

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

C. C. Aronsfeld

HITLER AND THE JEWS

A Case of Distorted History

The intriguing quip that Shakespeare's plays are not written by Shakespeare, but by a different man of the same name, is called to mind by a new book on Hitler which deals with his life during the war years. It bears the very apposite title "Hitler's War", for the war was truly Hitler's: he preached it, he prepared for it and he provoked it. But this is not how the author of the book, David Irving, conceives of his subject. He is not concerned with any analytical criticism of Hitler, he presents the story "as far as possible through Hitler's eyes"; he has written, as it were, a ghost autobiography. While no moral judgment is passed on Hitler, it is Churchill and Roosevelt who must stand condemned, also the foolish Poles who refused to surrender in 1939 and the British who fought on in 1940, ignoring the fact that Hitler regarded them as some of his best friends.

In the course of elaborate researches that never failed to look up what the proverbial butler saw, but did not see the wood for trees, Irving made some discoveries. He, as it were, specialises in discoveries. He discovered, for example, in a previous book, that Churchill arranged the death of Sikorski, the Polish Prime Minister (in 1943), a wretched libel for which not a shred of evidence could be produced when it was tested in court. He has now discovered that Hitler was "perhaps the weakest leader Germany has known in this century" . . . but the most sensational discovery he claims to have made is that Hitler did not authorise or even know about the extermination of the Jews, that the Final Solution merely meant expulsion "to the East" and that the—undenied—crimes were perpetrated behind his back by Himmler, the S.S. chief, and Dr. Goebbels, who had to "reconcile" the author of *Mein Kampf* by telling him that the British bombing raids were directed by the Jews!

How so? Well, Irving has found no written evidence of Hitler's responsibility, and his conclusion is, because the written evidence has not been found, it does not exist, and because it does not exist he was able to tell the blissfully innocent David Frost that "the kind of documents that have been used to convict Hitler would not stand up in a magistrates' court to convict a gypsy of bicycle-stealing".

But apart from the negative non-evidence, Irving has come up with a positive one, a document which for once is not dismissed. It is a casual brief note of a telephone call by Himmler from Hitler's headquarters on November 30, 1941, telling Heydrich, "Protector" of Bohemia, that there was to be

"no liquidation" (yet) of one particular transport of Jews from Berlin. Irving was so overwhelmed by this veritable treasure trove that he prints a photo of the note which he interprets — no less and quite seriously — as a general ban on the extermination of the Jews! Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper, in his review of the book, drily remarks: "Generally speaking, one does not veto an action unless one thinks that it is otherwise likely to occur", and Mr. A. J. P. Taylor thought the whole idea "too silly to be worth arguing about".

Irving's Discovery

Actually Irving's discovery is not original, and as a discoverer he, on this occasion, distinctly differs from Columbus. Whereas Columbus thought he had found a part of the old world which proved to be new, in Irving's case it is the other way round—what he fancies to be new turns out to be old hat. The discovery of Hitler's innocence of the Holocaust was made by Germans as far back as August, 1956, when the neo-fascist monthly magazine *Nation Europa*, while not denying the extermination, found satisfaction in the thought that "secret crimes were committed by a group of secret agents acting behind the back of the German people, the German soldiers, even behind the back of the National Socialists". In October, 1962, the editor of *Nation Europa* is pleased to note that there was "no evidence to show that Hitler knew of the mad doings of a very small clique of criminals". Never is there as much as a passing reference to the Nazis' campaign of murderous hate, of which the crimes committed during the war were only the logical consummation.

But Irving's book is only one, the latest instance of an increasing tendency to re-view Hitler, and it seems time to restate the truth in terms that make sense. To begin with, the destruction of millions of Jews was not a "war crime". It had nothing to do with war (except that it happened during the war). Being part of the Nazi campaign from the very beginning, it was to be enforced, war or no war. Such was the consistent and ferocious incitement to hate over a period of 25 years that there could be no doubt of the murderous outcome—even if it had not been intended. This hate is deliberately ignored by the neo-Nazi presentation of the events as (isolated) "war crimes". But it is this hate that must be understood if the slaughter is to appear credible as well as intelligible to a new generation.

The hate was proclaimed back in 1920 under the slogan "Perish Judah", which, in its English version, does not remotely repro-

duce the foul brutality of the German original *Juda verrecke!*—perish like a lice-ridden cur in the gutter. This was the slogan of a party's leader who for once meant precisely what he said. He did not always mean what he said and he was of course an accomplished liar, but so far as the extermination of the Jews was concerned, he had reason to jeer (in *Mein Kampf*) at "those scared simpletons" (inside Germany) who were trying to "guess what we are up to" as they seemed to regard his programme (he says) as "the ideas of some demented ideologist", and during the war, at the height of his power, in 1941, he poured the same scorn on those "silly fools" throughout the world who would not believe in the deadly seriousness of Nazi bestiality—they (he said) "ought to have read what I have written not once but a thousand times. More often than I, no one has ever explained what he really means to do".

In his very first political statement, in 1919, Hitler explained that his antisemitism would be different from that of his forerunners and rivals. Their antisemitism, he said, was "purely emotional" and so would "ultimately express itself in pogroms". This, he argued, had always failed to bring about a final solution—after all the Jews were still around—and therefore this was not what he had in mind.

Nor was it expulsion, or "emigration". Had the Jews been shipped to a German-controlled Madagascar (and this was realistically considered after the fall of France), "Auschwitz" would have been enacted there, for since Jewry was thought of as "the racial tuberculosis of the nations", a "fearful threat to every nation", Hitler obviously could see no "solution" in an action which, from his point of view, would only spread what he regarded as a "pestilence", "bacilli worse than the Black Death". Dr Robert Ley, the Nazi labour chief, summed up the idea: "It is not enough to isolate the Jewish enemy of mankind, the Jews have got to be exterminated".

Not that "emigration" was entirely ruled out, but as conceived by the Nazis it was to serve the "final solution". Alfred Rosenberg, the party philosopher, put it this way: "Germany will regard the Jewish Question as solved only after the last Jew has left the Greater German living space. Europe will have its Jewish Question solved only after the last Jew has left the European continent". It hardly requires more than ordinary imagination to understand when and how the "Jewish Question" in the world would be "solved" to satisfy a Nazi's obsession.

The obsession was refined by the calculation that the ruthlessly impoverished Jews who were allowed to emigrate would add to the difficulties of such countries as might agree to receive them; these difficulties were to be Hitler's opportunities. Moreover expulsion was carefully contrived to advance the grand design of extermination by producing a "mass influx" of aliens, which exploited in the traditional manner, would expand the

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bounds of aggressive antisemitism. With this strategy, Hitler could hope to win either way: when the Jews were admitted, antisemitism (i.e. pro-Hitler feeling) could be expected to grow; when Jews were not admitted (as happened more often than not), the democracies could be exposed as false to their ideals, undeserving of trust and thus, so far as the Jews were concerned, a broken reed.

There was amazing method in the madness. The "purely emotional" antisemitism of others was converted by Hitler into a "rational" one—*Antisemitismus der Vernunft*—involving (he stressed in 1919) not only "the planned legal repeal of the Jews' privileges" but "ultimately, implacably, the elimination of the Jews altogether", an aim to be pursued with a "determination to attack the evil at its roots and to eradicate it root and branch".

This aim which barred any alternative was always uppermost in his mind. He committed it to paper in his book *Mein Kampf* which roundly outlaws the Jews and dooms them to a fate to be enforced with "ruthlessness", "brutality", "fiery fanaticism" and "infallible intolerance". No words occur more frequently than these in that Bible of Hate, and "extermination" is constantly in the writer's thought when he talks of any of the objects of his detestation.

Nor did Hitler leave his intention only to cold print—*Mein Kampf*—which might be (and in fact was) read by few. He spread the lawless incitement in countless public meetings and in other vehicles of propaganda designed to "pour oil into the fire" so persistently that (he vowed) only a miracle could prevent an explosion. In 1921 the *Berliner Tageblatt* noted the Nazis' "blood-curdling posters" and their campaign "exceeding any record ever reached in the field of the most vicious and hate-infested party polemics". Konrad Heiden, the classic historian of the early Nazi movement, writes: "Hitler and his likes had for years filled the country with violence, murder and destruction, and the State had not found the strength to suppress them. Where Hitler began to speak, murder could be expected to follow". After a brief spell of "honourable detention" in 1924-25, he resumed his campaign with an immediate call for "the extermination of Jewry"—"the very images of the devil".

This theme was hammered home by an army of agitators up and down the country. Dr Goebbels, the chief propagandist, openly declared Jews to be human beings in the sense that fleas were animals, fit only for extermination, and another, sneering at conscientious scruples, elaborated the point: "You don't say there are decent fleas after all and decent bugs—you kill the lot!". One of the storm troopers' most popular songs contained the lines: "And when Jews' blood spurts from the knife, things go twice as well".

All this was long before 1933. In 1930 the London *Times* referred to "the moral nausea felt by everybody outside Germany at recent attacks, surpassing all previous brutalities, upon the Jews". One of the chief German Jewish papers then pathetically warned against that "raving disease of the mind and arrant sadism" which was "impatiently anticipating the moment when they will be free to throw themselves upon the Jews unrestrained".

When that moment came, putting Hitler in absolute control, calculation and obsession combined to act upon the murderous pro-

gramme in now distinctly traceable stages. They conformed to the rule laid down in *Mein Kampf* (p. 273): "Where it is a case of achieving seemingly impossible demands"—as the extermination of Jewry certainly was—"you have to divide the path before you into various successive stages and then make every, even the most determined effort to overcome them, step by step". This device was applied in the larger field of Hitler's international policy, as he himself explained in a Reichstag speech during the war: "In 1934 began German rearmament, in 1935 I ordered conscription, in 1936 I occupied the Rhineland, in 1937 came the Four Year Plan, in 1938 Austria and Sudetenland were incorporated, and in 1939 . . .", the rest is sufficiently known.

Murder Step by Step

The same "step by step" device was applied to the extermination of the Jews which was able to benefit from the lack of interference by a largely unsuspecting, unbelieving or uncaring world. The stages here were the ostracism of the Boycott in 1933, the Nuremberg Laws in 1935, the large scale plunder called "Aryanisation" in 1936-37, the burning of the synagogues in 1938 and finally the deportations (began in 1940) to the places of physical destruction.

All the time, day in day out, a technically consummate propaganda accompanied the "solution of the Jewish question" with the oldest of Nazi slogans that Jews—"things that only zoologists will recognise as human beings"—existed, like vermin, only for the purpose of being killed off. In 1935, the Berlin Correspondent of *The Times* wrote: "Like so many Nazi catchwords, *Juda verrecke*—'May Jewry Perish'—was meant literally and will be literally brought to pass if the fanatics have their way". They had. The most fanatical of them was Hitler himself who kept repeating (nine times) during the war the solemn "promise" ostentatiously given before the war that his "prophecy" of the "extermination of Jewry" would indeed be fulfilled. He spoke about it to Dr Goebbels who noted it in his diary and indeed publicly declared in May 1943 that "no prophetic utterance of the Führer is coming true with so gaunt an assurance and inescapable force as that another world war would bring about the extinction of the Jewish race".

Not all were exterminated, to be sure, but not for any want of Nazi determination. Many managed to escape, either through their own exertions or the humanity of brave souls who refused to be degraded to raving beasts. Also the most efficiently concocted schemes are liable to miscarry at some point; there are limits to the cunning of iniquity: the wicked don't always have it all their own way. How many exactly perished, no one can tell with certainty. Who could keep statistics in a slaughter so vast and indiscriminate? Some of the chief killers have put the figure at six million; Himmler thought there must have been more. Conscientious scholarship has since arrived at an estimate somewhere between four and five million. But there is little point in the "numbers game". The murders began not just on arrival in the extermination camps but long before—during the inhumanly conducted transports which in themselves were calculated to kill, or through suicide, starvation, forced labour, action by special murder squads and countless other varieties involved in the crime.

If ever an attempt to destroy the Jews, all of them, had a chance of succeeding—and

quite a few have been made—it was the Nazi attempt which was as competently undertaken as human (or inhuman) ingenuity can ever hope for, and it achieved as much as it did because a formidable organisation was fuelled by a hellish hate.

This background to the crimes appears to be increasingly neglected as new, insidious manipulators of history arise. If hatred breeds murder, Nazi hatred could only end in holocaust. This hatred was the text, the rest was commentary. Inasmuch as these reflections are, alas, not merely theoretical, nor related only to past history or to foreign countries of which we notoriously know little, a wide field opens for the enlightenment of those who wish to be enlightened.

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR FREED NAZI MURDERER

Former SS Colonel Herbert Kappler who was smuggled out of Italy by his wife and who is known to be with her at his home in Soltau, is being treated as a hero by many Germans. Congratulatory telegrams and masses of floral tributes reach him every day. Kappler had been sentenced to death and later reprieved 30 years ago for his part in the massacre of 335 hostages, many of them Jews, in a cave near Rome in 1944. He is suffering from terminal cancer and had been cared for in a Rome hospital for a long time. His wife, a 53-year-old nature healer who had married him in prison, smuggled him out of hospital and, probably with the help of Nazi underground members, spirited him away.

According to the German Basic Law, there is no extradition of German citizens to other countries. To protect Kappler against a possible kidnapping by angry Italians, West German police are guarding his home day and night. The German conservative newspaper "Die Welt" subsequently risked public criticism by publishing the horrors of the massacre in which Kappler had been involved. It said he had distributed cognac to the execution commanders "who were wading in blood" and had himself shot some of the hostages "to set an example."

Support for Kappler is not restricted to German right-wingers. A Social-Democrat M.P. Mr Adolf Scheu who heads the parliamentary group for the release of all German war criminals still in prison, said that he had supported Frau Kappler with all the means at his disposal in recent years. Dr Ernst Wilm, the Dean of the Westphalian Evangelical Church, a former inmate of Dachau concentration camp and an active member of the anti-Hitler resistance, publicly welcomed Kappler's escape. He has for years been in contact with Nazi criminals in Western countries and demanded their release on behalf of his Church. He has offered to go to jail in Italy, taking Kappler's place, saying that the latter's treatment by the Italians had been a crime against humanity.

The Mayor of Rome and the president of the Chamber of Deputies led a protest march to the Ardeatine Caves. Earlier, relatives of the 71 Jews among the 335 Italians murdered had made a spontaneous pilgrimage to the victims' graves, after holding a memorial service at the Chief Synagogue in Rome.

Before leaving the hospital with Kappler, his wife left a message in his room saying that she and her father had risked their lives 30 years ago to help Jewish friends to escape to the United States.

In Paris the windows of the Italian consulate were broken and the front door was damaged in protest against Italy's request for Kappler's extradition. Leaflets put into the letter-box were signed "SS France". The major French newspapers, reporting the rescue, talked of growing neo-Nazism in Germany, and the magazine "L'Express" carried an article under the heading: "37 years after the 20 million dead and the camps . . . Hitler—Superstar."

HOME NEWS

Anglo-Judaica

FOREIGN SECRETARY ON RUSSIAN JEWS

In a letter to Peter Shooman, chairman of the Leeds campaign for Soviet Jewry, the Foreign Secretary, Dr. Owen, wrote that he saw no evidence for a deliberate Soviet campaign against Jews which might be compared to events in Germany forty years ago. Practising Christians in the Soviet Union were similarly harassed. He added that nevertheless if the British Government did see evidence of a deliberate campaign against Jews or other minorities in the USSR, it would make its views known to the Soviet authorities and at the Belgrade conference.

AMIN ACCUSED OVER DORA BLOCH

Mr. Henry Kyemba, the former Ugandan Minister of Health who sought political asylum in London, told Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, that President Amin had been personally implicated in the murder of Mrs. Dora Bloch at Entebbe and that he would be willing to testify to this fact at the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

THE "DAILY EXPRESS" AND THE JEWS

George Gale, the "Daily Express" columnist said in an article "Look on the black side..." which gave his views on post-war immigration: "Although we undoubtedly derived great benefit from Jewish immigration, the Jews' own religion, culture, sense of identity and facial appearance have prevented any full absorption, although I suspect that the existence of Israel, increased inter-marriage and the weakening of family ties and religious belief, will result in their fairly complete assimilation". The new editor of the "Express", Mr. Derek Jameson, who is half-Jewish, took office after the publication of the article and declared that he would take strong measures to prevent similar comment from appearing under his editorship. It smacked of watered-down Goebbels. Mr. Jameson said he attributed his own drive and tenacity to the Jewish blood in him. "I tell everyone I have Jewish blood". He said he came from the East End of the 'twenties "where Jews tended to turn the other cheek" and for this reason he greatly admired the Israel's fighting qualities.

ZIONIST ELECTION ROW

The appointment of delegates to the Zionist Congress has led to a major row among British Zionists. The majority of the parties—Mizrachi, Mapam, Labour Zionists and the United Zionists—agreed to give up seats to provide representation for students and the General Zionist Organisation. Herut, which was to have three mandates, insists on five and demands an election which will cost over £100,000.

C.B.F. GRANTS FOR YOUNG DISABLED

The Grants made by the Central British Fund at its latest Council meeting, totalling £68,000 include a contribution to provide furniture and equipment for the new Ilan Institution for Young Disabled in Israel.

SOUTH BANK POST FOR PINCHAS ZUKERMAN

Pinchas Zukerman has accepted an invitation to become artistic collaborator in South Bank Summer Music, the Greater London Council's annual festival of chamber music on the South Bank, from 1978-1980. The post has previously been held by Daniel Barenboim, André Previn and is at present held by Neville Marriner. Zuckerman made his London debut in the 1968 festival.

KING HUSSEIN INTERVIEWED

In a *Profile* interview on BBC's Radio 4, King Hussein of Jordan was presented as a pro-West and anti-Communist protagonist of a negotiated peace with Israel. When asked whether his understanding of Israel's situation extended to sympathy, Hussein replied that he did not necessarily sympathise, but he always tried to put himself in the other side's position. He realised that the Jewish people had suffered enormously in the world, but they had been wrong to try to remedy that situation at the expense of another people in another part of the world.

TRADE WITH ISRAEL UP

During the first seven months of 1977, exports from the UK to Israel went up by 6 per cent as compared to last year. During the same period, imports from Israel went up by 33 per cent. Israel's State Railways are now operating ten passenger coaches bought in Britain for nearly £500,000 and rail phosphate wagons costing almost £250,000. The National Coal Board is acting as consultant on purchasing policy and handling to the Israel Electricity Authority on its new coal-fired power station which will use 3½ million tons of coal annually. The British Israel Trade Services have started operations by setting up a marketing company in Britain for the Dexter Chemical Corporation of New York and Tel Aviv which manufacture auxiliaries for textile dyeing and finishing industries which are technically advanced. The organisation was set up on the initiative of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce by a group of British businessmen to develop specialised areas of trade and investment with Israel.

AJR CONTRIBUTES TO SILVER JUBILEE TRUST

The AJR sent a contribution to The Queen's Jubilee Trust. In his accompanying letter, to the Hon. Treasurer of the Trust, the Chairman of the AJR, Mr. C. T. Marx, referred to the fact that most members of the AJR had found refuge in this country during the nineteen-thirties, around the time of the Jubilee of the Queen's grandfather, King George V, and that they particularly welcomed the opportunity of making a contribution to the Trust.

Bazaar at Otto Schiff House

Almost 150 people attended the Bazaar held at Otto Schiff House on September 4. It testifies to the widely-felt attachment to the Home that not only the families of the present residents but also relatives and friends of former residents were among the guests. The stalls displayed many attractive goods, and the sale over the counter was complemented by a raffle. At the end of the function, practically all articles had gone. The proceeds amounted to about £800—and will be most welcome to replenish the Home's depleted Amenity Fund, from which functions, theatre visits, outings and other benefits will be defrayed. There was a particularly joyful atmosphere, and thanks for the success are due to the Matron, Miss A. Rieger, and all those committee members and friends who also took part in the elaborate preparatory work.

Balfour Trust formed

The Zionist Federation has set up a Balfour diamond jubilee committee to mark the 60th anniversary of the Declaration and to establish a £250,000 trust fund which will be used to promote better understanding between Jews and non-Jews of the historic links between Britain and Israel.

Funds for Hebrew University

The North West London Women's Group of the Friends of the Hebrew University raised funds for two post-graduate one-year scholarships at a cost of £2,000 each. They will be in the name of Mr. Hugh Fraser, MP, and Dr. Rosalind Higgins, a member of the staff of the international relations department of the London School of Economics. The group was founded by Lady Karminski after the Six-Day-War in 1967, and has, under the chairmanship of Councillor Rita Levy, so far contributed £30,000 to the University through the endowment of lecture rooms and scholarships.

Ajex Day Centre in Finchley

Rabbi Hugo Gryn, senior minister of the West London Synagogue, performed the dedication ceremony at the new Finchley and Garden Suburb day centre at Ajex House in memory of its former chairman Robert Woolstone. The centre which has its own kitchen, will accommodate 150 people.

Kosher Meat Plant for Moslems

Mr. Markovic, a director of Cheetham Kosher Poulterers in Manchester, suggested that all local poultry slaughterhouses, threatened with closure because of stringent EEC regulations, should amalgamate and use the Northwich factory of his firm. He also offered a site of over six acres for the killing of cattle to the Kosher Butchers Association. It seems, however, that his offer will be rejected, as another firm, Collingham Quality Foods, has been granted a licence on the strength of new plans submitted. Because of an annual loss of £35,000 the Cheetham modern factory may now be sold to Moslems who are encountering similar difficulties.

A Married Double

Mr. A. Maxwell Caplin of Southport has been elected Master of the Company of Builders. He has been a member of one of the oldest livery companies, the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, and is a Freeman of the City of London. As Master he admitted his wife, Vera as a member of the Company of Builders. She has also been made a Freeman of the City. Mr. Caplin has been on the council of Southport Synagogue for many years.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Treblinka Murderer accused

69-year old retired carpenter Feodore Federenko is under investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service. He immigrated in 1949 as a displaced person from Bremen and claimed to be Polish. He settled in the largely Jewish district of Miami Beach. It has now been found that he was in fact a Ukrainian who headed the "Ukrainian Guard" at Treblinka death camp and that he had beaten up and killed Jews there. If this is proved, his naturalisation will be revoked.

"Son of Sam" not a Jew

David Berkowitz, the recently arrested alleged mass-murderer who calls himself "Son of Sam", had been adopted as a 17-month-old baby by a childless Jewish couple in the Bronx, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Berkowitz. His original name had been Richard David Falco, and his real parents were non-Jewish. Whilst serving in the Army in Korea, his personality changed drastically owing to drug-taking, and he renounced Judaism, joined the Baptist Church and attempted to convert others.

Law to protect Mezuzot

Under a new New York State Law mezuzot and tefillin will have to show details of manufacturers or importers, and if they do not confirm with the Kashrut laws, this will have to be clearly stated. Violators of the new law will be prosecuted for fraudulent practices. It had been found that some mezuzot had been printed on ordinary paper instead of being handwritten on parchment. Kosher food has enjoyed similar protection for the last 40 years.

Nazi March in Chicago?

Many survivors of concentration camps who live in the Chicago suburb of Skokie have protested against a planned march by the National Socialist White People's Party, the American Neo-Nazi party which has been banned once, but has appealed to the Appellate Court. The party's leader is one Frank Collin, reported to be the son of a German-born Jew who survived Dachau and became a naturalised American citizen, changing his name from Cohn to Collin. He said that at the age of seven, he had been convinced of Hitler's greatness after a newsreel showing him in close-up. He had not understood what he said, but had seen that the thousands who listened to him, were transfixed and concluded that what he was saying was important.

CANADA

Walter Trier exhibition in Toronto

The family of the great cartoonist Walter Trier who was a constant contributor to "Simplizissimus", "Jugend" and "Lustige Blätter", have donated many of his drawings to the new Art Gallery of Toronto, where they will be shown in one large exhibition hall of their own. In Berlin, Trier had designed Erich-Charell-Revues and illustrated all books by Erich Kaestner. He came to England in 1936 and designed the title-pages of "Lilliput" while also becoming a constant contributor to the "Daily Herald" and during the war to the German-language "Zeitung". In 1947, he re-emigrated to Canada. He died in 1951.

Eichmann's spiritual adviser

The Rev William Hull of Orangeville, Ontario, who was spiritual adviser to Eichmann during his trial, has donated his papers to the Hebrew University. 79-year old Mr. Hull, a member of the Pentecostalist Church, who lived in Israel for 27 years, said that Eichmann was the hardest man he ever saw and deserved to be hanged.

ARGENTINA

Community President's son kidnapped

Extreme right-wing elements of the Argentine Army kidnapped the 22-year-old son of Dr. Nehemias Resnitzky, president of *Daia*, the representative organisation of Argentine Jews. The Argentine community of 500,000 is the largest in Latin America and the fifth largest in the world. Lately Jews in Argentina have become increasingly worried about the flood of neo-Nazi and antisemitic material published by right-wing extremists which, although banned by the government, continuously appear under new names. The American Jewish Committee recently closed its Buenos Aires offices because of threats to the lives of its representative and his family. Dr. Resnitzky did not inform the press of his son's disappearance, but reported it to General Villareal, a leading member of President Videla's staff, who asked him to keep the matter secret. Dr. Resnitzky replied that he could only do so for a few days, as the wedding of his daughter was imminent. Before these days had elapsed his son was returned to him. The general discovered him in a house in Palermo, a well-to-do district of Buenos Aires, near the Army Headquarters. It was decorated with swastikas and pictures of Hitler and was said to be a torture centre where Army Officers interrogated their kidnapped prisoners. A number of other victims were found in the house. They were released after a gun battle in which two Army officers were wounded.

SOUTH AFRICA

New Zionist Party launched

The South African Reform Movement has launched a new Zionist Party, "dedicated to fostering religious pluralism and freedom in Israel" after its demand that the South African Zionist Federation should repudiate Begin's agreement with the religious parties in Israel, was refused. Under this agreement, Reform and Liberal converts would not be admitted to Israel, and the Reform rabbis say this would mean that there would be religious freedom in Israel for everybody except Jews.

KENYA

Arabs walk out of U.N. conference

Many Arab delegations walked out of the United Nations Conference on deserts in Nairobi when the Israeli delegate, Professor Schechter, head of the Ben-Gurion University's institute of applied research, rose to make a statement for his country. The Algerian assistant secretary-general of the Organisation for African Unity, Mr. Djoudi, accused Israel of making anti-Islamic propaganda. He said that in a paper "The Negev: A Desert reclaimed" it was stated that after the Moslem conquest of 640 CE, a rapid decline in agriculture had begun, so that now only a few nomadic Bedouin lived in the area. A hand-drawn map, accompanying the paper, called the West Bank by its new name "Judaea".

INDIA

Refusal to recognise Israel

When the Jewish State was founded in 1948, de facto recognition by India followed quickly and Israel opened a consulate in Bombay. India needed strong ties with Arab countries and so far there has been no de jure recognition. When the new government came to power this spring, it was hoped that there would be a change, because some newly elected MPs belong to Indo-Israeli friendship organisations, but the Prime Minister, Mr. Desai, said that India had too many diplomatic missions abroad, and to open another one in Israel would be too expensive. The Indian Foreign Minister, Mr. Vajpayee stated that Israel would have to withdraw from the occupied territories before the question of diplomatic relations could be considered.

NEWS FROM THE EAST

Son's fast for father

A 26-year old Leningrad radio technician, Mr. Gregory Vellinson, is said to have started a fast until the Soviet authorities allow him to emigrate to Israel with his 72-year old father, a former salesman. The father who has suffered several heart attacks, has been permitted to leave, but he cannot live alone and refuses to go without his son whose application was rejected on the ground that he had access to military secrets. Gregory told a London student whom he met during a service at a Leningrad synagogue that he was discharged from the army in 1972 and that he never had access to secret information. When his father recently suffered a heart attack, his doctors did not put him into intensive care, but he survived miraculously.

AUSTRIA

News about Nazi Doctor

Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, the head of the Vienna Jewish Documentation Centre, said he had positive proof that Dr. Josef Mengele, the wanted Nazi Auschwitz doctor, was living in Paraguay where he had been naturalised in 1959 and now lived in luxury in military areas with special Government protection. His wife lives in Meran. According to Wiesenthal, Mengele regularly travels overseas. He had been disinherited by his father, a farm machine manufacturer, but might receive money from the factory's agents in South America. Paraguay rejected demands for Mengele's extradition on the pretext that he cannot be found. Dr. Adenauer had already offered Paraguay economic aid in exchange for Mengele's extradition. Mengele is supposed to have sent thousands of Auschwitz inmates to the gas-chambers and to have conducted cruel experiments on women and children.

Nazis in Vienna

Austrian neo-Nazis carried out a co-ordinated series of daubings in Vienna, smearing antisemitic slogans on the main synagogue, the prayer hall in the Jewish cemetery, the Sigmund Freud memorial and other Jewish institutions.

Two members of the extremist "Action New Right", one of them a West German, were arrested by the police in connection with the daubings.

Arab Gratitude

General Karl Luetgendorf, Austria's former Defence Minister who lost his job because he sanctioned the illegal export of arms to Saudi Arabia, has been asked to become legal adviser to an Arab State, but refused. He has, however, accepted an invitation, to spend a holiday in Syria as personal guest of the Defence Minister, General Tias.

SCANDINAVIA

Neo-Nazis on the move

57-year old Thies Christopherson, a farmer who is president of an association of Nazis with members in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Schleswig-Holstein, has been elected "Führer" of the association's North European Region. He owns a publishing firm in Flensburg which distributes his books and pamphlets to many countries. He had been a gardener in Auschwitz and has said that the holocaust was Zionist propaganda, and that Jews had only died from overweight in Auschwitz.

Jews and Arabs compete peacefully

Israelis and Arabs competed peacefully in the athletic games held in Copenhagen. In spite of early protests by the 13-member Saudi team, they competed directly against Israelis in a number of events.

Egon Larsen

'A BOY IN YOUR SITUATION'

Few books published in England during the last decades have given an idea of what it was like to be a refugee child before and during the war; and whatever has been written, does not strike the reader as such a truthful, unemotional, deliberately artless account as *A Boy in Your Situation* by Charles Hannam (André Deutsch, £3.25). Hannam is, of course, not the writer's original name; in the book he calls his autobiographical hero Karl Hartland, but the *Kennkarte* of the 13-year-old boy, made out by the police at Essen in 1939 and reproduced on the cover of the book, mentions yet another surname of his German-Jewish family. There may be psychological reasons for this double alias—as well as for the delay of nearly forty years before he could bring himself to write it all down, dedicating the book to his wife and his three sons. Obviously, he wrote it with his family in mind, answering once for all those questions which we are still being asked by younger people.

Hannam-Hartland describes, in the first part of his book, a milieu we know well enough: that of a well-to-do Jewish middle-class family without any strong religious ties, assimilating successfully—or so they thought—to gentle German society. But the children were made to feel their "apartheid" at school. Once, after a boyish prank, the teacher reprimanded Karl with a sentence so significant that he never forgot it, and eventually used it as the title for his book: "For a boy in your situation it is very unwise to do anything that attracts special attention. You are lucky to be here at all".

The rest of the family did not really understand what was happening until the *Kristallnacht* brought it home to them—this, too, was typical of many Jewish circles which were hoping that it would all "blow over". Only now, emigration seemed advisable, though first of all for the children; Karl's father (the mother had died earlier) stayed on and was later transported to Theresienstadt, where he was to end his life. In 1939, Karl and his sister Margot were sent to England: he to a refugee boys' hostel at Ramsgate, she to a provincial English family as a domestic servant.

What makes the book particularly readable is that Karl never feels sorry for himself. Yet he had every reason for it. His cool and sober account is that of a terrible loneliness; he knew very little English, the strange life in this country bewildered him deeply. The other refugee boys at the hostel were no great help, being just as confused as Karl. They consoled themselves with one basic impression: that England was "a good and benevolent place", that here the Jews had equal rights—after all, even the editor of *Picture Post*, their main textbook for learning English, was a refugee.

But when the war started, things changed. The hysteria of the British authorities made itself felt even in Ramsgate. Two plain-clothes policemen came to investigate a report that someone had been watched sketching the harbour. Karl was asked to show his drawing-book; it was full of ships. The policemen looked at it gravely, but seemed to decide that these were not a spy's sketches. "You see," said the hostel leader, "they are watching us all the time".

Then came a great shock for the boys. The hostel, which had been supported by a group of Jewish doctors, had to close down.

Karl was transferred to a farm camp near Oxford; only later did he find out that it was part of an approved school for juvenile delinquents. When he arrived the other boys told him: "It's awful. They pay you a few pence and they make you work all hours. When they have worn us out they will send us to Australia. They take away your pocket money if you do anything wrong, and the food is pure shit." One boy had been in Dachau: "It's just the same here, the wooden huts and the barbed wire". The supervisor was a Jewish ex-captain from Austria, a disciplinarian of un-English strictness. The food—Karl's first meal was porridge—was indeed inedible. "You will eat when you get hungry," a boy told him. "It is what the English eat, so we might as well get used to it."

The work, sorting potatoes, was deadly boring. The ex-captain hit Karl when the boy showed signs of "insubordination". Christmas was particularly depressing. He had to sing carols and thought it would be impolite to say that Jews had "a different festival". The cold in that first winter of the war was excruciating. Karl fell sick, despite sleeping in his working clothes. In the sick ward, another inmate called him a "bloody, fucking foreign bastard".

His sister, though herself none too happy as a domestic, had been moved into action by his miserable letters and succeeded in getting him into a grammar school, with financial help from some New York relatives. Karl was overjoyed. More than anything else, he wanted to have "an education", and was prepared to work hard for it and to save his relatives any extra expenses—no tennis lessons for him, no milk in the evening, no dances with the girls from a neighbouring school. There were some other refugee boys at Karl's school, including a former Hitler Youth member who had been chucked out when they found he was half Jewish; he was, of course, violently antisemitic.

In one paragraph, Hannam describes that situation we have all had to face during our early years in England:

He was embarrassed because of his bad English. Every time he talked to anybody they would say, "And where are you from?", and he would say, "From Germany", and they would look puzzled as if to say, "But are we not at war with them?" And he wanted to add, "But I am Jewish, you see, and they threw me out". But he felt bad about telling people that he was Jewish. What did it mean to him? He had refused to join the prayer circle, he really did not know in what sense being Jewish was supposed to make him different. If, when they had pork for dinner, they said, "But Jews aren't allowed

to eat pork, are they?", he would have to say, "But in my family we have always eaten ham and things like that".

Gradually, he felt more sure of himself, more part of an English boys' community. "This was a great luxury to him," recalls Hannam, "and although he enjoyed it he was also scared—he remembered his German form-master saying to him, 'A boy in your situation . . .'. He was still 'in a situation', but it was a kinder one". Even from that sacred occupation of the natives, cricket, he was permitted, without hard feelings, to be absent, and to work in the garden instead. He never understood why they had "stood him in front of three sticks with a piece of wood in his hand". No one could be found "willing to teach him the intricacies of the game".

He was still too young for internment, but he had to register as an enemy alien and was banned from riding a bicycle. They made him appear before a tribunal:

Karl had to face a large man in a grey suit who smiled nicely and asked him how he liked it in England. "Very much", said Karl. "Do you play cricket at school?" "I try to, but it is very difficult". At this they laughed, and a lady with a hat on asked Karl what he was going to do when he finished school. Karl said that he would like to go to university, but that he wanted to go into the army to help in the war if that were possible. "I hope you mean our army", said the man.

Karl was allowed to stay at school. When invasion seemed likely, he offered his services to the Home Guard, but aliens were not wanted. He tried the air force, but he was too young and the interviewing officer said to him, "In any case, we can't take the risk that the Germans get a present of a bomber, can we?" Hannam continues:

Karl felt it was hopeless. How could he explain his position to people who could not tell the difference between a German National Socialist and a German Jewish refugee?

The book ends with Karl getting his school certificate which allowed him to go into the sixth form, and there is an Epilogue with a dispassionate account of what happened to his family: "died in a concentration camp"—"liberated from Belsen"—"disappeared without trace"—"escaped to America"—"died in Argentina". Karl finished school and then joined the army after all, serving in Burma and India. One of his former teachers in Essen wrote to him after the war, asking him to testify that he had never been antisemitic. Karl went to Cambridge University and is now a senior lecturer at Bristol University School of Education.

ILSE JOSEPH'S CRUSADE FOR PEACE

Mrs. Ilse Joseph who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to world harmony and understanding, is to start a crusade for peace in Northern Ireland at the age of 77. For years, Mrs. Joseph, a gifted violinist from Berlin who has given thousands of concerts and broadcasts in Britain, Germany and America, to promote peace between nations and creeds in memory of her children murdered at Auschwitz, has said that as her contribution to Jubilee Year, she wants to go to Northern Ireland and talk to children and adolescents on the need for reconciliation and peace. On that occasion she will unveil a memorial plaque for her children in a Youth Centre and tell her audience that they should not grow up with hate in their hearts—the kind of hate that led to the cruel death of her children. Recovering from severe illness which has somewhat restricted her activities, Mrs. Joseph has agreed with Save the Children Fund and Youth Aliyah to give all the proceeds of her activities during Silver Jubilee Year to the children of Ireland.

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MARTIN BUBER THE RELIGIOUS ANARCHIST

In the Middle Ages human life was divided up into three epochs: tumbheit, zwivel and saelde. The last one was the age of wisdom and awareness. We now have the third volume of Martin Buber's correspondence in his state of saelde.* With its more than 700 pages, it conveys a comprehensive insight into his life and, in particular, his thought during his last 30 years. To those of us who knew Buber in Germany he was an almost permanent presence. We read and reread his Hassidic books, we loved and respected him, we went to his conferences or lectures. Our youthful longings had found a focus. To misquote Rilke: we heard his message and had to change our lives.

Buber left Germany in 1938. We others were dispersed all over the world and the man who was our anything but abstract guide receded into the invisible realm where other "great men" have their dwelling. We kept wondering what had happened to him, what he was doing, what had become of him in his new country Palestine/Israel. Only now has a recently published book given us a partial answer to our questions.** But the letters, naturally, give a much fuller, more immediate picture of the man in his 'saelde'. He was blessed with a burst of creativity by which even he himself was amazed. No less amazing is the number and variety of his correspondents, ranging from Tony Benn to Stefan Zweig. In a way, he was the most Jewish of all thinkers in the German language, yet he had a greater influence on Christian theology than any Jewish writer of our age. The ardent 'Zionist' became one of the seminal influences in Western thought. Paradoxically, it was this phenomenon which made his position in Israel so difficult and ineffectual. Could it be called the final tragedy of his existence?

Let us briefly examine this situation. Gershom Scholem wrote of Buber's "religioese Anarchie". In a letter to Maurice Friedmann the "anarchist" explains:

"... nichts in mir treibt mich dazu, genau im einzelnen zu befolgen, was das Religionsgesetz erlaubt und was nicht. In bestimmten Augenblicken . . . habe ich das Beduerfnis zu beten, und dann bete ich natuerlich allein . . ."

It is easy to see that such an attitude goes against the grain of traditional Judaism, and the Orthodox Jew might exclaim that this is Protestantism. In Israel, where liberal Judaism hardly exists, it was regarded as a provocation, indeed as heresy. In 1963, moreover, Buber writes to a German correspondent:

"... so glaube ich in der Tat an eine Vielheit goettlicher Offenbarungen. Was sich daraus ergibt, ist in dem rechtverstandenen evangelischen Satz ausgesprochen, es gebe in des Vaters Haus viele Wohnungen."

And politics, nationalism and the Jewish State? In a letter to Professor Magnes, shortly before the proclamation of the State of Israel, Buber recalls that he was fighting for a "juedisch-arabischen Bund":

"Ich hatte einen Resolutionsantrag entworfen, der die Gemeinsamkeit der Interessen der beiden Voelker betonte und den Weg

fuer eine Zusammenarbeit zwischen ihnen aufwies—der einzige Weg, der zum Heil des Landes und seiner beiden Voelker fuehren kann."

Soon after the creation of the State Eduard Strauss quotes from one of Buber's letters: "Ich verlasse dieses unselige Land nicht."

But he adapts to the new situation. In 1961 to Robert Weltsch: "... da wir diesen Staat Israel, die neue geschichtliche Form unserer Selbstbestimmung, . . . kritisch bejahen und ihm kritisch dienen."

There was a third fact that tended to isolate Buber in Israel: his intense and positive interest in Christianity and especially in Jesus. In looking through the correspondence, some people might be surprised by the great number of Christian theologians, writers and philosophers who in their letters express their indebtedness to Buber. He writes in 1943:

"... Jesus, dem ich mich nah und in manchem verbunden fuehle, [ist] fuer mich eben nicht der Messias . . . Ich glaube nicht an Jesus, aber glaube mit ihm."

In 1949: "Judentum und Christentum stehen miteinander im Geheimnis unseres Vaters und Richters: so darf der Jude vom Christen und der Christ vom Juden nicht anders als in Furcht und Zittern vor dem Geheimnis Gottes reden."

A professor of Protestant theology makes the criticism that Buber was putting Jesus on the same level as a false messiah. Buber answers:

"... in der Reihe der Messiasse ist Jesus der unvergleichlich Reinste, Rechtsmaessigste, mit wirklich messianischer Kraft Begabteste."

Another "shock of recognition" which could not enhance his popularity in Israel was his deeply felt attachment to Germany.

In 1949: "Eine Liebschaft wie die meine mit der deutschen Sprache ist eben ein objektives Faktum."

In 1950:

"Auch durch oeffentliche Aeusserungen verschiedener Art habe ich mein ungemindertes Interesse fuer die deutschen Menschen, die guten Willens sind, bekundet . . . Ich bringe allem was an echter Geistigkeit und an echter Menschlichkeit in Deutschland besteht und geschieht, eine tiefe und rueckhaltlose Sympathie entgegen."

Hans Blueher wrote to Buber in 1954: "Obwohl Sie der Todfeind meines Vaterlandes waren . . ."

Yet Buber's real attitude to Germany is reflected in a letter written in 1945: "Ich darf dir sagen, dass meine Abgeschiedenheit von Deutschland mir schwer zu schaffen machte und noch macht . . ."

The Federal President Theodor Heuss praises Buber's work and its creative German-Jewish symbiosis.

Hesse proposed that Buber should be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and Dag Hammarskjold suggested him for the

Nobel Peace Prize. This came to nothing, because the committee in Stockholm decided the prize would have to be shared with an Arab of similar standing, and no such person could be found.

In the last decades of his life, Buber's fame and influence had spread to many parts of the world. Thus he received admiring letters from Japan where some of his books were translated and successfully published. In England he impressed Christian theologians much more frequently and deeply than their Jewish colleagues. The United States overwhelmed him with invitations to universities as well as Christian and Jewish institutions. Surprisingly, he had practically no correspondents from Italy, France or Belgium.

Another gap: references to music and fiction are very sparse, but Thomas Mann is mentioned in 1957:

"An Ihr Buch ueber Thomas Mann habe ich noch nicht herangehen koennen, was zum Teil auch an meinem ambivalenten Verhaeltnis zu diesem ausserordentlichen Kuenstler liegen mag (selten habe ich eine Erzaehlung so verwundet [sic] gelesen wie 'Das Gesetz')".

Here one might add that neither humour nor irony are evident in any letters.

Those who are not close students of Buber's work may well be surprised by his intense interest in psychology, which becomes clear in his correspondence with psychologists and which evoked invitations to American institutions of psychological research. Just as he cannot accept Marx, he radically criticises Freud. His concern was man, the living human being in his relationship to his fellow humans and to God. Like a golden thread the "I and Thou" runs through his correspondence. Ewald Wasmuth wrote to him in 1952:

"... die Stellung des Menschen in der Schoepfung zwischen der Natur und Gott wieder ins Rechte zu fuehren. Wie wichtig und wie beglueckend und den Menschen wieder zum Leben fuehrend das ist, werden, glaube ich, erst spaetere Generationen . . . begreifen."

* Martin Buber, Briefwechsel aus sieben Jahrzehnten III: 1938-1965. Heidelberg, 1975.

** Aubrey Hodes, Encounter with Martin Buber. Allen Lane, The Penguin Press, London 1972, also a Penguin paperback.

LONDON FOCUS ON JEWISH SCHOLARSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Jewish Studies, which is associated with the University College London, the Chairman, Mr. Victor Mishcon, D.L., and the Director, Mr. Raphael Loewe, reported that during the last academic year 28 seminar sessions had been held, at which papers were read by leading scholars and research students from Israel, the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom. The Institute maintains close contacts with other scholastic organisations in this country and abroad. A volume of "Studies in Jewish Religious and Intellectual History" in honour of Professor Alexander Altmann is in print, and the three volumes of the Institute Bulletin which have so far appeared have met with great success.

The Institute welcomes new participants in the weekly seminars, or others interested in their work. Full information will be given by: The Director of the Institute of Jewish Studies, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

CANADIAN SCIENTIST HONOURED

63-year old Mr. Sidney Hurwich of Toronto, a self-taught electronics expert, was recently awarded the Israeli Medal of Honour. It was presented to him by a rabbi who said Israel was grateful to him for a secret device he had invented which had saved thousands of lives in the operations of war. This device is said to have been used to scramble radar at military bases between Israel and Uganda and the Ugandan radar installations in Entebbe and thus made the rescue of the hostages by the Israeli commandos possible. Mr. Hurwich who recently had an open-heart operation and was told to take things easy, refused to give details, but he said that the device was electrically-operated and could be used to "freeze" moving parts and to stop tanks, cars and buses from a distance. He had originally invented it to stop a series of bank-rais in Canada, but the banks had not agreed to its use in spite of its proven efficiency. He eventually offered it to the Israeli government and had been seen by some top Israeli military men in Toronto. He has never been to Israel, but he said he understood it had often been used to dismantle bombs.

ARMY TIDIED UP

When Ezer Weizman became Defence Minister, he started a campaign to smarten up the Defence Forces which has been very successful. Improperly dressed men and women soldiers are fined on the spot. A major had to pay several hundred Israeli pounds for not wearing his beret. A girl soldier was fined for wearing too many rings. Soldiers form long queues at barbers' shops to have their hair cut to regulation length.

NEW FEDERAL AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL

Dr. Klaus Schütz, former Lord Mayor of Berlin, will be the new German Ambassador in Israel. He entered the Bundestag in 1957 and was elected Lord Mayor of West Berlin in 1967. He has always shown a deep personal understanding for Jewish and Israeli problems. The Berlin Jewish Community gave a farewell party for him which was attended by nearly 800 people.

POLICEMEN ARRESTED

Eleven Tel Aviv policemen were arrested on suspicion of theft and burglary. About half of them, including an inspector, are explosives experts. They are accused of having stolen hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of jewellery and other valuables when investigating burglaries at homes and shops. Six of the arrested have been dismissed from the force, the others have been suspended.

POLICE BUGGED

After three weeks of investigation, the Tel Aviv police had to admit that they had not been able to discover the person who bugged police headquarters in order to listen to secret conferences and interrogations.

FREUD CHAIR AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

A Sigmund Freud Chair in psychoanalysis is to be established at the Hebrew University with financial assistance from psychoanalysts from all over the world. This was announced at an international conference of psychoanalysts in Jerusalem, the first ever to be held in Israel.

MAFIA CONNECTIONS IN ISRAEL?

Mr. Bezalel Mizrahi, a Jerusalem building contractor and hotel owner, has sued "Haaretz", the independent Hebrew-language paper, its editor Mr. Gershon Shoken and one of its reporters, Mr. Avi Valentine, for libel and is claiming about £600,000 damages. In an article about organised crime, Mr. Valentine had named a number of prominent people alleged to be involved with a crime syndicate engaged in diamond and drugs smuggling and protection rackets. Another alleged member of the syndicate is Major-General Rehavam Zeevi, who was accused by "Haaretz" and by a Likud Knesset member, Mr. Olmert from whom he tries to recover £115,000 in damages if his immunity as a Knesset member is waived. "Haaretz" also claims that the French fugitive Mr. Flatto-Sharon who got himself elected to the Knesset, was being considered for the vacant post of financial overlord of the crime syndicate.

Dr. Yosef Burg, Minister of the Interior, said on television that he believes there is no organised crime in Israel. The police, he added, must tackle organised crime with more daring.

ARABS BEAT ARABS

Six suspected Arab terrorists are to be charged by the Israeli authorities to have interrogated and cruelly beaten fellow Arab prisoners in Nablus jail who had been accused of having collaborated with the Israeli authorities. The State Attorney, Mr. Gabriel Bach, told the press that many Arab prisoners claimed to have been tortured to explain that they had given information to the Israelis, and this was the basis for many of the stories recently published by the "Sunday Times". The four prisoners in this case, however, had made solemnly sworn statements that they had been harshly beaten and burnt with cigarette ends by fellow Arabs.

RECORD MEETING OF JEWISH SCHOLARS

The 7th Congress of Jewish scholarship, the largest since the foundation of the World Union of Jewish Studies 30 years ago, was opened in Jerusalem by President Katzir. More than 300 scholars from 30 countries, including Japan, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Portugal delivered more than 700 lectures. Ten lectures alone referred to Maimonides. Many of the participants were non-Jewish specialists on particular subjects of Jewish scholarship.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

BERLIN REMEMBERS REIMANN-SCHULE

Under the slogan "Tendenzen der Zwanziger Jahre" several exhibitions are at present held in Berlin. One of them, "Kunstschulreform 1900-1933", shown near the Charlottenburg Schloss, deals with the pioneer work of leading schools of art before 1933. An attractively laid out 295-page hand book, published on the occasion, carries essays on the history and achievements of the five leading schools of art, represented at the Exhibition, among them the Reimann-Schule in Berlin; the other four are the Kunstschule Debschitz (Munich), the Bauhaus, the Frankfurter Kunstschule and the Akademie fuer Kunst und Kunstgewerbe Breslau.

The chapter about the Reimann-Schule includes excerpts from the late Professor Albert Reimann's reminiscences of the beginnings of the school and a number of essays, among them one by Max Osborn, about the widespread teaching facilities of the steadily expanding institute. It also shows photographs of works by pupils of the school, many of whom were to attain fame in their particular fields.

The book also deals with the defamation and ultimate elimination of the ideas on which these five art schools were based. The position was particularly perturbing in the case of the Reimann-Schule because its founder and owner was a Jew. In 1935, the school had to be "sold" and, under a different management, lingered on until 1943, when it was bombed out.

As our readers know, Professor Reimann emigrated to this country, together with his first wife and helpmate, the late Mrs. Clara Reimann. He had to share all the hardships of the refugees, aggravated in his case by the fact that he was too old to make a new start. Fortunately, some time after the war, things took a turn for the better, and he was granted a carefree old age under the loving care of his second wife, Mrs. Elly Reimann. He died in 1976 at the great age of 101. It was a gratifying thought of the promoters of the Exhibition to invite his widow, Mrs. Elly Reimann, to Berlin as their guest.

FOUR YEARS FOR 320 MURDERS

A Hamburg Court sent 64-year old former SS Obersturmführer Maywald to prison for four years for having assisted in the murder of 320 Jews in the Riga ghetto. The public prosecutor had demanded a life sentence. The Court gave as reasons for the mildness of the sentence that it had been Maywald's duty to select those to be killed, but selection was not the same as murder. The sentence was suspended and Maywald can continue his career as a cosmetics merchant at Neunkirchen/Saar. Before the court had been depositions by witnesses now in the U.S. and in Sweden which had been written down in detail two years after the events.

DUTIFUL MURDERER IN COURT

Werner Poehls, former "SS Obersturmbannführer", was accused before the Kiel High Court of having assisted in the murder of 417 adults and children in Brest Litovsk in 1942. The Public Prosecutor produced documents which showed that Poehls had written to his superior that the most active partisans of his district had not been killed and asked to be allowed to make up for this omission. When he was given the permission he requested, he acted upon it and reported back that more than 350 adults and 60 children had been executed. The court used this document to absolve him from guilt, stating that he had been acting in war time, promoted by a sense of duty rather than from a ruthless desire to kill and had not been guilty of special cruelty. For this reason, the charges against him were dismissed. Poehls had joined the Nazi party in 1933 and had received high awards from the Nazi government.

JEWISH COMMUNIST TEACHER SACKED

The Administration Court of the Land Hesse has rejected the appeal of 31-year-old teacher Silvia Gingold against her dismissal because she was a member of the Federal German Communist Party. She explained that her father had been a Jewish Communist fighter for the Resistance in France during the war and had been decorated by the French Government in recognition of his bravery. Several members of her family had been killed in concentration camps, and for this reason she had joined the Communist Party after her return to Germany.

ROCK-STAR ADOLF HITLER

Three young Hamburg musicians have organized a band of 60, including many prominent artists of the city, to record a rock opera about Adolf Hitler. A Cologne record firm will release the double album which will also be sold in this country and in the U.S. When they were attacked in the German press the producers said that there was a tendency in Anglo-Saxon countries to make Hitler the subject of show-business. The U.S. rock group "Kiss" had the "SS" emblem on its records.

"QUICK'S" HITLER SERIAL

The West German illustrated weekly "Quick" has begun the publication of a series of articles by the American historian John Toland, who describes Hitler as "sentimental, unhappy, in love, crying, ruthless, calculated, despairing"—in that order. The Editors state that such an article should help to explain to the 30 million young people born since 1945 why "the whole German people" were taken in by that man.

FORMER REFUGEES VISIT BERLIN

Since the city of Berlin invited its former Jewish citizens to come back on a visit, 6843 former Berliners have accepted this invitation. This year, 342 arrived in a special plane from the United States and Canada, another 144 from Israel, and all were welcomed by a representative of the Berlin Government. Heinz Galinski, head of the Jewish community said at a reception which was attended by the present Lord Mayor of West Berlin, Dietrich Stobbe, that among the visitors there were people who had left Berlin 43 years ago and others whom he had first met as part of a Siemens forced labour group to which he had belonged or in Auschwitz.

60 YEARS "UFA"

The Universal-Film-A.G., better known under the abbreviation "UFA", was founded in 1917 and dissolved in 1945. It was, however, re-established eleven years later in Berlin and Duesseldorf. To mark the 60th anniversary of its creation, 14 films produced during the years 1930/44 were shown in the Berlin "Marmorhaus". The personalities associated with the "old" UFA include Paul Davidsohn (1866-1927), Hermann Fellner (1878-1936), Erich Pommer (1889-1966), Fritz Lang (1890-1976) and Robert Siodmak (1900-1973).

E.G.L.

EAST GERMAN SYNAGOGUE'S ANNIVERSARY

The small Jewish community in the German Democratic Republic recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the synagogue in Erfurt, the first synagogue to be rebuilt in the GDR after the war. The original Erfurt synagogue was burned down during the November 1938 pogroms and was rebuilt in 1952. Before the war, there lived about 1,000 Jews in Erfurt, but among the members of the present small community only 15 had been residents of the city before the Holocaust, most of them are survivors of concentration camps.—(JTA).

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

A PROUD RECORD

Catalogue of Leo Baeck Institute Publications

When, in 1955, the Council of Jews from Germany founded the Leo Baeck Institute with centres in Jerusalem, London and New York in order to promote research work on the modern history of Jews from Germany and other German-speaking countries, it was hardly expected that within the comparatively short span of two decades, no less than 200 books and monographs would be produced under the Institute's auspices. This is borne out by a recently published, attractively laid out 100-page catalogue of the Institute's publications.

In his preface, Dr Max Kreutzberger, who edited the catalogue in co-operation with Irmgard Foerg, surveys the development of the Institute. He describes it as particularly significant that the research on the history of the Jews in Central Europe from their emancipation up to the destruction of their communities has attracted not only scholars of German-Jewish background but also many other Jewish and non-Jewish historians of high standard. Dr Kreutzberger, who was the first Director of the American centre, also mentions that the LBI House in New York with its library of more than 40,000 books, its archives and personal memoirs is the most comprehensive collection in this specific field. [The London talk (with slides) of its Secretary, Dr Grubel, announced on page 5, will therefore be of special interest to our readers.—The Ed.]

The publications, listed and annotated in the catalogue include, above all, the Year Books (edited by Dr Robert Weltch, lately in co-operation with Dr Arnold Paucker), which, since 1956, have appeared with a regularity rarely achieved by similar ventures. Each Year Book carries a number of monographs by expert authors; these contributions are not only invaluable in their own right as works of scholarship but will also serve as indispensable source material for a future comprehensive historiography of Central European Jewry. The Year Books are complemented by Bulletins (edited by Dr. Hans Tramer, Tel-Aviv) of which, at the time of the publication of the catalogue, 49 volumes have been published; they carry shorter but no less scholarly articles pertinent to the terms of reference of the LBI. Both the Year Books and the Bulletins are sent free of charge to members of the Society of Friends of the LBI (address in Britain: 4 Devonshire Street, London, W.1, where particulars about enrolment may be obtained).

Another section of the catalogue lists books published in the Institute's "Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen". So far, 33 publications have appeared, covering the wide ground of German Jewish history. One of the latest publications was the greatly needed, unbiased analysis of the Jews in Wilhelminian Germany (1890-1914), reviewed in the June 1977 issue of this journal.

A further category of publications consists of biographies and evaluations of German-Jewish personalities, among them Baeck and Buber, Mendelssohn and Wolfskehl (to quote only a few examples) as well as of memoirs, e.g. by Herman Zondek and Margaret Susman.

Last but not least, the Jerusalem LBI has undertaken the translation of works by outstanding German Jews into Hebrew.

It is to be welcomed that the widespread achievements on which the LBI may look back have been put on record. Yet even more important is the fact that, as a living organism, the Leo Baeck Institute carries on with its unique work and will have to do so for a very long time to come. To some extent, the degree of further progress will depend on the assistance rendered by former Central European Jews and their children.

E.G.L.

SOCIAL INSURANCE PAYMENTS

PREVIOUS STATUS RESTORED

As our readers know from previous publications in this paper (see April 1977 issue), there was for some time the danger that new applicants might be excluded from German Social Insurance payments, if and as far as they had paid their contributions for employment in territories of the former Reich outside the Federal Republic and outside Berlin. In fact, applications of this category of Nazi victims had been rejected since November 1976. At our General Meeting, held on May 17, we were already able to report (see our July issue) that in all likelihood the previous status would be restored because the draft of the 20th Renten Anpassungsgesetz (RAG) which also provides certain changes of the regulations on social insurance payments, carried a clause to that effect. Meanwhile, this draft has become law (published in Bundesgesetzblatt No. 39 of June 30, 1977). The Insurance Institutes have been requested by the Federal Ministry of Labour to revert to their previous practice and to rescind any rejections they had decided upon during the past months.

Details about the amended sections (Section 99, previously Sections 100 and 101) of the Angestellten-Versicherungsgesetz (AVG) and the U.K. tax exemptions for payments under these sections, recently notified by the Inland Revenue, are described in the following article.

TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN GERMAN BENEFITS

The AJR has been advised by the Inland Revenue, Policy Division, that those West German Social Insurance benefits which are paid under Section 99 of the "Angestellten-Versicherungsgesetz" (AVG) can be regarded as not liable to Income Tax. Section 99 replaces the former Sections 100/101 of the AVG; pensions paid under those sections similarly are not regarded as liable to Income Tax. (The corresponding sections applying to pensions paid under the Reichsversicherungsordnung (RVO) are Sections 1321/22, now replaced by Section 1320.)

We are further advised that this change of practice is effective from April 4, 1977 and the new practice will be applied to all assess-

ments in respect of pensions paid by virtue of the former Section 100, now Section 99 that were not final and conclusive on April 3, 1977.

If the recipient of a German Social Insurance pension residing abroad (i.e., outside West Germany or West Berlin) is a German national or a former German national, who was deprived of his German nationality due to racial, religious or political discrimination (i.e., a Nazi victim) and his insurance contributions were paid in the territory which is now the Federal German Republic, a Social Insurance pension is payable to him abroad, by right, if the necessary conditions (completed contribution periods, including "Ersatzzeiten") are fulfilled. Recipients entitled under these provisions do not qualify for full tax exemption in respect of their pensions which are paid abroad under Sections 97 and 98 of the AVG. The 50% tax exemption under Section 22(2), Finance Act 1974, continues to apply to them.

Section 99 deals with payment abroad of pensions not covered by Sections 97, 98 and stipulates that such pensions can be paid to victims of National Socialist persecution (not confined here to former German nationals). It covers not only persons whose contributions were paid in the German Reich outside the territory of the Federal Republic or in Danzig. It also extends, in Sub-Section 2, No. 1 of Section 99, to those victims of National Socialist persecution whose entitlement derives from contributions in the territories annexed by the German Reich in 1938, 1939—e.g., Bohemia, Moravia, certain Polish territories—as long as they belonged to the German-speaking minority (in German: Deutsche Volkszugehörige). This second group is referred to as "Vertriebene", i.e. expelled persons. Dependents are included in the regulations of Section 99.

There are special provisions, not dealt with here in detail, for cases in which some but not all contributions were paid in the Federal Republic. It can be assumed that the tax treatment—100% or 50% exemption—will be on the basis of the respective proportions of the pensions.

We are advised that the reason for the tax exemption of benefits paid under Section 99 (formerly Section 100) is that the recipients have no right to the payment abroad of these benefits which are entirely within the discretion of the German authority ("Kann"-Vorschrift). As there is no such entitlement, the Revenue now regard these payments not as income in the meaning of the Income Tax Acts. This treatment represents

a change of practice as compared with the previous practice of treating these pensions as income taxable on a 50% basis (Section 22(2) Finance Act 1974) and prior to that on a remittance basis. The Inland Revenue consider, however, that assessments which were final prior to April 3, 1977 were made in accordance with the practice then generally prevailing and can, under a provision of the Taxes Management Act, 1970 (Section 33), not be re-opened.

Normally an Award made by the Bundesversicherungsanstalt states if the pension is payable to a resident of this country under Section 100, or now Section 99, and no further query should then arise concerning the recipient's claim to full tax exemption of the pension under the above-quoted ruling. If on production of such an Award, H.M. Inspector of Taxes does not agree to full exemption, reference should be made to the communication sent by the Inland Revenue, Policy Division, to this Association.

TAX EXEMPTION FOR AUSTRIAN "HILFSLOSENZUSCHUESSE"

Foreign social security invalidity pensions paid to residents of this country were exempt from U.K. tax from the tax year 1974/75 onwards by Extra-Statutory Concession No. A26 of 1975, now renumbered A26 (see the notice in our issue of September 1975). Efforts have been made for some time to obtain an Inland Revenue ruling clarifying that the Austrian "Hilfslosenzuschüsse" were included in this tax exemption. The AJR has now received confirmation from the Inland Revenue "that as a matter of practice we treat the Austrian Social Security Disability Supplementary Benefit ("Hilfslosenzuschüsse") paid under Section 105a of the Austrian General Social Insurance Law (ASVG) as exempt for the tax years 1974/75 and subsequent years in accordance with the terms of Extra Statutory Concession A26". F.E.F.

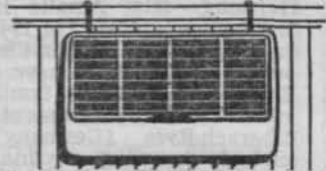
CORRECTION

A strange misprint occurred in the last paragraph of my article "Pitfalls of Messianic Thinking", in the September issue of this paper on page 2. On line 4 of that paragraph it was stated that "after the formation of a small state compelled to conduct earth-bound foreign and military policy" there was no point in messianic ideology. But instead of "small state", as written in the manuscript, it was printed "a friendly state", which makes no sense in the context.

Robert Weltsch

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OBITUARY

SIR MISHA BLACK

Baku-born Professor Sir Misha Black who has died, aged 66, was an architect and industrial designer of international repute. He was 18 months old when his Russian-Jewish parents brought him to Britain. His only formal training was acquired in evening classes, and at the beginning of the Second World War, he was appointed principal exhibitions officer for the Ministry of Information. He was co-ordinating architect for part of the Festival of Britain, design consultant for London Transport, architect to the Zoological Museum and design consultant for BOAC headquarters at London Airport. Governments in Brazil, Ceylon, Israel and Argentina employed his services. In the liner Queen Elizabeth II he designed the synagogue, and he was also supervisor for the renovation of the New London Synagogue for which he designed silver Sifrei Torah. He was knighted in 1972.

LORD COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD

Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, who died during a medical conference at Bath at the age of 77, was one of Britain's most eminent physicians. In his time, he was president of the British Medical Association, the General Medical Council, the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal Society of Health. He was knighted in 1949, created first Baron Cohen of Birkenhead in 1956 and appointed a Companion of Honour for services to medicine in 1974. He worked untiringly for Jewish causes, as life president of the King David Foundation (Liverpool's Jewish schools) and of the Liverpool Home for the Aged. In 1962, he spoke in the House of Lords in defence of shechita, and a bill, trying to abolish it, was subsequently withdrawn.

DR. ROBERT O. HELD

Dr. Robert O. Held died in Starnberg in his 88th year. Before the Nazis came to power, he was a practising lawyer in Munich and, at an early age, was elected a Board member of the Deutsche Anwaltsverein and the Anwaltskammer in Munich. He emigrated to the United States where, after having obtained his American legal qualifications, he again practised in his profession. After the promulgation of the restitution and compensation laws he became an authority in this field. Dr. Held was also a co-founder of the Jewish Philanthropic Fund of 1933 and actively associated with several other Jewish organisations. He spent the last years of his life in retirement in Starnberg near Munich.

MR. JACK MORRISON

Mr. Jack Morrison, who died on August 29 at the age of 75, took a leading part in the work of B'nai B'rith. He was grand president of the District Grand Lodge of Great Britain and Ireland from 1952 to 1966 and, on his retirement from office, was appointed to be the lodge's first honorary president. As vice-president of world B'nai B'rith he represented Anglo-Jewry at many international gatherings. A great philanthropist, he generously supported many causes, including the establishment of Hillel House in London and, as honorary president of Hillel Foundation, he was a frequent speaker and guest of honour at student gatherings at London Hillel House and in the provinces. Mr. Morrison was founder and chairman of Amalgamated Securities Limited, which he built up into a multi-million pound development enterprise for shops and offices throughout the country.

MRS. LUISE FEISTMANN

Mrs. Luise Feistmann, a resident of Heinrich Stahl House, died on August 28, in her 91st year. Before she came to England in 1938, she had worked for several years with the "Aufbringungswerk" of the Berlin Jewish community. During the war, she took up employment of various kinds. In 1947, she decided to join her sister in the United States. There, she did again valuable social work. After her sister's death, she returned to London in 1967, to be near her daughters. When she could no longer look after herself, she applied for admission to one of our Homes. Being a mentally alert personality, used to independence, this decision certainly did not come easy to her. Yet once she was admitted to Heinrich Stahl House in 1971, she did not put up with a life of inactivity. On the contrary, she introduced various schemes of occupation and thus became a source of inspiration for her fellow residents. Her successful efforts were described in a local paper as an example to be followed by other Homes for the Elderly.

In the course of her long life, Mrs. Feistmann had no easy passage. Yet notwithstanding the vicissitudes she had to experience, she always retained her self-confidence and she continued to excel by her mental clarity even when her health started to give way. She will be remembered with affection by all those who had the privilege of knowing her.

W.R.

DR. RUDOLF ILTIS

The secretary-general of the Council of Jewish Religious Communities in Czechoslovakia, Dr. Rudolf Iltis, has died in Prague, at the age of 78. A lawyer by profession, he was deported to Theresienstadt by the Nazis and remained there until the end of the war, when he played a leading part in the reorganisation of the Czechoslovakian Jewish community about which he published a scholarly book in 1959.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge; any voluntary donation would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by 15th of the month.

Birthdays

Goodman.—Mrs. Ruth Goodman (née Mannheimer), formerly Worms, of 24 Hardwick Crescent, Barnsley, Yorkshire, will celebrate her 70th birthday on October 5.

Guttman.—The AJR Club extends heartiest congratulations on the combined 135th birthday of their dear members Sidonie Guttman (85) and Charles H. Guttman (50).

Luchs.—Mrs. Erna Luchs (née Hertz), of Beckum/Westf., formerly Berlin and Exeter Road, London, N.W.2, now of Apt. 92, Rua Itacema 330, Sao Paulo 04530, Brazil, will celebrate her 70th birthday on October 13. Mrs. Edith Freiwald is wishing "many happy returns of the day" and countless more to come in good health p. G'd to her dear friend on this occasion.

Merzbach.—Mrs. Anna Merzbach, of 10 Addisland Court, Addison Road, W.14, celebrated her 95th birthday on September 13.

Salinger.—Mrs. Hilde Salinger (formerly Fabian, née Baruch), of 30 Baliol Square, Durham, celebrated her 90th birthday on August 27. Congratulations from her children and grandchildren.

Deaths

Broch.—Mr. Erich Broch (formerly Bochum) died in Heinrich Stahl House, The Bishop's Avenue, N.2, on September 7, aged 77. Deeply mourned by his son, brother, sister-in-law, niece and nephew, and sadly missed by the residents of the Home. Never to be forgotten.

Feistmann.—Our beloved courageous mother, Mrs. Luise Feistmann (née Merzbacher), died on August 28 after another severe illness. In the name of her family and friends Helen (Leni) Reinfrank.

Friday.—Mrs. Kaethe Friday (née Grosser) died on September 10 in her 82nd year. Mourned by her son, Uri Keller, and Eva Aloni and Hans Silberstein in Israel.

Grundmann.—Dr. Hans Grundmann, of 35 Stumperlowe Park Road, Sheffield 10, died suddenly and unexpectedly on September 10, of a heart attack.

Rath.—Mrs. Luise Rath, widow of Salli Rath formerly of Cambridge, died suddenly on August 29. Sadly missed by her daughters, their families and her friends.

Rose.—Miss Edith Rose, formerly from Hanover, died peacefully on September 18, aged 82. Sadly missed by her family and friends.

Semmel.—Mrs. Ella Semmel (née Schluetcherer), of 21 Dorset Drive, Edgware, died on September 19. Deeply mourned by her children, Heinz (Israel), Hanna (Stanmore), and Walter (London, W.2), relatives and many friends.

Wachsberger.—Mr. Alfons Wachsberger (formerly Berlin) passed away in Haifa (Carmel), on August 30, aged 58. Deeply mourned by his sister, Mrs. Steffi Feher, and niece, Kitty.

CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 25p for five words plus 20p for advertisements under a Box No.

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WE WOULD WELCOME to hear from more ladies who would be willing to shop and cook for an elderly person in their neighbourhood on a temporary or permanent basis. Current rate of pay £1.25 per hour. Please ring Mrs. Casson 01-624 4449, AJR Employment, for appointment.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiries

Tichauer.—Will Miss Ilse Tichauer (may have changed her name) last known in London, or any reader who knows her address please contact Mr. Eric Zorek, 37 Eton Avenue, London, N.W.3 (Phone: 794 2218).

Hornung.—Miss Amalie Hornung, last known address (in 1940) Potsdamerstrasse, Berlin-Charlottenburg 5. Believed to have come to England in 1946 with family Hochmann from Internment Camp Biberach-Ryss (Germany). Will anybody knowing anything about her write to Box 683.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to ensure that you receive your copy of "AJR Information" regularly, please inform us immediately of any change of address.

F. Hellendall

A PAPERBACK HISTORY OF GERMAN JEWRY

Many of us who often regret that our younger generation has so little access to our own history will welcome a recent attempt made to publish a short popular history of German Jewry in paperback.*

The book traces the history of German Jews back from its beginning in the ninth century—and probably earlier times—to its end in 1933 although deliberately refraining from describing the Holocaust in detail.

Whoever looks at recent German-Jewish history is bound to ask the question why antisemitism developed to such a catastrophic extent in the "seemingly enlightened intellectual climate" of Germany. The author gives the explanation that whereas the emancipation of the Jews in other West European countries was a consequence of the enlightenment and bourgeois revolutions of the peoples of those countries, in Germany it was imposed by Napoleon's victorious armies and was, as the writer correctly points out, "accompanied by the humiliation of German arms" and thus "explicitly associated with defeat and the foreigner". After the "liberation" of 1815 most of the achievements of Jewish emancipation were swept away. It is one of the tragedies of German Jewry that thus antisemitism became part of the "national heritage" of Germany.

Unfortunately the book suffers from the basic premise of its author which regards assimilation—a natural, almost biological pro-

cess to which men of different backgrounds are liable whenever they meet and live together on equal terms—as an evil. Thus he states (p. 42):

"German Jewry's faith . . . was intermittently subjected to the trials of persecution, the temptations(!) of assimilation and the terror of destruction."

and he evidently regards assimilation as being on the same level as "apostasy" when he writes (p. 19):

"Between the time of Frederick the Great's death and Hitler's rise to power, assimilation and apostasy had almost assumed the dimensions of mass movements amongst German Jews."

It is therefore not surprising that in the few concluding pages of this book dealing with events after 1945 not a word is mentioned about the contributions which former German Jews rendered and are still rendering to the cultural and scientific life of the countries in which they found refuge.

With hindsight it is easy to speak of "the moment when many German Jews were making their last (and as Hitler proved(!) futile) efforts to assimilate . . ." (p. 62), but we who are the products of this assimilation have no reason to be ashamed of it. Could any of the astounding proportion of outstanding men of science, art and culture which our small community of 600,000 (about 1 per cent in a nation of 60 million) produced in less than 150 years of emancipation and assimilation and to whom the author justifiably refers in detail, have achieved what they did if they had remained in their ghettos and confined their intellectual activities to the study of the

Talmud? And would the modern State of Israel have been possible without the assimilation of European Jews to the culture and civilisation of their environment?

Yet, notwithstanding these shortcomings, the author has by and large succeeded in giving a good, brief summary of our history of which too many of us know too little.

Letter to the Editor

The Refugee Children's Movement

Sir,—May I add one more letter to the correspondence on the subject of the refugee children?

The talk I recently gave to the Birmingham Jewish Historical Society has aroused widespread comment on the basis of a press report. But the Jewish Chronicle could only report some facets of what I then said. To avoid misunderstanding, may I stress through your columns what I stressed in my talk, that thousands of us owe our lives to the efforts of the Refugee Children's Movement and that we will remain for ever grateful for this fact. I paid particular tribute to individual efforts of those connected with the movement by name.

At the same time it seems to me to be right and proper thirty years after the event to call for a great research effort before the evidence is lost. I made it especially clear that I felt no personal sense of deprivation but I did express a suspicion that there seemed to be a tendency among some of those in charge to discourage not just higher education but any academic education even where this was possible full-time or part-time. The reasons for this are not fully understood, but as they affected so many lives of a distinguishable minority group, they are worth researching into. To do so implies no disrespect or ingratitude to all those who devoted themselves to saving children from certain death.

(Prof.) JOHN GRENVILLE

42 Selly Wick Road,
Birmingham, B29 7JA.

* Popular Judaica Library—Germany. Edited by Stuart Cohen. Keter Books, Jerusalem (POB 7145), 22. Readers may obtain copies at the Jewish Memorial Bookshop, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1 or, at a reduced rate of £1.25, direct from the publishers in Jerusalem after having paid the remittance to the London account of Keter Ltd., at the Bank Leumi, 7 Woodstock Street, W.1, or 101 Golders Green Road, N.W.11.

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PERSONALIA

DR. LOHMEYER RETIRED

Dr. Brigitte Lohmeyer, for many years cultural attaché at the Federal German Embassy in London, has retired. In the course of her activities she has developed personal relationships with many members of our community to whom she endeared herself by her cordiality and helpfulness. We wish her happiness and creative leisure in her well-deserved retirement.

MR. ARTHUR NEY 75

Mr. Arthur Ney, who celebrates his 75th birthday on October 17, is a native of Stuttgart. He came to this country in 1936 and, together with two friends from Stuttgart, founded Londex Ltd., a company specialising in electrical remote control. It was very successful and is now part of General Electric Co. Ltd.

For over twenty years, Arthur Ney has been an active member of B'nai B'rith, first in the Leo Baeck Lodge, then, since the 1960s, as a founder member of the Surrey Lodge, of which he is a past president. His special interest in the Surrey Lodge is the welfare of the lonely and elderly, whom he visits regularly. He has also been a member of the AJR for many years.

With his wide interests in business, the Lodge, travel and the arts, Arthur Ney enjoys a busy retirement.

KNITTING EXHIBITION IN SYDNEY

Arranged by AJR Member

Under the auspices of the Australian Wool Corporation, a "History of Knitting" Exhibition was recently held in Sydney. It was the first exhibition of its kind in the world and arranged by Mr. Heinz Edgar Kiewe (Oxford), a member of the AJR, who has spent a lifetime travelling and researching needlecraft. The Exhibition was opened by the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Port. Mr. Port (formerly Rapoport), a well-known engineer and television lecturer in Sydney, hails from the Province of Poznan, and his wife was born in Berlin.

Theatre and Cultural News

Salzburg. "Winter Melody", an operetta by the Hungarian-Jewish composer Paul Abraham (whose "Viktoria und ihr Husar" and "Blume von Hawai" remain unforgotten), completed and published after Abraham's death, is being prepared by the Landestheater for the forthcoming season.

Berlin. A revival of Sternheim's "Kassette" at the Schlossparktheater did not succeed, critics complaining about the lack of sarcastic humour in this production without which such a characteristic play cannot reach its public.

Evergreens. Continental pavement cafés still have their bands playing to the ice cream-eating crowds inside and outside. How gratifying to note that in these pop-tune times Italian and Tyrolian resorts are still scoring long-lasting applause with "Valencia", "Ramona", "Jealousy" and "You are my heart's delight". There certainly seems to have been no great change since the melodious 'thirties.

Recollections—but no regrets. The marriage of Czech-born film star Anna Ondra and former boxing champion Max Schmeling is now 44 years old; the couple are living "happily ever after" in retirement in Germany.

More Hoerbigers. A son was born to Meresa, youngest daughter of the actor couple Paula Wessely-Attila Hoerbiger. Proudly, all three Hoerbiger daughters now possess male heirs.

Birthdays. German actress *Kaethe Haack* was 80 years old in August; *Heinrich Schnitzler*, son of the Austrian dramatist Arthur Schnitzler, a disciple of Reinhardt, director and producer, is 75; *Kurt Meisel*, stage and screen star, formerly chief producer at the Vienna "Burg" and now Intendant of the Bavarian "Staatschauspiele" in Munich, celebrated his 65th birthday.

Obituary. *Philip von Zeska* whose death is announced at the age of 82, is mourned by the Vienna Burgtheater where he had been an actor from 1920 until June this year. *Wanda Achsel*, Berlin-born soprano of the Vienna State Opera from 1923 to 1939, famous Rosalinda in the Bruno Walter "Fledermaus" at Salzburg's Festival in the 'thirties, has died in Vienna, aged 90.

TEN YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICES

Tribute to Matron of Otto Schiff House

This month, ten years have passed since Miss A. Rieger was appointed Matron of Otto Schiff House, after she had already held a responsible position as a qualified nurse at Leo Baeck House. The anniversary of her tenure of office serves as a welcome opportunity to express to her our sincere thanks for her unsurpassed loyalty and her signal services to the Home. The main beneficiaries are, of course, the residents. It is due to her efforts that people of different outlooks, expectations and temperaments have been welded into one family. The mutual attachment between her and the residents became particularly evident, when after a fire in the Home, the residents had to be temporarily accommodated in other Homes. She constantly kept contact with them, and great was the joy, when the whole family was assembled again under the same roof.

At the helm of the Home, which is run on strictly Orthodox lines, Miss Rieger has always excelled by a deep respect for the Jewish religion and a punctilious observance of the ritual requirements. Her human understanding of the residents is linked with high administrative qualities, which are reflected in her relationship with the staff, many of whose members have served under her guidance for a long time. Equally, she has built up an atmosphere of mutual trust with the members of the House Committee, all of whom realise and deeply appreciate her untiring efforts and who, in the course of many years of close co-operation, have become personally attached to her.

For "Loni" Rieger Matronship of Otto Schiff House means more than the fulfilment of duties involved in the job. She knows of no limits in the amount of time she devotes to the Home and, as a matter of course, puts upon herself additional duties whenever the need arises. Equally, it is her ambition to create an atmosphere of homeliness in the house, and nothing gives her more pleasure than the beautification of the Home by a new piece of furniture or art. Otto Schiff House has become an integral part of her life, just as she has become an integral part of Otto Schiff House. For all this we want to thank her. May we have the benefit of her devoted services for many more years to come, and may she too continue to find happiness and satisfaction in the work which has become her vocation.

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