

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

F. L. Braslow

A RECORD OF OUR HISTORY

Britain's Admission Policy 1933-1939

This is a book which describes Great Britain's response to the exodus of refugees from the Third Reich in the years 1933-1939. It is concerned with the evolution of British Government policy towards refugees, and relies mainly on published Foreign Office and Home Office papers which have only recently been released for public scrutiny. States the author, Dr. A. J. Sherman, in the preface of "Island Refuge" (published by Paul Elek Ltd., London, 262 pages, price £3 80p). He produced an important work which constitutes the result of meticulously careful research and lucidly tells a sad story of human interest. In addition to records of Government Departments and international agencies as well as collections of private papers, the study takes into account published official and private documentation, including the publications of the Association of Jewish Refugees, contemporary newspapers, journals and diaries. The outcome of the thorough investigation is a comprehensive and detailed account of a chapter of British history which deserves also serious attention on the part of survivors of National Socialist persecution who had the good fortune to be awarded either temporary refuge in Britain or have found there a permanent home.

When ripples of the first waves of Jews, mostly calling on relatives and friends, and of political opponents of the Nazi regime in Germany reached the United Kingdom in the spring of 1933, the British authorities did not feel the need to deviate from the established restrictive policy with regard to the admission of alien German Jews with financial means were allowed into the country as temporary visitors although the Home Office was already then aware that "in practice it may have very difficult to insist on their return to Germany while present conditions continue in that country." It was in line with official thinking, which remained basically unchanged though it underwent modifications, that the plea of the Jewish community for admission of all German Jewish refugees without distinction and for "absolute prohibition" of the stay of those already admitted, found no favour with the authorities. They accepted, however, and stated their future policy on the no doubt decent but in hindsight rather rash undertaking of representatives of British Jewry that full consideration whether in respect of temporary or permanent accommodation or maintenance will be borne by the Jewish community without adequate charge to the State. The principle that refugees must not become a financial liability to the British taxpayer was vigorously upheld also at a time when voluntary relief organisations could no longer provide the necessary funds. Only the official

support given for refugees from Czechoslovakia constituted an exception from a rule strictly adhered to until December 1939 when the influx of Nazi victims had come to an end.

The gradual shaping of British policy with regard to the bothersome refugee question emerges clearly from the documentation quoted by Dr. Sherman. For some time, British policy makers obviously believed that friendly expressions of humanitarian concern to the German Government might be helpful. In order not to cause resentment in Berlin, they were averse to raising the refugee issue at the League of Nations where a discussion of the role Palestine could play as a haven for Jewish refugees was bound to ensue. As an internal Foreign Office memorandum stated very clearly in the summer of 1933: "The number of such refugees in the United Kingdom is still comparatively small (according to the Home Office round about 1,000), but the competent authorities have no desire to see it increased. . . . The Home Office, Colonial Office, Dominion Office and Ministry of Labour are especially anxious to avoid being placed in the position of either having to turn down, or to set open any immigration or settlement recommendations coming from such a source."

Maintaining freedom of action for immigration remained a basic principle of British foreign policy also in respect of the refugee problem. Accordingly, Lord Robert Cecil, who was designated United Kingdom representative at the Governing Council of the High Commissioner for Refugees, appointed by the League in October 1933, was given instructions which left him hardly any possibility for adopting a constructive attitude with regard to the settlement of refugees in British possessions and for holding out hopes that openings would be available in the United Kingdom. Notwithstanding the small numbers of refugees who entered Britain in the period 1933-1935 and although those admitted were only allowed to take up specially approved employment the fear of an alien invasion of the labour market played an important role in the vocal resistance of a large sector of public opinion against an imaginary mass influx of German Jews. The representatives of the medical profession were particularly insistent that foreign colleagues must not be allowed to practice in Britain: "The number that could usefully be absorbed or teach us anything could be counted on the fingers of one hand." The existence of xenophobia generally and—not always latent—antisemitism in particular was seriously taken into account both by the authorities and the bodies engaged on behalf of refugees and prevailed over the protagonists of

traditional humanitarian sentiments, among whom personalities of the stature of the Bishop of Winchester, George Bell, and a few parliamentarians, foremost Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, will always be gratefully remembered.

The enactment of the Nuremberg racial laws in September 1935, and subsequent measures of "aryanisation" and persecution of "non-Aryans" made life in Germany increasingly intolerable for Jews and persons of Jewish extraction, with British and other diplomatic representatives standing by as helpless and unhelpful onlookers. With the taking over of Austria by the Reich in March 1938 and the ensuing pogrom-like excesses, National Socialist brutality against the Jews reached a new height. As other countries, Britain reacted by locking her gates to prevent a flow of refugees in considerable numbers. German and Austrian nationals had now to obtain visas to enter Britain; the eligibility of Jews and persons with non-Aryan affiliations was severely restricted. The plight of Austrian Jews was extensively reported by foreign correspondents, including the distinguished British journalist G. E. R. Gedge. As noted by Dr. Sherman, the British Consul General in Vienna, too, wrote to his superiors in London in moving terms about the appalling distress and despair among Jews, without however causing any improvement.

The initiative of the Government of the United States for convening an international conference on the refugee problem raised high hopes in many quarters. The British policy makers however, were not enamoured by the project. Dr. Sherman devotes a chapter of his study to a detailed description of the meeting held in Evian-les-Bains in July 1938. Dissenting from the usual detached manner of reporting, he characterises the conference sarcastically as a "diplomatic minuet which concealed one basic unchangeable fact: no country in any part of the world, wanted to add to its population destitute and demoralised outcasts. For each one of the refugees had become. Expelled from their countries of long residence, reduced to beggary, and labelled with the now pejorative collective title of 'refugees', the fugitives wandered aimlessly on a planet which appeared quite simply to have no room for their kind." He also points out that the thirty-nine refugee organisations participating in the conference or observers failed to make unified representations or at least concerted submissions. The instructions given to the large British delegation, headed by Lord Winterton, hardly a friend of the cause of the refugees, allowed the British team at Evian to hold out its hope for "an even more liberal policy than hitherto" with regard to admission to an employment of refugees in Britain—providing that the recently set up Co-ordinating Committee for Refugees would find jobs for them. In addition to persons with capital prepared to

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Maintaining freedom of action (or inaction) remained a basic principle of British foreign policy also in respect of the refugee problem. Accordingly, Lord Robert Cecil, who was designated United Kingdom representative at the Governing Council of the High Commissioner for Refugees, appointed by the League in October 1933, was given instructions which left him hardly any possibility for adopting a constructive attitude with regard to the settlement of refugees in British possessions and for holding out hopes that openings would be available in the United Kingdom. Notwithstanding the small numbers of refugees who entered Britain in the period 1933-1935 and although those admitted were only allowed to take up specially approved employment the fear of an alien invasion of the labour market played an important role in the vocal resistance of a large sector of public opinion against an imaginary mass influx of German Jews. The representatives of the medical profession were particularly insistent that foreign colleagues must not be allowed to practice in Britain: "The number that could usefully be absorbed or teach us anything could be counted on the fingers of one hand." The existence of xenophobia generally and—not always latent—antisemitism in particular was seriously taken into account both by the authorities and the bodies engaged on behalf of refugees and prevailed over the protagonists of

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start new enterprises, students, academics and a limited number of professionals might be considered eligible for admission. The delegation was advised to exercise great caution with regard to immigration possibilities to British colonies and avoid references to Palestine.

British scepticism about the usefulness of the Evian Conference turned out to be justified. The Intergovernmental Committee, set up in implementation of the recommendations adopted by the conference, was unable to attend effectively to the tasks assigned "to undertake negotiations to improve the present stage of conditions of exodus and to replace them by conditions of orderly emigration" and "to approach countries of refuge and settlement with a view to developing opportunities for permanent settlement." It should have been clear at that time that Germany was intent to make the conditions of exodus of Jews increasingly worse and that there was little sincere desire on the part of Governments to provide new facilities for the settlement of refugees. Hardly influenced by the "minuet" of Evian, Britain continued to liberalise its policy within limits by providing openings in nursing, domestic service, training for agricultural workers and students. The implementation of that policy was, however, frequently hampered by failures of governmental and related services to process efficiently the flood of applications.

The ominous settlement of the Sudeten issue by the sell out in Munich in October 1938 added another headache to the worries of the British Government. In the course of the negotiations, the fate of Czech and Sudeten German active opponents of National Socialism as well as of Jewish and non-Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria on Czechoslovak territory had not been taken care of. Intense public concern induced the British Government to grant temporary entry permits to 350 refugees and their families. The "Kristallnacht" and its aftermath, the reign of terror, violence and spoliation of German Jewry, caused shock and consternation in Britain as elsewhere. The Government now became willing to grant temporary asylum to categories of transmigrants, including trainees, and to child refugees.

With Hitler's entry into Prague in March 1939, the hollowness and futility of the appeasement policy became apparent but the readjustment of Britain's attitude to Nazi Germany did not lead to a basic change of the policy towards Jewish persecutees. The White Paper on Palestine, published in May 1939, dashed not only Zionist hopes that a territory for the rescue of the Jewish victims of National Socialist persecution would become available; the White Paper merely envisaged that 25,000 persons would be admitted within the next five years to Palestine as a contribution to the Jewish refugee problem. Illegal immigration, however, often carried out under shocking conditions, succeeded in partially overcoming the official restrictions. Projects of settlements in other parts of the Empire, especially British Guiana and Northern Rhodesia, and plans for international financial backing of mass immigration were found to be impracticable blueprints. Dr Sherman provides highly illuminating information also on these aspects of British pre-war policy. With the outbreak of war, in September 1939, a new still more tragic chapter in the destruction of European

Jewry under German domination began. For the 56,000 refugees from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia admitted to Britain at the time (according to other sources there were 73,000 from Germany and Austria and 10,000 from Czechoslovakia) started the often difficult and mostly successful experiment of integration.

Already in the introduction to his study, Dr Sherman maintains that a survey of British policy "refutes the widely-held view, based largely on the dramatic clash over Palestine, that the British Government was both ungenerous and indifferent to the fate of refugees from the Nazi régime." In the concluding chapter of the book, the author reverts to the question and arrives at a verdict of "not proven" as to "the standard charges, based on a narrow view of the Palestine problem, of British Government lack of generosity or indeed of indifference to the fate of refugees." One can agree with his statement that "Great Britain's refugee policy compared with that of other countries emerges, in the context of the pre-war period, as comparatively compassionate, even generous. There were no simple answers, no obvious or rapid solutions. But the problem was at least partially comprehended; needs were to some extent met; the drawbridge to safety within British territory was in fact only partially raised." These points are no doubt valid. It remains, however, an open question whether Britain and other democracies can be fully absolved from having helped too little and too late to rescue Jews from the impending disaster. Dr Sherman urges that "it must not be overlooked that despite all the evidence of brutal persecution few if any in responsible Government positions could have predicted that would-be immigrants left behind in the Greater Reich faced not merely privation, but an organised and ultimately largely successful attempt at physical annihilation." The extent of the murderous "final solution of the Jewish question" could certainly not have been envisaged in the years preceding World War II. But the failure of the comity of nations to interpret the more and more openly perpetrated brutal anti-Jewish actions of the National Socialists and their subservient policy makers as warning signal of an imminent threat to vital values of civilisation cannot be explained away. Much Jewish and non-Jewish suffering might have been avoided if the significance of the well known facts of the systematic humiliation and spoliation of the Jews under the Nazi rule had been correctly assessed.

TRIBUTES TO BEN-GURION

The standing of the late Mr. David Ben-Gurion, who died at the age of 87, as one of the greatest statesmen of our time was reflected in the detailed obituaries published in the national press of this country and abroad. Together with Herzl and Weizmann he was one of the main architects of the Jewish State. Born in Plonsk (Poland) as the son of a lawyer, he went to Palestine when he was 20 years old, and from then onwards took a leading part in the country's Jewish Labour movement. When the State of Israel was founded in 1948, he became its first Prime Minister. He held this office until 1953 but became Prime Minister again in 1961 and finally retired in 1963.

Under his premiership, against much initial opposition, first contacts between the young State and post-war Germany were established which resulted in the Luxembourg Reparations Agreement of 1952. The historic meeting in the New York Waldorf-Astoria Hotel between the late Chancellor Adenauer and Ben-Gurion led to a deep personal friendship between the two men and thus also contributed to the establishment of a new relationship between Jews and Germans after the Holocaust. At the Memorial Service in London, the German Federal Republic, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Mexico and Denmark were represented by their ambassadors.

GERMANY AND ISRAEL

"Not Neutral"

The West German Chancellor, Mr. Willy Brandt, has stated that the special nature of the Israeli-West German relationship would not be affected by the recent events and that there would be no German "neutrality of our hearts and conscience" towards Israel. The Germans, he said, would not try to escape from their history. These comments were interpreted as an attempt to remove some of the criticism voiced after West Germany joined other Common Market countries in what was considered a pro-Arab declaration.

In a speech to the European Parliament at Strasbourg, Mr. Brandt made it clear that he had endorsed the EEC declaration reluctantly. He felt that, as a result of his talks with Mrs. Golda Meir in London, the Israeli Government appreciated that, in substance, the Nine had not gone further than earlier UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Major Jalloud, the Libyan Premier, in an interview published in Bonn, threatened a total oil boycott should the West Germans fail to give Libya the most modern technological weapons. It was also demanded that the Common Market cut off economic aid and deliveries of spare parts to Israel. A West German Government spokesman said that Mr. Brandt's coalition would not capitulate on either score. However, the decision to stop arms shipments by the Americans from Germany to Israel has been defended by the West German Foreign Minister.

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HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

BOARD AND MIDDLE EAST

At a meeting of the Board of Deputies' radio and television committee, the chairman, Mr. Mishcon replied to deputies' complaints about anti-Israel bias in BBC reports. Mr. Mishcon, who urged a little more "even-handed assessment" of BBC programmes, said that they should not be judged in isolation and the corporation should also receive praise where it was due. Questioning the alleged offensiveness of the BBC description of certain members of Parliament as "Jewish peers and MPs", Mr. Mishcon asked if it was so bad to expect Jewish politicians to stand up and speak for their own people. Would a Catholic relating to an Irish issue protest at being described as a Catholic peer or MP? However, the various complaints by deputies would be considered by the committee, and representation might be made to the director-general of the BBC.

It was noted by the Board that the Middle East situation was being exploited by some elements to reflect on the national loyalties of British Jews. Several deputies asked the Board to prepare counter measures in case Israel and Jews were used as scapegoats for the oil shortage in Britain.

Lord Janner, the chairman of the Erets Israel committee, called upon the Government to prevent an attempt by Iraq, a declared enemy of Israel, to become a member of the UN Security Council. He criticised the British Government for continually refusing Israel spare parts and ammunition for the Centurion tanks in spite of the ceasefire. He called on the Government to support a decision by the European Parliament to counteract Arab oil blackmail by refusing to supply the countries concerned with necessary commodities.

BRITISH JEWS PRAISED

The recent plenary session of the World Zionist Organisation executive in Jerusalem unanimously expressed the view that events since the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War have shown that Britain has the most Zionist-minded Jewish community in the world. It was the executive's view that in fund-raising, in the number of volunteers sent to Israel and in its public relations activity in Britain—bearing in mind its size—the Anglo-Jewish community had surpassed all other communities.

On his way back to Israel from the United States, Dr. Josef Burg, the Israeli Minister of the Interior, addressing a meeting in London also spoke of the high regard in which Anglo-Jewry is held by the Israel Government and people for its emergency fund-raising.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Jewish ex-Servicemen and women all over the country joined their non-Jewish compatriots in acts of remembrance for the dead of the two world wars. Most communities held their own remembrance services in synagogues where, this year, the dead of Israel's armed forces in the recent hostilities were also mourned.

APPOINTMENTS

The first Jew to be elected president of the City Livery Club is Mr. Leslie Prince, Sheriff of the City of London from 1954-55 and, in 1971, Chief Commoner of the Corporation of London.

With his appointment by the Lord Chancellor as Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords and Deputy Chairman of Committees, Lord Segal of Whytham becomes the first Jewish Labour peer and the first medical Labour peer to sit on the Woolsack in the absence of the Lord Chancellor.

PRISONERS' MONTH

As part of the Prisoners' Month Campaign, 22 members of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, the 35s, chained themselves to the railings by the Foreign Office in protest at the imprisonment of Jews in the Soviet Union. Their intention was to plead with Sir Alec Douglas-Home on his visit to Moscow to ask for the release of the prisoners. After being cut free by policemen, the women were arrested and conditionally discharged for a year at the Bow Street Magistrates court.

"ELDERS OF ZION"

Several peers walked out of the House of Lords when, on December 5, Lord Kennet, an Opposition front bench spokesman, said: "Whatever the Elders of Zion might say, we know any other country in the world would do exactly what the Arabs have done" (in using oil as a political weapon). Lord Kennet later apologised for unintentionally using a phrase which gave offence.

COMMUNISTS SIDE WITH ARABS

The biannual national congress of the British Communist Party passed a resolution asserting that "the Arab people are completely justified in taking action to liberate their occupied territory and we fully support their just national liberation struggles". The resolution was moved by Councillor Solly Kaye. It also attacked Mr. Harold Wilson for his "defence of the Israeli Government".

"SUPERSTAR" NOT ANTISEMITIC

The Rev. W. W. Simpson, general secretary, Council of Christians and Jews, and Mr. Moshe Davis, executive director, Chief Rabbi's office, discussed the production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at a luncheon meeting of the Religious Weekly Group. They declared that neither the play nor the film was likely to rouse antisemitism and that it would take a lot more than the presentations to make people more antisemitic or fortify their existing antisemitism.

AWARD FOR WALTER LAQUEUR

The annual "Jewish Chronicle" Book Award to a British-based Jewish author for 1973 has been given to Walter Laqueur for his "A History of Zionism". Mr. Laqueur was born in Breslau in 1921 and left Germany for Palestine at the age of 17. He is now both director of the Institute of Contemporary History and the Wiener Library and professor of contemporary history at Tel Aviv University.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

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Holocaust Memorial

The Czechoslovakia-born artist, Mrs. Naomi Blake, a former Auschwitz inmate, donated a sculpture to the Council of Christians and Jews in memory of the victims of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe. The inscription on the sculpture, which is at the council's Chelsea headquarters, says that it is dedicated to the promotion of understanding and goodwill between people of different faiths and racial background.

With the same theme as inspiration, Mrs. Blake's other works include the doors to the Ark at the Kingsbury Synagogue, a memorial in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue, and the doors of the almost completed new Oxford Synagogue.

Hebrew Studies

The Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies of University College, London, has 48 students enrolled, including undergraduates, postgraduates and non-degree students. The substantial grant of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture has been extended until 1977, enabling the department to continue with its courses in Hebrew literature and Jewish history, additional to those previously offered in Hebrew language. BA Honours degrees are offered in either one or two Hebrew subjects.

Professor Siegfried Stein, head of the department where he has been since 1936 when he started with one student, retires at the end of this academic year to settle with his family in Israel.

Soviet Jewry Committee

The Greater London Inter-denominational Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry was formed at a meeting in the House of Commons. The sponsors of the new committee, whose aims are similar to committees already formed in provincial centres, include Lord Soper, the Rt. Rev. Trevor Huddleston, Mr. Simpson, Lord Janner, Mr. Terence Prittie, Sir Derek Barton and Rabbi Hugo Gryn.

New AJA Secretary

Twenty-four-year-old Mr. Jerry Lewis succeeds Mrs. Gabrielle Cairncross as secretary of the Anglo-Jewish Association. Mr. Lewis was formerly personal assistant to Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, and clerk to the Parliamentary All-Party Committee for Release of Soviet Jewry. At a reception to mark her retirement after seven years, tributes were paid to Mrs. Cairncross on her expert knowledge of international relations and for her contribution to the work of the AJA.

Assimilation

The Chief Rabbi, at a meeting in London arranged by the Federation of Zionist Youth, spoke of the enormous loss, comparable to the loss of the Holocaust, suffered by assimilation, and also of the negative loss in the low birth rate. The threat to Jewish survival had now reached the national Jewish agenda.

Aged Home Project

A £100,000 project has been launched to complete and equip the extension to the Maurice and Samuel Lyon Home, Great North Way, N.W.4, administered by the Friends of the London Jewish Hospital. The home, which functions as a short-stay home for the aged or infirm, has been in existence for seven years. It caters for 23 residents, shortly to be increased to between 30 and 34, as well as for other people on a daily basis. The extension will also provide three staff bedrooms, a new lounge with a separable section as synagogue or quiet room, and greatly improved amenities including a three-bed sick bay.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Two-edged Sword of Embargo

Saudi Arabia, according to a US Department of Agriculture survey, is completely dependent on America for both wheat and feed grains. Kuwait is similarly dependent for imported feed grains, and Iraq has to import 38 per cent of her wheat requirements. Ordinarily they could get replacement supplies from other countries but it is doubtful whether, in these times of shortages, any significant exports of grains and cereals could be expected. Moves are therefore afoot in America for an embargo of American food supplies and technological exports to Arab States as a counter measure to their oil embargo. Mr William Porter, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, stating that only by sharing the oil of the Middle East can everyone's needs be met, pointed out that economic blackmail in any form with any commodity "will be a two-edged sword, hurting those who wield it as well as intended victims".

Rabbis Condemn Nixon

At its meeting in New York, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Liberal) overwhelmingly expressed lack of confidence in President Nixon's credibility over Watergate. Although there was considerable feeling for a demand for his resignation or impeachment, the resolution did not go so far and two resolutions either for impeachment or resignation were shelved. Many of the delegates, particularly young ones, were far from satisfied at this.

In an interview before being installed as president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Liberal), Rabbi Alexander Moshe Schindler strongly condemned the Watergate scandal as an "erosion of American liberty". He declared that both the security of American Jews and of Israel depended on "a country which is truly free". Henceforth, however, no American President or Administration would dare engage in such activities again. Earlier, at the 100th anniversary conference of the UAHC, Rabbi Schindler read an outspoken condemnation of the Watergate affair prepared by his predecessor, Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, who died on November 9.

Community Growth Stops

At the general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in New Orleans, it was revealed that the American Jewish community has stopped growing and that its average age is rising. One out of every nine Jews is above 65 years old, and this will be one in six in 20 years' time.

There has been a tremendous growth in the number of Jews receiving a university education and the shift towards the professions has also increased substantially. Nearly a third of the Jewish working force today are managers, administrators and owners of enterprises, with about the same number in the professional and technical category.

There are, however, quite a number of poor Jews, mainly the elderly, with 44 per cent of these receiving incomes of less than \$4,000 (£1,600) per year, considered the poverty level, and 13 per cent with incomes of between \$4,000 and \$6,000.

Female Equality

The decision of the Rabbinical Assembly to accept women as members of *minyanim* has been overwhelmingly approved by the United Synagogue of America, the lay organisation of Conservative Judaism. At its biennial convention in New York, the US went even further by a 2-1 vote calling on constituent synagogues to allow equal opportunity for women congregants to assume positions of leadership, authority and responsibility in all phases of congregational activity. It also approved the law commission's decision of 1955 to allow women to be called to the reading of the Torah.

DUTCH STAND FIRM

A meeting in Brussels between Mr. Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch Minister for Economic Affairs, and Sheikh Ahmed Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, resulted in the Dutch Government retaining its stand. Sheikh Yamani made it clear that the Arabs expected some specific gesture from the Dutch Government "to repair the damage" before there could be any discussion about lifting the oil embargo. This would have to be separate from any common approach by the nine European Community members.

After the meeting Mr. Lubbers said: "We don't want to give the impression to anyone that we are here to buy oil on a Saturday morning by making any declaration which would be misunderstood by others". The price being demanded by Arabs seemed to be a breach with Israel, and Holland was not prepared for this. Holland was an integral part of the Community and fully endorsed the EEC declaration on the Middle East which called for an immediate withdrawal to the October 22 ceasefire lines and the eventual withdrawal by Israel from the territories she had occupied since the 1967 war. Mr. Lubbers said. The country would work for any solution to the Middle East problem, but only in partnership with other Common Market countries.

BELGIAN WOMEN DEFIANT

Defying a ban by the Brussels authorities, more than 500 black-clad members of all Belgian Jewish women's organisations demonstrated in the streets of the capital to show their solidarity with Israel. The women had earlier gathered at the national monument to the Jewish martyrs of Belgium to express their sympathy for the women of Israel.

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY

The new president of the Gibraltar Jewish community is Mr. Abraham Serfaty, a 28-year-old barrister and a graduate of Newcastle University, who also studied for a year at the Gateshead Yeshiva. He succeeds Mr. Samuel Benady, QC, leader of the Gibraltar Bar, elected president in 1956 and now made life president.

SYDNEY

Danger in Sweetness

The Governor General of Australia, Sir Paul Hasluck, opening the Perth Jewish centre warned the city's Jews that the danger facing them was not pogroms or antisemitism but the very real danger of being drowned in "a syrup of sweetness".

DENMARK

Synagogue Fire

Fire broke out at the Machsike Hadass synagogue in Copenhagen, causing six persons to be overcome by smoke and some damage to the synagogue. The police suspect arson.

Community Leader

The new president of the Danish Jewish community is Mr S. Levitan, in succession to Professor Isi Foighel, who has been elected vice-president.

Government Resignation

One of the factors which may have contributed to the resignation of the Social Democratic Government was a speech by Mr Anker Jorgensen, the former Danish Prime Minister. He is reported to have told a political meeting that he regarded the Arabs as having opened fire on October 6 to begin the latest round of fighting in the Middle East. Stating that his sympathies lay mainly with Israel, he defended the country for taking up arms. He was also reported as saying that the Common Market ought to stand solidly with Holland.

His remarks caused a sensation in Denmark and other European countries and several Arab newspapers called for a stop of oil deliveries to Denmark. Nearly all Danish newspapers described the speech as an "enormous howler". The speech deepened the already critical internal political situation, so that the Social Democratic Government was forced to resign within a few days.

AUSTRIA

New Transit Camp

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has announced the official closing of Kastel Schoenau as a transit camp for Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel, although he did not mention a date. He also made a statement that a barracks in Woellersdorf would now become a short-stay reception centre for "refugees" in transit through Austria under the administration of the Lower Austria Red Cross. The Mayor of Woellersdorf, a township of some 2,000 inhabitants 20 miles south of Vienna, has expressed opposition to the use of the barracks as a reception centre.

On a visit to London to attend a meeting of the Socialist International, Dr. Kreisky repeated his conviction that the closing down of Kastel Schoenau was justified. The fear of a super-Munich massacre had hung constantly over the Government's heads, and by making the decision the lives of the three Jewish hostages and the Austrian customs officer were saved. He added that there was no obstacle to the transit through Austria of people from one country to another. Austria's traditional policy of hospitality to refugees, emigrants or transmigrants would be maintained. He pointed out that Austria was the only country which actually provided transit facilities for Russian Jews who wished to go to Israel and, in fact, the flow of Russian Jewish migrants through Austria had doubled in recent weeks.

Only a few days before his arrival in London the Ambassadors of Libya, Saudi Arabia and Iraq had called on Dr. Kreisky to protest about the pro-Israel attitude of Austrian public opinion and the media. He explained to them that the Government did not control public opinion in the country, and refused to discuss the problem of oil supplies.

Returnees to Russia

In Vienna a group of 40 Soviet Jews seeking to return to the Soviet Union after emigrating from Israel forced their way into the Soviet Consulate to demand re-entry permits. Soviet officials had to call the police to persuade the Jews to return to the tenement where they live.

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Egon Larsen

FROM BAD WIESSEE TO AUSCHWITZ

Anatomy of Mass Murder

The historians are now moving in to explain to us what happened during Hitler's twelve-year millennium. Do we want to know the details of a civilised nation's sudden return to barbarism, do we want to trace, coolly and scientifically, the twists in the minds of mass murderers? Those amongst us who shrink back in horror from the professors' books cannot be blamed; but the younger generations in the Western world, who know of the Nazi period mainly by hearsay, from popular newspaper serials and from sensationalist films and TV programmes, need some solid, reliable historical works to help them understand the inexplicable. We can only hope that the awful warning will sink in and that, for once, Hegel will be proved wrong in his depressing dictum: that "neither nations nor governments ever learn anything from history".

Two recent books will assist the student of the Nazi period. *The Night of the Long Knives* by Max Gallo, Professor of History at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris (Souvenir Press, London, 1973, £2.75), deals with the events of June 30, 1934, which we now see as the dress rehearsal of a gang of murderers for the genocidal massacres a decade later. The "night of the long knives"—Hitler himself coined the phrase—was, of course, mainly the liquidation of a rival gang within the Nazi movement, which threatened the Führer's position and power. The political situation in the summer of 1934, argues Professor Gallo, was balancing on a knife-edge. The SA had helped Hitler to usurp the government in Germany, but now they were preparing a "second revolution" under their own leader, Ernst Röhm, in order to oust the industrialists and junkers who were still controlling the country. Three men, Himmler with his Gestapo, Heydrich with his SS, and Göring who was in charge of the Luftwaffe, pushed Hitler into his course of action against the SA and everybody whom he disliked and who might have challenged his power. The surprise attack on Röhm and his minions at Bad Wiessee, a popular holiday resort on the Tegernsee, was the bloody climax of a Machiavellian plot, an incredibly savage mixture of gang warfare à la Chicago, Valkyrian fury, Gothic horror, and merciless treachery. For anyone who cared to look at that scene, the true nature of Germany's new masters and the psychopathic characters of those leaders of a nation in the centre of Europe should have been apparent. But the world preferred to look the other way, and to give Hitler the benefit of the doubt when he explained the whole orgy of murders and executions merely as an action necessary to "restore law and order".

Gallo's book is certainly well researched, but its newspaper-serial style with its dramatic present tense and its film-scenario kind of narrative may put some serious students off, though this makes the book more digestible for the general reader. The short bibliography is not very impressive, and an index is sadly missing.

The Twisted Road to Auschwitz, sub-titled *Nazi Policy toward German Jews 1933-39*, by Karl A. Schleunes, assistant professor of history at the University of Illinois (André Deutsch, London, 1972, £2.50), has a more academic flavour. "The realisation that men will construct a factory in which to kill other men", says the author, "raises the gravest

questions about man himself. We have entered an age which we cannot avoid labelling 'after Auschwitz'. If we are to begin to understand ourselves we must somehow come to grips with the reality of Auschwitz". Professor Schleunes strikes with these words at the heart of the matter, the terrible lesson which the murder of six million Jews forces on all mankind in the second half of our century. His study, however, stops short of the Holocaust itself; he does not attempt to recreate the "reality of Auschwitz", but concentrates on the Nazi leaders' mentality.

This is an exhaustive analysis of the political road that led to the gas ovens. The author proves that for the first five or six years of Nazi rule there was no such thing as a "Jewish policy". Hitler had used anti-semitism as one of his main weapons in his fight for power, knowing by instinct that it was a most effective one in post-1918 Germany. As the unscrupulous demagogue he was, and banking on the poor logical faculties of the country's lower social strata, he cast "the Jew" in contradictory rôles—as the wicked financier for the working classes, as the Bolshevik destroyer for the bourgeoisie, as the international plotter for the professional classes. After his rise to power, Hitler had to produce some kind of policy to deal with the mutually exclusive parts he had assigned to Germany's Jews. The task was beyond him, and there were deep conflicts between him and Göring, Goebbels, Himmler, Heydrich, and Eichmann, each of whom tried to make himself the executor of his own brand of "Jewish policy". The advisers bent on mass murder as the *Endlösung* won once the war had started. It is a tragic irony that as late as 1939, organised Jewish emigration was still in favour with some Nazi leaders, and that the Gestapo and SS were "willing to lend support" to such schemes.

RISE AND DECLINE OF A NEWSPAPER

Unless there is a last-minute turn of events and some investors are ready to step into the breach, the German-language daily in Israel, "Yedioth Chadashoth", will have closed down by the end of 1973.

Newspaper business the world over has become risky and unrewarding, with high wages and salaries, expensive machinery and ever climbing costs of paper and administration. Over the past few years, some Hebrew dailies had to be discontinued and to

give way to the competition, but there is no such competition for "Yedioth Chadashoth": its demise is more than a sign of the crisis in the newspaper world; it is far more a sign of the decline of the German-speaking sector in Israel.

Till 1967 there were two German-language dailies vying with each other ("Yedioth Hayom" was the other one) and at a time, almost each major political party had a German-speaking weekly—"Dapim" for Mapai, "Emeth" for the Liberals, "Hakidmah" for the Progressives. Today, only "MB", the weekly of the "Immigrants Association from Central Europe" is still in existence.

In those years, there was a strong representation of German Jews in the Government—Pinkus Rosen and Perez Naphtali, Georg Josephthal and Joseph Burg, with Siegfried Moses as State Comptroller. Jews from Germany were members of the Supreme Court and of the Knesseth, and not only in Nahariah was German the dominant language: settlements such as Kfar Smaryahu and Sde Warburg, Shave Zion, Ramat Hashavim and Beth Yitzhak were still populated by the founder generation from Germany, and so was Jerusalem's Rehavia, Haifa's Hadar Hacarmel and the North of Tel Aviv.

These were the 60,000 or so immigrants who had come to the country with the "Fifth Aliyah" in the years 1934-1938, later to be reinforced by a wave of immigration from Austria and Czechoslovakia. In those years, when the "Yedioth Chadashoth" was founded by the late S. Blumenthal, the German language in Israel was discriminated against: old prejudices of the East European sector against the German Jews were levelled against the German language with the label that it was an instrument of the Nazis. Blumenthal could start his venture only as a mimeographed news sheet, called "Blumenthals Neueste Nachrichten", to serve as information for the many people who could neither read English nor Hebrew, but even against these modest beginnings there were threats and acts of terror on the part of those who would not tolerate the German language in any form.

In the 3½ decades which followed these difficult days, made difficult also by the restrictive and discriminating policy of the official Jewish authorities, "Yedioth Chadashoth" rose to the highest place among the many foreign-language dailies in Israel, later to be overtaken by the English "Jerusalem Post" and the Hungarian "Ikeleth". After the death of its founder, his widow became the head of the enterprise and it remained a family business till her recent passing, with all its advantages and disadvantages. There were occasions when political parties showed an active interest but the paper preferred to remain independent, both financially and politically.

Naturally, the inevitable biological process has thinned the ranks of its readers and with it, diminished its attraction as an advertising medium. German speaking Jewry in Israel, by the command of the passing of time, is losing its entity and identity, and no less difficult than to find sufficient readers and advertisers was it to find editors.

With the closing down of "Yedioth Chadashoth" a chapter in the ethnical and demographic upbuilding of Israel has come to an end. Yet there are still many left among the older age group for whom the end of the German-language paper has come prematurely and who feel themselves "cut off".

HERBERT FREEDEN (Jerusalem).

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Gabriele Tergit

BUDAPEST 1944-45

Erstauulich wenig, vielleicht von Frankreich abgesehen, ist das Leben im Nazi besetzten Europa dokumentiert. So ist jedes Buch eines Augenzeugen, die jetzt langsam verschwinden, wie Kasimir Werners "Nie wieder Gestern" (Garuda Verlag, Darmstadt), willkommen.

Budapest hatte eine Million Einwohner, davon 205 000 Juden, die assimiliertesten der Welt, eine Oberschicht, Geadelte, Industrielle, Heiterkeitsproduzenten für die ganze Welt mit ihren Filmen, Lustspielen, Revuen, Operetten, eine Spezialrasse von Journalisten, Theodor Herzl war einer von ihnen, aber sie waren auch geniale Kunsthandwerker. Kasimir Werner, ein naher Verwandter des grossen Theaterarchitekten Oskar Kaufmann, war am Theater von Saltzburg in Berlin und heiratete eine protestantische Berliner Sängerin.

Im Juli 1944 hatte Eichmann auf einem Budapester Bahnhof die ungarischen Polizisten, die auf Horthys Befehl die Verschickung der Juden hindern sollten, verhaftet. Von da an stand die Stadt unter dem Schreckensregime der ungarischen Nazis, den Pfeilkreuzlern, die die jüdischen Wohnungen für sich mit Beschlag belegten und die Juden in "jüdische" Häuser zusammenpferchten, bevor sie sie zur Verschickung abholten, wenn sie nicht in das Pfeilkreuzlerhaus trieben, wo sie ermordet und in die Donau geworfen wurden. Im November 1944 war Werner bei einer Gruppe von 150 Zwangsarbeitern, die in den Schulräumen des Margaretenklosters hausten, in dem, was diese Zwangsarbeiter nicht wussten, 40 jüdische Familien verborgen waren, die einer der Pfeilkreuzler-Razzien zum Opfer fielen. Diesen Razzien zu entgehen war nun eine Sache von Tod und Leben. Es gab keinerlei Organisation. "Es gab nur einen Mann, der den Juden zu Hilfe kam, Raoul Wallenberg. Er transportierte so viele Juden wie er nur konnte in die schwedischen Schutzhäuser."

Frau Werner bat zuerst einmal eine Hure, ihren "Freund" aufzunehmen, was die Gutmütige auch tat. Aber Werner verdarb sich diese sichere Bleibe, als er bei einem Alarm in den Keller stürzte, wo dem Hauswart der Fremde gleich verdächtig vorkam. Dann brachte ihn ein Pfarrer im Glockengestühl seines Kirchturms unter, obwohl die Pfeilkreuzler alle Pfarrhäuser nach Juden untersuchten. Als der Turm gebombt wurde, schickte ihn der Pfarrer als Mönch verkleidet in den Weinkeller, in den Niemand kam ausser Pater Adam von der Nachbargemeinde, um den Messwein zu holen, und der sagte eines Tages: "Die Russen sind ganz in der Nähe. Sie werden uns aus unserer schrecklichen Lage befreien. Ob Sie es glauben oder nicht, ich bin der Oberrabbiner von Telk."

In einem Anfall von Optimismus ging Werner in seine Wohnung, wo gerade ein Freund, ein Deserteur, der nicht wusste, dass Werner Jude war, sich verstecken wollte, als ein Offizier klingelte, der für seinen Oberst ein Zimmer requirieren wollte. Dann kam eine Razzia. Frau Werner stellte ein Hitlerbild aufs Büffet, was die Razzia vertrieb. Dann brachte ein Offiziersbursche Rotwein und sie tafelten, ein Journalist aus dem Haus, die Offiziere, Werner und seine schöne Frau, und der Oberst stiess auf die deutschen Wunderwaffen an, auf den Sieg, und stammelte betrunken: "Tod, Tod den Juden." Als sie allein waren, kam ihr jüdischer Nachbar Gross. Da er keine Abstammungspapiere hatte, war er bei der Razzia mitgenommen worden. Als er in das Pfeilkreuzhaus kam, entdeckte er, dass der Pfeilkreuzkommandant

Dr. Kövy war: "Mein alter Schachpartner, dem ich zehn Jahre lang im Kaffeehaus gegenüber gesessen hatte." Er wurde freigelassen.

Die letzten Tage, das Versagen der Kanalisation, kein Essen, Pferde wurden auf der Strasse geschlachtet, das Gerücht, dass die Deutschen alle Häuser im Ghetto miniert hätten, um sie in die Luft zu sprengen. Sogenannte Kommunisten wurden unter dem Jubel des Mobs an die Laterne des Oktogonplatzes und der Andrassystrasse gehängt, alle Häuser der Leopoldstadt wankten durch die Sprengung der Kettenbrücke, nachdem kurz vorher die Margaretenbrücke mit allen Passanten, Autos, Wagen gesprengt worden war. Ein vorher untadeliger Priester, das Kreuzifix am Hals, schnallte sich einen Patronengürtel um und tötete mit einer Maschinenpistole im jüdischen Krankenhaus in der Marcostrasse 150 Kranke, alle Aerzte und Krankenschwestern. Herren taten sich zusammen und engagierten Huren für 1000 Pengö pro Kopf und Woche, um ihre Frauen vor der Vergewaltigung durch die Russen zu schützen.

Am 18. Januar kamen die Russen. Sie suchten in Werners Haus nach Deutschen. "Hier sind keine, denn hier gibt es Juden, zum Beispiel mich." Und der Russe: "Ich Juden nicht gern." Alle suchten nun nach ihren Angehörigen. Die Bekannten kamen, die der "arischen" Frau Werner ihre Wertesachen anvertraut hatten. Die Russen verteilten Schaufeln, um die Müllberge und hartgefrorenen Leichen wegzuschaffen. Die Pfeilkreuzler waren verschwunden, wie es nirgendwo den Juden geglückt war zu verschwinden. Man fuhr in die Provinz zum Lebensmitteltausch und im Abendkleid und Ruderboot über die Donau zu Gesellschaften, bald tat man die Gesellschaftskleidung in den Rucksack und fuhr in Arbeitskleidern. Unsicherheit verbreitete sich. Leute waren von den Russen weggeholt worden: "Malinka robota" kleine Arbeit, aber sie kehrten nicht zurück. Werner wurde in die russische Kommandantur neben dem Hotel Britannia vorgeladen, ein Gebäude, in dem die "Erwachenden Ungarn" schon 20 Jahre vor Hitler Juden gefoltert hatten. Werner wurde gefragt: "Waren zwei Fabrikdirektoren Nazis oder nicht? Wer stand hinter einer Frauendemonstration mit Transparenten 'Lasst unsre Männer heim, wir haben genug von Sibirien'?" Jeder Mensch musste zu den Vorträgen über Marx, Lenin, etc. in Höfen. im Freien, in Sälen, gehen. Die Werners wollten nur weg.

Landau, ein Eisengiesser aus Rumänien, wusste wie man das machte. Plötzlich gab es zum erstenmal einen echten Fluchtweg. Als sie in Oedenburg ausstiegen, kam ein kleiner Mann auf sie zu: "Das Losungswort für die Taxis ist Abraham." Wortlos fuhr das Taxi zur Oedenburger jüdischen Gemeinde, die die Menschen zum österreichischen Zollhaus brachte, wo keiner nach Ausweisen fragte, von wo ein Bus sie zum Wiener Rothschildkrankenhaus fuhr. Plötzlich fühlten sich Werners ganz fremd. Der jiddisch sprechende Landau kannte im Nu das ganze Krankenhaus.

Werner beschreibt den Aufenthalt in Wien, wieder Verhaftung in der russischen Zone, die verlegten Akten des Beamten, den schwarzen Markt, das Gefühl "Nur raus aus Europa". "Aber kein Land lässt gern Juden rein", schreibt Werner. So gingen sie nach Palästina. Damit endet das Buch, das als ein autobiographischer Roman, ehrlich und einfach geschrieben, durchaus ein Dokument ist mit faszinierenden Einzelheiten.

Ignaz Maybaum

THE WORLD HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

When the ten volumes of Simon Dubnow's history of the Jewish people were ready for publication, an overall title was sought for this formidable work. The title *World History of the Jewish People* was chosen. It was an apt choice. The Jewish people is involved, wherever history is not merely a local affair, but is of world-wide relevance. In the history of the Roman Empire as well as in the history of Islam the absence of chapters about the Jewish people is unthinkable. There is a confrontation between Rome and Jerusalem, a confrontation between Muslim and Jew of which the historian has to take note.

It is a truism, often repeated, to demand of each generation to write the history of the past again. New material is continuously forthcoming, new interpretations are continuously necessary. In his book *The Jews in the Roman World*¹ Michael Grant writes about Jews and Romans and achieves new perspectives. So does Bernard Lewis in his splendid work *Islam in History*².

Michael Grant draws a picture of Pilate which will appear as new to many readers. We know of Pilate "washing his hands" after pronouncing the verdict. Yet no Roman would perform such a ritual. It is an entirely oriental custom. Let this be the one example why history must be rewritten. There are many instances of this kind in Michael Grant's book, which will fascinate the reader. The Herodians, the Zealots, the Crucifixion, Massada appear in a light often different from the approach of previous history books.

The Islamic scholar Bernard Lewis cannot be praised enough for the clarity with which he writes about the Muslim world. I have no hesitation to compare him with the great Islamist Ignaz Goldziher: "It is said that when the Turkish historian Ahmed Refik, returning from a tour of Europe at the beginning of this century, was asked by his friends what was the most remarkable thing he had seen on his travels, he replied: 'The University of Budapest, where I found a Jewish professor expounding the Qur'an to a class of Christian pupils.' The Jewish professor was, of course, Ignaz Goldziher. Since then, some of his writings have been translated into Arabic, and are used for teaching Muslim Arab pupils their own heritage. Not a few other Jewish scholars have been translated and adapted in the same way" (p. 130). Reading Bernard Lewis's essays I find a deep feeling of fellowship of the Jewish scholar with Islam. This too connects Bernard Lewis with the great Ignaz Goldziher, who said to his Muslim pupils when they took leave from the master: "We are brothers, we are brothers. This is my message as Jew to the Muslim."

The historian of the world history of the Jewish people proceeds in our days to a new chapter. His new duty is to write about Jew and German, as he wrote about Jew and Roman, about Jew and Muslim. *Higadeta lebincha*, "tell the story to your son". The world history of the Jewish people is the history, the haggadah, the narrative of the exodus from darkness to light.

¹ Michael Grant: *The Jews in the Roman World*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, £4.00.
² Bernard Lewis: *Islam in History: Ideas, Men and Events in the Middle East*. Alcovoe Press, £5.00.

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IN MEMORIAM

HERBERT S. GARFIELD

A Great Loss for the AJR

When, on November 26, the news spread that Mr. Herbert S. Garfield had died suddenly at the early age of 54, all those who were connected with him in one way or another found it hard to believe. And now, after the lapse of several weeks, it still has not sunk in.

Born in Hamburg, where he spent his formative years, he came to this country before the war when he was still young enough to absorb the values of his new environment without any limitations. The organic blend of loyalty to his background and of cultural, social and professional integration into the life of this country shaped his entire personality. During the war he served with the Durham Light Infantry and for a year was attached to Shaef (Supreme Headquarters, Allied Forces Europe) where he was awarded by the late General Eisenhower a certificate of merit for "conspicuously meritorious performance of duty." After the end of hostilities he embarked on a legal career and became a partner of the well-known solicitors firm of Oppenheimer, Nathan & Vandyk. The extent to which he combined legal knowledge, sound judgement and an eye for the best practicable solution of a problem with a deep personal interest in his clients made him not only a reliable adviser but also a trusted friend to numerous people, many of them of Continental origin.

The loss suffered by the organisations with which he was associated is particularly great for the AJR. It is in the nature of the AJR's work that a comparatively high proportion of its honorary officers belong to the older generation. On the other hand, the services of the AJR will be required for a long time to come. Herbert Garfield was one of those Executive Members of whom we hoped that, in the course of time, he would take an even greater share in shouldering the burden. This hope has now vanished. In spite of his great professional commitments, he would always spare the time to take part in the regular meetings of our Executive, expressing his well-founded views on the variety of questions under discussion, some of them vital, some of them of lesser importance. In the same spirit he rendered his valuable services to the worldwide Council of Jews from Germany as a member of its Presidium.

By his death the members of the AJR Executive have lost a dear friend and colleague, and the community at large a loyal guide and faithful servant. They feel united in their sense of deprivation with his wife, his young sons and his numerous personal friends.

W.R.

Services to B'nai B'rith

One of the most significant characteristics of Herbert Sidney Garfield was his devotion to B'nai B'rith. Here, he found, he could give practical expression to his sense of humanity, Jewish unity and his desire to be of service to others. His father had been a member of the Henry Jones Lodge in Hamburg and, later in London, of the Leo Baeck Lodge which had been founded by refugees from Germany and Austria. Herbert, shortly after his return from distinguished war service, joined the Leo Baeck Lodge in 1947 and soon became one of its leading members. He

served as Warden and Treasurer and, for altogether six terms, as a Vice-President. It was the strongest wish of his Lodge brothers, expressed repeatedly, that he should become President but his professional, family and many other commitments compelled him to decline. His legal knowledge, wisdom and sound common sense were great assets to the Lodge. He took a prominent part in formulating its Constitution, a model of flexibility and incisiveness, in establishing a Charitable Trust of the Lodge on new and ingenious lines, and in setting up as a separate legal entity the Leo Baeck Day Centre for the Over-Sixties. After his last term as a Vice-President, he continued to serve on the Council of the Lodge. It was his particular gift that, speaking usually after he had heard all opinions, he was able to propose a conclusion representing the greatest common denominator or the most practical compromise. For many years he was Chairman of the Lodge's Scholarship Fund Committee; after laying down this office he continued to take a very strong interest in this Fund which has made bursaries totalling tens of thousands of pounds to Jewish students, mainly post-graduates from Israel. His help and advice on the Management Council of the Day Centre Company were invaluable.

Herbert Garfield also served for many years with distinction on the Executive of the Grand Lodge of the British District; he was constantly urged to accept higher office but had to decline. His last contribution—only a few weeks ago—to the B'nai B'rith movement was the draft of a new Ritual which was acclaimed as a model of brief, clear and dignified language. In the deliberations of the various B'nai B'rith bodies he was always listened to with the greatest respect; his opinion carried exceptional weight.

Loyalty to his comrades of the Second World War was another of his chief characteristics. Just eight days before his death, he took part—as he had done year after year in all weathers—in the Annual Remembrance Service and Parade of Ajax.

Herbert Garfield's great service to the AJR has been mentioned in the preceding article. The writer had the privilege to co-operate closely with him as a Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust in whose specific charitable tasks Herbert Garfield took a very deep interest, shaped by his sense of social responsibility.

The B'nai B'rith Movement and the Leo Baeck Lodge in particular have suffered by the premature death of Herbert Garfield, the loss of an exemplary member who was respected and loved by all his B'nai B'rith brothers and sisters.

F.E.F.

KURT LOEWENSTEIN

Mr. Kurt Loewenstein (Tel Aviv), who died at the age of 71, was a member of that generation of German Jewish publicists who combined their deeply rooted Zionist convictions with a wide humanitarian outlook. Originating from the Jewish youth movement he worked, under Dr. Robert Weltsch, on the editorial staff of the Juedische Rundschau from 1933 until all Jewish periodicals were prohibited in 1938. This was a time when a particularly high degree of courage and skill was required to keep the Jews in Germany informed on current events and to help them to retain their morale and self-confidence.

He emigrated to Palestine shortly before the outbreak of war and later joined the editorial staff of the "MB", the German language weekly of the AJR's fraternal organisation in Israel. There again, his articles on current events testified to his courageous, self-critical and undogmatic personality. As an author he also dealt with wider issues connected with the position of the Jews in Central Europe. He contributed a treatise on "Die innerjuedische Reaktion auf die Krise der deutschen Demokratie" to the symposium "Entscheidungsjahr 1932" published by the Leo Baeck Institute and, as the result of thorough research work in Zurich, completed a book about Thomas Mann's attitude to the Jewish question which will be published shortly.

BRIGADIER GLYN HUGHES

Brigadier Glyn Hughes, who recently died at the age of 81, was the head of the British medical team which entered the Belsen concentration camp after its liberation. There were 58,000 people in the camp, the great majority of them on the brink of death. Thanks to the superhuman efforts of Brigadier Hughes and his men, some 30,000 of them were brought through to recovery. Dr. Hughes visited Israel on a number of occasions and attended reunions of Belsen survivors. He was president of the council of the Bridge in Britain.

DR. THEODOR TREITEL

Dr. Theodor Treitel, whose death at the age of 88 was announced last month, was a well known lawyer in Berlin, who, unlike many in his professional stratum, was deeply rooted in Jewish tradition. During the first years after his arrival in this country, he bravely adjusted himself to the changed circumstances. He spent the last period of his life at Otto Schiff House, where he found happiness and particularly enjoyed the Jewish atmosphere of the Home. At the same time, by his cultured and unassuming personality, he endeared himself to his fellow residents and to the staff. He will be gratefully remembered by all who knew him.

ALVA (SOLOMON ALWAIS)

The painter Alva (Solomon Alwais), who died recently at the age of 72, was born in Berlin of Orthodox parents and attended the Berlin Jewish School. He came to this country in 1938. Among his paintings are a cycle of the Prophets. He was once described by Dr. Henry Stroh, as with Marc Chagall, "the only really Jewish painter" because of the "underlying sorrow, pain and irony combined with spirituality so discernible in his work."

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

ARNOLD HORWELL 60

On January 19, Dr. Arnold Horwell, member of the AJR Executive, will celebrate his 60th birthday. He has been associated with Jewish activities since his childhood and youth, when he was a member of the German-Jewish youth movement. After having obtained his doctorate when the Nazis were already in power, he joined the staff of the "Hilfsverein" of German Jews and, in this capacity, played a responsible part in helping his fellow Jews to leave Germany before it was too late. He himself stayed almost until the beginning of the war and came to this country after having been appointed a staff member of Kitchener Camp in Richborough. Like most Kitchener Camp men, he later joined the army where he reached the rank of captain. As a member of the occupation forces, he was one of the first to enter the liberated Belsen Camp.

After his demobilisation he, like many others, had to adjust himself to the civilian life of a country in which he had not lived in "normal" times. This was not easy. Yet, with the help of his wife, Susanne, who is a Jewish communal worker in her own right, from small beginnings he built up a successful business in medical equipment which has established a high reputation in the trade.

At the same time, Arnold Horwell has always been guided by feelings of strong Jewish commitments. An active member of the Leo Baeck Lodge, he was the president in 1968 when the Lodge celebrated its Silver Jubilee at a memorable dinner, with Quintin Hogg (now Lord Hailsham), James Callaghan and Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen among the speakers. He is also closely associated with the work at Hillel House and at the Belsize Square Synagogue. The Executive of the AJR has benefited from his knowledge of Jewish affairs and unassuming helpfulness for many years. Equally, he and his wife have re-

peatedly put themselves at the disposal of the AJR Club and the Homes by the arrangement of well compèred gramophone recitals or lantern slide shows. It is the combination of professional success and unreserved readiness to serve his community which stands out in Arnold Horwell's personality. We wish him many happy returns of the day.

IDA COBLENZ 90

Reading her letters and looking at her photographs, one would hardly believe that Ida Coblenz was even seventy. She never liked to be in the limelight, and it was difficult to elicit the date of her birthday from her, but she will be ninety on the 8th January, 1974.

Her husband, Dr. Felix Coblenz, was a rabbi first of the Jewish community in Bielefeld and later *Prediger* of the "Jüdische Reform-gemeinde" in Berlin. After his death, Mrs. Coblenz lived in Düsseldorf. She was an active member of the "Jüdische Frauenbund", chairman of the Düsseldorf group, and also a representative of the Jewish community there.

Mrs. Coblenz worked tirelessly for the "Erholungsfürsorge" of the "Jüdische Frauenbund", i.e. the care of children, young people and women in need of a holiday. She was in charge of the so-called "Reisesteuer-Fonds", a fund which aimed at persuading those women able to afford a holiday or a stay at a spa, to make voluntary donations so that people less fortunate than they themselves could have a holiday as well. During the Nazi period this fund helped especially women and young people, during or after their training, to have a short breathing space before leaving Germany.

Mrs. Coblenz first emigrated to England and, I believe, worked as a cook-housekeeper. She accepted this new way of life with dignity and without complaint, happy in the knowledge that she lived again in a free country. She later joined her brother and sister-in-law in New York, and after her brother's death still shares the home with her sister-in-law at 211 W. 106th Street, Apartment 72, New York, N.Y. 100025.

At a time when other people retire, she started to transcribe books into Braille for the Guild of the Jewish Blind in New York. The past two years she has been busy with a transcription of the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*, which is to go to a teacher of Greek and Latin History at Keele University. After that she plans to work again for the Guild of the Jewish Blind! Besides she greatly enjoys music and the arts.

"The only way to have a life worth living is to keep busy for a good cause", Mrs. Coblenz wrote a little while ago. With love and appreciation we wish her good health and may she long continue to live such a full and useful life.

D.S.

IRENE EISINGER 70

The singer, Irene Eisinger, who recently celebrated her 70th birthday, is well remembered by many in our midst as an outstanding member of the ensembles of the three opera houses in Berlin. In this country she soon again established a reputation for herself by her appearances at Glynedebourne and Covent Garden and her recitals at the BBC, thus, at the same time, adding lustre to the general standing of the community of the new arrivals. Her solidarity with our community also found its expression when she put herself generously at the disposal of the AJR on the occasion of several concerts in the 1940s. In gratitude we wish Irene Eisinger, who now lives in retirement, many more years of health and happiness.

DR. WALTER DUX 85

On January 8, Dr. Walter Dux will be 85. A member of the K.C. in his student days and still a loyal friend to his Bundesbrueder, he was actively associated with the C.V. and with Jewish welfare work in Hanover, where he lived before he came to this country. He resumed his work for the benefit of his fellow Jews from the Continent, when Otto Hirsch House in Kew was opened and was, for a long time, Chairman of its House Committee. He relinquished this office a few years ago but still retained his connections with the Home as a House Committee member. In his profession as a chemical scientist, he was not only successful as the head of his firm but also retained a deep interest in research and in assessing the position of science in the context of the wider issues of mankind's present-day problems. Lastly, there is his unsatiable love of the classics as manifested in literature and in archaeology. Adding to these facets his happy family life, he has every reason to consider himself a fortunate man. We join his numerous friends in sending him our sincerest birthday greetings.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR PRINZ 75

Professor Arthur Prinz recently celebrated his 75th birthday. An economist by profession, he held a responsible position with the Hilfsverein in Berlin when the Nazis were in power. In this capacity he not only helped many Jews to leave Germany in time, but also with much skill and courage used his personal contacts with pre-1933 German friends in the interest of the persecuted.

In the United States he was first lecturer at the University of Cleveland, Ohio, and later professor of economics at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. He is also actively associated with the American section of the Leo Baeck Institute and took part in the Institute's Scholar's Conference last year. A keen observer of the American scene, he contributed several articles on this subject to "AJR Information" and other German-Jewish periodicals. Professor Prinz now lives in retirement in San Diego. We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to him.

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JAKOB WASSERMANN THE OUTSIDER

"... ein Jude, der sein ganzes Leben lang aufs qualvollste mit seinen juedischen Schicksal rang." This is one description of Wassermann's central problem. And it is perhaps enough for the understanding of his novel—*Engelhart oder Die Zwei Welten. Habent sua fata libelli*. The manuscript of this novel, published 1973 but written between 1902 and 1904 had disappeared completely. It was not published at that time because—and there are two versions—his friend Moritz Heimann thought it to be a failure or because it showed his father and stepmother in such a bad light that its author decided against it.

An Autobiographical Novel

The book is a hardly veiled autobiography. Wassermann gave the manuscript to his Viennese friend Philip Baron Schey and it was supposed to be lost. Yet there were copies and one of them was found in 1972 in a box which had not been opened for 40 years. The author's son, Charles Wassermann, in the present edition describes the history of the work. But of what interest is it for our own time?

For a post-Nazi German Jew it is poignant to come across a book where a Jew in Germany tells about his life in that country as a person who is part and parcel of it and tries to come to terms with that fact. Therefore—quite apart from the interest of

its autobiographical or purely personal elements—it is a picture of the relationship between Germans and Jews at the beginning of our century. The action is set entirely in Southern Germany, Bavaria and Baden. And there we receive a shock. In that part of Imperial Germany antisemitism was just as rife and unbearable as in other parts of the country.

However, let us not forget, the narrator is a hypersensitive artist, in any case not of a disposition to fit into society easily—"he sees too deep and too much." Matters are aggravated by his family background. The father is more or less an inefficient nobody, the stepmother understands nothing—and can be outright malicious. Engelhart Ratgeber is an outsider *avant le mot*. He can't hold down a job, all employers are devils, he can't earn a living, he is not understood by anybody and—he is a Jew. A conflict with and rejection of society which in our own time has taken many other forms and motivations. The analogy to the present malaise goes further. He looks for and at least temporarily finds a "Guru" in Justin Schildknecht. He joins a circle of young people who indulge in alcohol and "vice"; today it would have been drugs. His torments as an outsider and Jew began already at school. It was of course the time of so many stories and plays exposing the soulless cruelty of the German school. Thomas Mann has a chapter on this subject in the Buddenbrooks but also gets across its hilarious aspect. Wassermann's book completely lacks this liberating detachment.

Lost Ties with Judaism

One of the worst torments of young Engelhart alias Jakob is the fact that his Jewishness is utterly meaningless for him. Even under this tremendous pressure from without he does not once attempt to delve into Judaism to find some positive element, something to sustain him, some solace. Judaism is something entirely negative, to be endured, a curse, not anything to strengthen his dignity or to fight for. Heaven was empty.

Wassermann or Ratgeber is nothing if not German. It is interesting that all Jewish characters in this novel have entirely German names.

The attraction of the book lies in its historical value as it allows us to look back to and to compare the situation at that time with later developments.

* Langen Mueller, Muenchen 1973, pp. 280. D.M. 19-80.

E. G. Lowenthal

THE EXPELLED GOETTINGEN MATHEMATICIANS

In the 71st Annual Report of the German Mathematician Association, Professor Dr. Max Pinl now living in retirement in Cologne began to publish material on his once outlawed German university colleagues. His method was to present the sequence of these biographies in the alphabetical order of the universities and colleges from which these academics had been expelled. The first report covered Aachen, Berlin, Bonn, Braunschweig, Breslau, Freiburg/Sachsen, Freiburg/Breisgau and Giessen. The second instalment now at hand was published in the 72nd "Annual Report" (1970) and is devoted exclusively to

the Georg-August University of Goettingen. There the number of mathematicians removed from their teaching positions was particularly large. Pinl lists 19 scientists, the majority of whom were Jews or of Jewish descent.

Among the older generation whose exponents were born during the last three decades of the 19th century and who all fell under the spell of the outstanding (non-Jewish) Goettingen mathematician, David Hilbert, were some celebrities: Edmund Landau (Berlin 1877-1938) who was one of the sons-in-law of the Nobel Prize winner Paul Ehrlich; Felix Bernstein (Halle/Saale 1878-Zurich 1956) who during his emigration period taught for a time in New York; Paul Bernays who, now aged 84, lives in Zurich and continues to maintain close contact with the local College of Technology (ETH); Paul Hertz (born in Hamburg and died in Philadelphia in 1940); Richard Courant, born 1888 at Lublinitz/Upper Silesia, since 1958 professor emeritus of New York University, but still active as author and adviser; Hermann Weyl (Elmshorn / Holstein 1885—Zurich 1955), known above all for his contribution to the theory of relativity; and lastly Emmy Noether (Erlangen 1882-Bryn Mawr/USA 1935) who decisively influenced the development of modern algebra. Two years ago a detailed appreciation of her personality and work appeared in the 13th supplement of the periodical "Elemente der Mathematik" (Birkhaeuser Publishing House, Basle), together with a reprint of the obituary oration delivered by Hermann Weyl.

America's Gain

It is worthwhile at least to name the members of the younger generation of expelled Goettingen mathematicians, all of them "children" of our century, because their careers show how eager the North-American universities were to attract these former German scientists. They are: Otto Neugebauer (now at Providence); Hans Schwerdtfeger (Montreal); William Prager (San Diego); Kurt Mahler (Columbus, USA); Hans Lewy (Berkely); Stefan Warschawsky (San Diego); Hermann Busemann (Los Angeles); Werner Fenchel (Copenhagen); Olga Taussky (Pasadena); Hans Heilbronn (Toronto); Fritz John (Kentucky) and Paul Scherk (Toronto).

The continuation of Pinl's work is published in the 73rd Annual Report and covers the universities of Halle, Hamburg, Heidelberg, Jena, Karlsruhe (Technische Hochschule), Kiel, Koeln, Koenigsberg, Leipzig, Marburg, Muenchen, Muenster, Rostock and Tuebingen. It carries altogether 29 biographies of professors, lecturers and research workers at these universities. Among them is Alfred Pringsheim, Thomas Mann's father-in-law, who taught in Munich from 1877 until he became professor emeritus in 1922. He died in 1941 in Zurich at the age of 91. Among those mathematicians, who resumed their careers in England, was Werner Wolfgang Rogosinski (1894-1964), who after his dismissal from Koenigsberg University in 1933 for several years taught at Jewish schools in Berlin; he was head of the Department of Mathematics in Newcastle upon Tyne. Several scientists went to Palestine, e.g., Abraham Adolf Fraenkel (1891 Munich-1965 Jerusalem) of Kiel university and Professor Samson Breuer (born 1891 in Frankfurt as son of Rabbi Dr. Salomon Breuer) of the Technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe. Tribute is also paid to the memory of the politically active scholar Emil Julius Gumbel (1891 Munich-1966 New York) who taught in Heidelberg.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Recovery after the War

As a result of the war, Israel's industrial production dropped by only 30 per cent. Almost all labour gaps could be filled by old-age pensioners, the disabled and expectant mothers with the exception of the building trade and the tourist industry.

The war gave new opportunities to pensioners, who often still retain their working powers but cannot work because they have reached the compulsory retiring age. The success of thousands of such men who returned to their former jobs vacant because of the call-up, is shown by the maintenance of normal production in many factories where they are employed.

Women in Israel represent only up to a third of the country's labour force compared with nearly a half in European countries, and pregnancies are often planned to ensure the maximum absence of the expectant mothers. Other women found it unprofitable to work because of high income tax, but are now doing so because their husbands' income is not subject to tax while the men are on active service.

Volunteers from abroad have also helped in the kibbutzim where they are mainly employed and, of course, people are at present really working with no thought of strikes or shirking.

TOURISM

With the end of the war, Israel's tourist prospects have begun to improve. In November about 25,000 visitors arrived compared with 18,500 in October (this compares with 69,000 in the same month last year), and the Ministry of Tourism is convinced that it will not be long before the country is back to the previous high level of tourism.

GERMAN AWARD

The writer and journalist, Mr. Erich Gottgreu (Jerusalem), who on many occasions also contributed articles to *AJR Information*, was awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit, First Class.

RELATIONS WITH AFRICANS

Political sources in Jerusalem are convinced that once the immediate tension of the Middle East situation subsides, most African States will resume the diplomatic relations which they have broken off with Israel. However, it is felt that if this should happen Israeli foreign policy will no longer consider the African continent as top priority.

Jerusalem believes that most African leaders were compelled to sever links with Israel under economic and military pressures from the Arab States. Indeed, Mr. Marcus Einfeld, director of the African and Asian departments of the World Jewish Congress, stated in London that Togo had been presented with a £10 million cheque by Colonel Gaddafi of Libya as the price of her break with Israel. Other African States, said Mr Einfeld, had been similarly bought off by Algeria and Libya after being overwhelmed by violent anti-Israel propaganda. One group of African States, including Kenya, Ethiopia and the Ivory Coast, hitherto very friendly, had broken off relations after Arab threats of economic and commercial strangulation.

In London, too, African diplomatic missions circularised among MPs a statement strongly condemning Israel and calling for UN measures against the "racist alliance comprising Israel, South Africa, Rhodesia and Portugal". The statement expresses "grave concern" over the role "played by Israel against the interests of African countries" and its co-operation in all spheres with the "racist and imperialist regimes in the continent".

RETURN FROM SOVIET GAOL

Mr. Yehuda Kogan, a greengrocer from Givatayim, near Tel Aviv, was arrested by the KGB when he visited his native Russia in 1963, and charged with deserting from the Red Army in 1945 and re-entering the Soviet Union as an Israeli agent. After spending ten years in Soviet gaols and labour camps, he has now returned home to Israel.

IMMIGRATION

The total number of immigrants to arrive in Israel during 1973 is about 55,000—1,000 fewer than in 1972. To cope with the housing shortage caused by the October war, more than the usual number of new immigrants are being housed in absorption centres while others are being placed in hotels and empty flats. The Absorption Ministry has offered to pay 90 per cent of potential single immigrants' monthly housing rent. Single immigrants are now preferred because they are useful for the economy and the war effort.

In 1972 Washington approved a £20 million housing programme and has now approved an extra £10 million loan to guarantee the building of houses for the Israeli public. This new loan will be used to build houses for new immigrants, young couples and minority groups, for slum clearance and the provision of developing areas. Announcing the loan, Mr. Kenneth Keating, the United States Ambassador, said that it helped to underscore the continuing United States commitment to the well-being of the people of Israel.

WAR FAILURES

Major-General Shmuel Gonen, who was appointed head of Israel's Southern Command only three months before the outbreak of the October war, has been transferred to the post of Commanding Officer of the Southern Sinai District. The transfer of Major-General Gonen to a subordinate command, known to have been initiated by Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Defence Minister, has been criticised as an attempt to make him an unjust victim for the strategic failures in the early phases of the war.

At a meeting of the central committee of the Israel Labour Party, colleagues denounced Mr. Dayan because of errors said to have been committed before and during the October war. Mr. Yigal Allon, the Deputy Premier, said that the present Government bore responsibility for mistakes made in connection with the war and no one should be allowed to wriggle out of responsibility. Mr. Dayan, who appeared on the platform at the meeting, declared he would stay on in his post unless the Premier withdrew or the party formally demanded his resignation. He emphatically stated his opposition to any proposals to give the West Bank population a State west of the River Jordan which, he said, would be the beginning of the destruction of Israel.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Seidler.—Mr. David Seidler, of 5 Yorath Road, Whitechurch, Cardiff (formerly of Vienna and Brno), celebrated his 80th birthday on December 21, 1973.

Summerfield.—Mr. Frank Summerfield, of 81 Holmefield Court, London, N.W.3, celebrated his 75th birthday on December 24, 1973.

Deaths

Thein.—Ida Thein, on December 2, 1973, in her 89th year, peacefully at Heinrich Stahl House.

Wollner.—Mrs. Annie Wollner, of 105 Jacqueline House, Fitzroy Road, London, N.W.1 (formerly Vienna), passed away on December 4, 1973, in her 79th year after a short illness. Sadly missed by her relatives and friends.

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JEWRY IN THE EAST

LEIB TREPPER IN LONDON

Leib Trepper, the Polish Jew who was head of the Red Orchestra, one of the world's top espionage organisations, came to London for urgent medical attention.

The Military Intelligence Department of the Red Army established the Red Orchestra some two years before the outbreak of war. Trepper and his collaborators, drawn from 13 nationalities, including Germans of the Schultze-Boysen circle, were all staunch anti-Nazis. The group operated mainly through business companies, doing business with high-ranking Germans. Operating from Berlin, the German group had connections reaching into high government and army circles. They supplied advance notice not only of the date of Hitler's surprise attack on Russia but also the plans and orders of battle for subsequent campaigns, the details often being known to Moscow before Hitler's commanders in the field. Some of the vital information, including the German attack on June 22, 1941, was disregarded.

At the head of the network stood what has been described as "Trepper's small band of Jews, the poor Davids of a martyred people". Some of Trepper's closest Jewish comrades in the Red Orchestra were his friends from the days when they were Communists in Palestine, from where he was deported by the British in 1929. All were captured by the Gestapo and tortured, but took their secrets to the grave.

Trepper's arrest on his return to Moscow in 1945 and his imprisonment was because of his insistence on an investigation of the blunders made by his superiors in Moscow, who had ignored some of the vital information given by the Red Orchestra. The arrest had nothing to do with Stalin's anti-Jewish purges at the time, but the refusal of the Polish authorities over the past six years to let him

leave for Israel or to go abroad was connected with the Soviet attitude to Jewry after the Six-Day War.

When the antisemitic campaign started in Poland, Trepper resigned from the chairmanship of the Jewish Social and Cultural Association, a post he had occupied since his return to Poland in 1957.

He is sure that a Russian veto was behind the Polish refusal to release him. He is also in no doubt that the real reason for the Russian objections is that an attempt is being made in the Soviet Union to present the heroes of the Red Orchestra as mainly Russians, occasionally Germans, but never Jews. In a book about the Red Orchestra published in Moscow about two years ago under the title "Forget Your Name", the Jewishness of members of the group was hidden from the reader and all reference to Jewish participation was eliminated from serialised features about the Red Orchestra.

Once he recovers and the family is reunited, probably in Israel, Trepper intends to write his own story of the Orchestra, which will commemorate his fallen Jewish comrades. This once very high-ranking officer of the Soviet Military Intelligence is now a disillusioned man, who can see the justification of his past only in the context of Jewish anti-Nazi resistance, the history of which he also hopes to write.

ARRIVALS IN WEST GERMANY

According to informed sources, about 100 Soviet Jews are reported to have arrived in West Berlin to settle in West Germany. Although in possession of Israeli passports, none of them planned to settle there, having come to West Germany because they felt strong links with German culture, some having relations living in the country.

AGED COMMUNITY

Official Soviet statistics highlight the fact that the Jewish community is a predominantly ageing one which, combined with intermarriage, is causing a decrease. According to the 1970 census, out of 807,915 Jews in the Russian Federation where about one-third of Soviet Jews live, only about 11 per cent are aged under 15 years, indicating a birth rate less than half that of Anglo-Jewry and about a third of that of the Jewish population of Israel. In contrast, over 26 per cent of Jews living in the Russian Federal Republic are aged more than 60 years, probably making the Jews demographically on average the most elderly ethnic group in Russia.

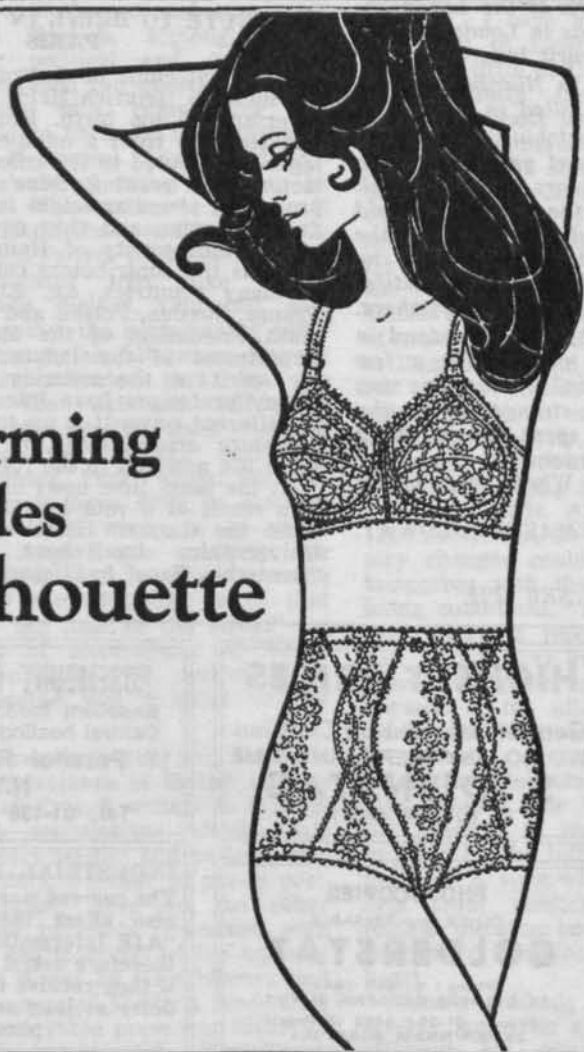
The Jewish population of the Soviet Union dropped by 5.2 per cent to 2,151,000 from the 2,268,000 recorded in the 1959 census. Whilst the number in the Russian Federal Republic and the Ukraine decreased by 8 per cent, it increased by 5 per cent in Central Asia and the Caucasus, remaining largely steady in Moldavia, Byelorussia and the Baltic republics.

FURTHER REPRESSIVE MEASURES

A press conference in London was told by Sir Samuel Fisher, president of the Board of Deputies, and Alderman Michael Fidler, MP, chairman of the board's foreign affairs committee, that further repressive measures against Jews, including show trials in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli War, are now under way.

The presidents of New York's five boroughs took part in a telephone conversation from the New York City Hall to Moscow. Two prominent Soviet Jewish scientists, Mr. Alexander Lunts and Mr. Vladimir Slepak, warned that "things are worse than before" in the harassment of people wishing to emigrate to Israel. Mr. Lunts said that in Moscow Jews were being warned to attend another trial which was being prepared.

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PARTIES CATERED FOR

Letters to the Editor

COMMENTS ON DR. WELTSCH'S ARTICLE

The following letter by Mr. E. S. Schwab is the only expression of dissent received after the publication of Dr. R. Weltsch's article in our previous issue. On the other hand, there has hardly been a previous occasion on which so many readers spontaneously expressed their agreement and asked for additional copies for their friends in this country and abroad. As an example, taken at random, we also publish the letter by Mr. Peter Prager.—The Ed.

Sir,—I wonder why Robert Weltsch found it necessary to contribute an article to your December issue which "may hurt the feelings of some readers". Did he not realise that our feelings are being hurt quite enough by a perusal of the daily press and that "candid" articles such as his, whilst containing a number of home truths which are hardly new to the Jewish public, are more suitable for one of our "even-handed" daily or evening papers?

I take the strongest exception to his paragraph on the relationship between Israel and Soviet Russia. In stressing the "violent" propaganda campaign which Israel has "for many years" conducted against Russia, he forgets the much more violent and unprovoked campaign which the Soviet rulers have been conducting against Israel and their own Jewish citizens. One wonders whether he is naïve enough to imagine that Soviet Russia would ever wish to be a restraining influence on the Arabs, except for reasons of power politics. When one considers that the Soviet rulers were accessories before the fact to the start of the Yom Kippur War, and that they subsequently, in the most outrageous language, incited the uninvolved Arab States to join their "brethren" in the fight against Israel, one can only hope that Dr. Weltsch will try to be fair as well as candid when he writes his next article.

E. S. SCHWAB.

24 Gresham Gardens,
London, N.W.11.

DR. WELTSCH writes:

I have full and sympathetic understanding for Mr. Schwab's malaise which is shared by many others. Yet does he not realise that in the Zionist camp what he now calls "home truths" was for the past 50 years, and especially for the past six years (after the victory and occupation), widely considered offensive or "defeatist" heresy when voiced by—albeit non-conformist—Jewish patriots, while the bulk of the public, in the Diaspora still more than in Israel, parroted the simplified hubristic self-glorifying propaganda? This, alas, is the main cause of the painful disillusion which has now gripped a great part of the Jewish people.

As to the very complicated question of relations with the Soviet Union, the facts mentioned by Mr. Schwab are certainly known to us all, yet in the present situation the question for Israel is not one of moralising but of finding a way to extricate herself from a very dangerous constellation on the plane of global power struggle; a problem which, though unpalatable, is also haunting bigger countries. To enlarge on this matter would, however, go beyond the scope of this note.

Sir,—I should like to express my complete sympathy with the views expressed by Robert Weltsch in your December issue. If notice had been taken of his views when he expressed them in your journal in August, 1967, thousands of Israeli and Arab mothers would not have to mourn the death of their sons today.

PETER PRAGER.

100 Bawdsey Avenue,
Ilford, Essex.

WHAT DOES ONE DO?

Sir,—Recently I watched the film *Leni Riefenstahl made about the Reichsparteitag in Nürnberg in 1934*. I was there, in Nürnberg in 1934, thirteen years' old then.

I had a happy childhood—yes, in Nürnberg, in Streicher's city. At the High School (Mädchenlyzeum) in the Labenwolfstrasse was little antisemitism. The headmaster was kind to us Jewish girls. Our classmates had known us for a few years before Hitler came to power and it had never occurred to them that we were the scum of the earth, so they too were pretty decent. And of course we—the Jewish girls—stuck together like anything. Talk about the spirit of the Londoners during the Blitz (and I was in London during the Blitz) we had that spirit long before.

I have not been back to Nürnberg, felt I couldn't—my father was killed in Auschwitz.

And suddenly, while watching that film, I thought I will go back next year, just for a couple of days, after 35 years. I will go back and have a look again at the town, at the old school, at our street, and above all—at the house. My father designed it himself with the help of an architect in 1927; it was a beautiful house, I have not seen a nicer one anywhere.

But what does one do? Does one stand in the street, stare at the outside for a few minutes, and go home again? Or does one ring the bell, and when some stranger opens the door, does one say "I've spent my childhood here—can I have a look round?"

What does one do? What have others done?

ANNEMARIE POLOWAY.

29 Delamere Road,
Gatley, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 4PH.

OLD AGE HOME RESIDENTS HELP ISRAEL

At a bazaar held at Otto Hirsch House, £225 was raised for the benefit of the Medical Aid for Israel Committee. This remarkable success is due to the devoted efforts of the residents and the staff under the guidance of the Matron, Mrs. V. Watson, and her husband. In addition the Home also collected £125 in aid for Israel. Similar successful collections were spontaneously made in the other Homes. This is most gratifying not only from the material angle, but also as the expression of the residents' initiative and their solidarity with Israel during the times of emergency.

EMERGENCY AT OTTO SCHIFF HOUSE

As many readers will already have heard, a fire broke out in the loft of Otto Schiff House in the morning of December 14. There was fortunately no damage to life or limb. Thanks to the Matron and her staff, the house was vacated immediately in an orderly way. Many neighbours offered their help, and the residents were given shelter in the American school opposite the Home, where they were looked after in a most touching way by the staff and the pupils. Shortly afterwards, the Camden Old People's Welfare Association laid on transport to have 16 of the residents transferred to the four other Homes. The damage is mainly on the top floor of the old part of the building, whereas the new wing is not affected. Members of the House Committee and of the staff of the CBF and the AJR were on the spot as soon as the news had reached them and rendered effective assistance in coping with the situation.

ZION HOUSE LECTURES

This year's annual lecture series of the Theodor Herzl Society is centred around the subject "Israel Today". Details may be seen from the advertisement on page 10. All readers of "AJR Information" and their friends will be welcome.

TRIBUTE TO HEINE IN LONDON AND PARIS

The Polytechnic of Central London offered a tribute to Heinrich Heine on the 176th anniversary of his birth. Professors, lecturers and students from a number of London Colleges contributed to the celebration by giving lectures and reciting Heine's poems, works of prose and songs as set to music by Schubert and Schumann and thus gave an impression of the universality of Heine's spirit, all the more as the contributors comprised nationals of many countries, e.g. England, Germany, France, Sweden, Poland and Holland. Mr Helmut Friedmann of the Modern Languages Department of the Polytechnic summarised the spirit of the meeting in the words: "Many professors have interpreted literature in different ways. It is up to us to show how literature arises from life itself and must serve life now and in the future."

At the same time news has reached us that as a result of a vote by German students in Paris the German Hostel at the Paris Cité Universitaire has been renamed from "Deutsches Haus" to "Heinrich Heine-Haus".
F.H.

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