road, Prestwich, and the late Rose Sinai, to Peter R. Black, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Black, 44 Montclair Drive, Mossleyhill, Liverpool 18, took place at the Higher Prestwich Synagogue on May 14.

Silver Wedding

White.—Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Martin White (formerly Goldmann) of 9 Belmour Lodge, 28 Marlborough Road, Bournemouth, Hants., will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on June 15.

Deaths

Eisner.—On April 23, in his 85th year, after a brief illness in hospital, Ludwig Eisner, of 423 Wilbraham Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester 21 (formerly Berlin), dearly beloved husband of Hertha (née Buckwitz), dear father of Peter and Hans, and loved grandfather of John, Christopher and Andrew.

Lewek.—Dr. Erwin E. Lewek (formerly Berlin), of 31 Ludlow Way, London, N.2, died suddenly on April 1. Deeply mourned by his wife, relations and friends.

Ney.—Mr. Otto Ney, of 63 Cole Valley Road, Birmingham 28, passed away suddenly on May 3 while on holiday in Kfar Hanassi (Israel). Deeply mourned by his wife and children, brother, sister, sisters-in-law and all the family.

Mathiason.—Mrs. Ilse Mathiason, of 40 Belvedere Court, Lyttelton Road, London, N.2, passed away peacefully after a long and painful illness borne with great courage. Deeply mourned by her loving husband, Hans, her devoted sons, Mark and Barry, their wives, her sister, Herta, nephew, Melvyn, aunt Jenny and grandchildren Nicky and Tanya.

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Personal

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MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries

Flachs.—Beate and Wally Flachs (formerly Stettin), aged about 55-65. Sought by their cousin from South Africa, Eva Moser (née Mannheim), who will be in England in July and wishes to see them. Any readers who are able to give information should contact: Dr. E. Dannemann, 44 Marlborough Avenue, Stafford.

Menzel.—Mrs. Menzel, widow of Salomon Menzel of Katowice, aged about 75, or her daughter, Ruth Gertrude Menzel, born in 1925 in Katowice who lived in Sweden during the war. Wanted by the Jewish Refugees Committee, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0EP. Tel.: 01-387 5461.

Planer.—Edith Planer, who came to England as a domestic help in 1937/38. She is the daughter of Hannchen Planer (née Brick), formerly Berlin Charlottenburg, Berliner Strasse, and Armin Planer (formerly a tailor) who was expelled to Austria in 1938. Wanted by her cousin, Mr. Leopold Feist, 1770 Lenox Avenue, Miami Beach, Fla. 33139.

Zaidmann.—Mrs. Elisabeth Zaidmann (née Leibel), born in Vienna August, 1901. Daughter of Markos and Augusta Leibel. Last known address: 90 Forest Rise, London, E.17. Wanted by her brother, Egon Leibel, 28 Fillebrook Road, London, E.11.

THE ISRAELI SCENE

IMMIGRATION

According to the latest Jewish Agency estimates, the immigration of the 30,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive in Israel during 1972 will cost about £77 million or £2,560 per head. Altogether some 70,000 immigrants are expected this year, including Soviet immigrants. Israelis themselves are concerned about what they consider to be the impact on their own immediate fortunes of the 150 or so immigrants who arrive in the country every day requiring homes, jobs, education for their children and other services in short supply. They feel that the presence of Westerners in residential areas sends up prices and particularly the cost of housing.

As for the Soviet immigrants themselves, where in Russia they were considered as Jews primarily, in Israel they are Russians, and the intelligentsia find themselves in a considerably less privileged position than in Russia. A large audience of Western immigrants, who were addressed by three of them in Jerusalem, were told that Soviet immigrants suffer a psychological shock when they discover the gap between their idealistic notion of Israel and reality. Professor Michael Zand, now of the Hebrew University, and the other two speakers, Mr. Zev Zaretsky now a chemist with the Weizmann Institute, and Mr. Vadim Meniker, an economist with the Central Bureau of Statistics, agreed that the absorption processes for Soviet immigrants were far from satisfactory. Another Russian immigrant, Mrs. Rivka Alexandrovich, who has been in Israel for a year, intervened from the floor to express her deep grievance to find so many "disasters" in Israel—bureaucracy, indifference, the pretence that everything was all right.

LEFT-WING DEMONSTRATIONS

In Jerusalem, police clashed with a Black Panther demonstration supported by Maoists and other Left-wing groups, after the demonstrators were warned that their gathering was illegal because a licence for it had not been obtained.

In addition to the usual May Day demonstrations, a small group of Women's Lib supporters gathered in front of Jerusalem's largest department store. Their spokeswoman said they had chosen May Day for their first appearance because of its "significance for the oppressed, such as women."

Also in Jerusalem youth belonging to student and other organisations — most of them of American origin—conducted a 24-hour anti-Vietnam war vigil opposite the American Consulate.

"BLAU-WEISS" REUNION

Sixty years ago the Zionist youth movement, "Blau-Weiss", was founded in Germany. To mark the anniversary a rally of former "Blau-Weiss" members who have settled in Israel, was held in Kibbutz Shefayim on April 26. More than 450 people attended.

RELATIONS WITH UGANDA

Reports in London that all Jews and anybody with a "Jewish-sounding name" would be refused entry to Uganda, were denied by an immigration department spokesman in Kampala. The spokesman said that no foreign visitors would have trouble in Uganda providing they were not Israeli citizens.

In an interview to Soviet correspondents in Moscow, President Idi Amin of Uganda is quoted as saying that "Zionism is dangerous for all Africa. . . . I know from my own experience how Israel seizes one by the throat."

Mr. Abba Eban, the Israeli Foreign Minister, at a press conference in Jerusalem, revealed full details of Israel's defence and other aid to Uganda. Israel, he said, would press for payment by Uganda of the £6-£8 million she owes for labour, services and equipment supplied. Israel helped to establish the Ugandan Air Force, established a paratroop training school, organised the armoured corps and trained artillery and other units.

"EXTREME VIEWS" — GOLDMANN

In Jerusalem Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the president of the World Jewish Congress and former president of the World Zionist Organisation, spoke at a press conference marking the launching of the Hebrew edition of his autobiography. In his opinion Israel's views are becoming so extreme that there is no place for the voice of reason. This was the reason, he said, that he no longer spoke out on matters of national concern. But if the day should come when he felt compelled to intervene he would do so.

Describing the World Zionist Organisation as without influence, Dr. Goldmann stated that one of the opponents of his re-election as W.Z.O. president four years ago had been Mrs. Golda Meir. He claimed that if there had been a secret ballot he would have been re-elected, in spite of the opposition of the Establishment.

YOUTH ALIYAH TAKES CHARGE OF "DROP-OUTS"

In partnership with the Government and the Jewish Agency, Youth Aliyah is pledged to provide a third of the total cost to resolve the problem of "drop-outs" and other socially maladjusted children and adolescents. Addressing national leaders in London recently, Youth Aliyah World Patron, Baroness Alix de Rothschild said: "Most of these 4,600 backward adolescents can be and want to be taken into Day Training Centres. These youngsters do not want to be drop-outs. They want a future and we must give them another chance." The Children and Youth Aliyah Committee for Great Britain has launched a campaign to raise £100,000 towards the cost of saving the drop-out Israeli children.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE AWARDS

Sir Hans Krebs, Professor of Biochemistry in Oxford, and Dr. David Nachmansohn, Professor of Neurology at Columbia University, have been appointed Honorary Members of the Weizmann Institute. This distinction is the equivalent of a university honorary doctorate. Sir Hans Krebs has been associated with the AJR for a great number of years and acted as the spokesman of the former refugees, when the "Thank-You, Britain" Fund was handed over to the British Academy. Professor Nachmansohn has been an active Zionist since his student days, when he was a member of the K.J.V. and closely associated with the late Kurt Blumenfeld.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY HONOURS PINCHAS ROSEN

Tel Aviv University established a Chair for Constitutional Law which is to bear the name of Pinchas Rosen, the former Minister of Justice. The honour was bestowed on Mr. Rosen on the occasion of his 85th birthday. At the inauguration ceremony the speakers included the Prime Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, and the present Minister of Justice, Mr. J. S. Shapira. Before he went to Palestine as early as 1923, Felix Rosenblueth, as he then was, held leading positions in the Zionist Movement in Germany. When the mass immigration from Germany started in 1933 he became Chairman of the Hitachduth Oley Germania, which was established to help the newcomers in their resettlement. He was the first Minister of Justice of the State of Israel and held this office until 1961. Pinchas Rosen is still actively associated with the work for the Jews from Central Europe as president of their welfare organisation, "Solidaritaetswerk".

WERNER FINCK 70

On May 2 Werner Finck celebrated his 70th birthday. Many of us still remember his performances as a compère in Berlin's "Katakomben".

From 1933 onwards his bonmots about the new régime circulated and cheered us up. It first appeared that the powers that be had given him "Narrenfreiheit". Yet he seems to have gone further than they had bargained for and had to spend some time in a concentration camp. Reporting after the Second World War on the treatment meted out to him and his fellow prisoners, he said: "If only we had known at that time that all our guards were disguised resistance fighters". Later his membership with the German Chamber of Culture was cancelled ("I became reichskulturlos", he said).

The AJR had the pleasure and honour of arranging his first appearance in England after the war. This was in 1950, at a time when the wounds inflicted upon us were still very open. The reunion turned out to be a great success.

Werner Finck is now specialising on one-man shows, which are enjoyed all over Western Germany. Some years ago he paid another visit to London, under the auspices of the German Institute. It would be welcomed if he came again.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"HEINRICH HEINE UNIVERSITY"

Sir,—Nearly every issue of your monthly has, for a long time, contained some news item or Letter to the Editor concerning the alleged lack of respect on the part of the people and/or authorities of Düsseldorf towards their fellow-citizen Heinrich Heine. The last contribution to this subject, in your May issue, exhorts your readers to send the letter-writer personal protests against the decision of the Satzungskonvent of the town's university not to change its name to Heinrich-Heine-Universität to mark the poet's 175th birthday this year, despite the wishes of a number of citizens who have started a campaign to this purpose.

No doubt, those of us who would like to see Heine more honoured at his place of birth are motivated by noble sentiments. But is it our task to tell the people of Düsseldorf that they don't love the great son of their city as much as they ought to? We who live in Britain are, though not by our own choice, outsiders, and can only be observers from a distance. We may criticise what happens in Germany, but we have no brief to interfere. Least of all can we demand of the German people what to feel and whom to love; nor can we hope to create affection where we think it is lacking, by sending protests to the German authorities. This is an absurd idea, and it is beneath our dignity. Perhaps it would be a good thing if you, Sir, put a stop to the matter by using the editor's traditional formula: "This correspondence is now closed."

34, Dartmouth Road,
London, N.W.2.

EGON LARSEN.

Sir,—I hope that the support which F. Hellen-dall hopes to receive will not be forthcoming. It is not for us to interfere with a decision of a German University's Constitutional Committee. If the refusal to rename the Düsseldorf University after Heinrich Heine would amount to an overt "Judenhetze", we might perhaps "protest". This, however, is not the case here. Nothing but increased antipathy without any result would be the effect of voicing our criticism of a decision which is best ignored with dignity.

HILDEGARD FORRES.

Oak Tree House, 153 Oak Tree Lane,
Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1TU.

ANNIVERSARY OF "SOLIDARITE"

The AJR's fraternal organisation in France, "La Solidarité", recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of its foundation. The need for the establishment of a representative body of the former German Jews was particularly great in France where the Jewish refugee population had endured a second persecution and sustained great losses in human life during the Nazi occupation. Like the corresponding organisations in other countries, La Solidarité has represented the interests of the Nazi victims in questions of collective and individual compensation. It has also carried out constructive welfare work, especially by the acquisition of flats and the establishment of homes for the elderly.

The organisation is an affiliate of the Council of Jews from Germany, and its constant contacts with the other affiliates, especially the AJR, have resulted in many personal bonds. We congratulate La Solidarité on their achievements and are looking forward to many more years of useful co-operation.

LOTTIE REIZENSTEIN'S OPEN STUDIO

It is well known that Dutch still lives are more often than not much more than meet the eye. They are symbolic representations of the great and alarming questions of human destiny. Lottie Reizenstein has a somewhat philosophical temperament. She wants to paint not only what she sees but also what she feels and thinks. Of course, it is no accident that practically all her objects are taken from nature. She is an indefatigable traveller and has seen most of southern Europe. Thus she has acquired great skill in either drawing, sketching or painting flowers, trees, mountains or the sea. And as she is inclined to be benevolent, helpful and a little optimistic so her work radiates a certain joy and contentment. She avoids the colossal and the heroic and—in general—the painting of human beings as well. She gives us nature unadorned, in all her freshness and simplicity. Because of a very wise self-limitation her work is free of all rhetorical devices. She is a keen observer of natural phenomena, she is spontaneous and in particular a student of trees.

Her pictures, shown in her Open Studio in April, give great inner pleasure and they relax the weary mind.

A. ROSENBERG

AJR GENERAL MEETING

Readers are reminded that the AJR General Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, at 7.45, at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3. After the reports and the formal part of the meeting, Dr. Walter Schind'er will give an address on "Origin and Environment—Psychological Aspects of the Jewish Refugee Problem". It is hoped that many members and their friends will attend the meeting.

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