

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

C. C. Aronsfeld

DEBAUCHERS OF THE TRUTH

How the Facts of the Holocaust are being Distorted

The mentality which concocted the "Protocols of Zion" before the First World War and afterwards the swindle of the "Stab in the Back", has now invented the lie that millions of Jews were never murdered. The lie was first bred, appropriately enough, in Germany, but it has now spread among the well-wishers and whitewashers of Nazism all over the world, and something like the blue print of it has actually been produced in this country. "Did Six Million Really Die?", runs the innocuously wondering title of a pamphlet advertising "The Truth at Last".

After seasoned and laborious research has established the facts, these skimpy 28 pages inspire confidence neither in their boast nor in their credentials. For a start, the author, "Richard E. Harwood", introduced as a writer and specialist in political and diplomatic aspects of the Second World War, "at present with the University of London", does not appear under his real name (this much he himself admitted), and the publishers, Historical Review Press, were at the time a makeshift concern operating from an obscure forwarding address in Richmond, Surrey. It was then run by a Warwickshire farmer, Robin Beauclair, who did not disguise his association with the National Front. His purpose was, he explained, "to sweep aside all the Jewish propaganda of the past. Don't you know that we live under Jewish domination? The entire mass media is Jewish-controlled. It is time that we, as British people, dictated our own destiny".

Beauclair later appears to have fallen out with the National Front and so felt free to divulge the identity of "Harwood". It was (according to him and he should know) Richard Verrall, since February 1976 editor of the National Front paper *Spearhead*. The present director of the Historical Review Press, Eric Ashby, has disowned Beauclair's statement as "utterly untrue", and Verrall has described the Historical Review farmer as "a fuddy-duddy eccentric". Actually (to a reporter of the *Evening Standard*, 21 September 1977), Verrall asserted in so many words: "I have never heard of the Historical Review Press"—which is a most odd assertion to make since the paper he edits lent considerable prominence to a similar product of the same publishers ("The Hoax of the Twentieth-century", by A. R. Butz), not once but twice, in the issue of June-July 1976 (p.15) and of August 1977 (p.13).

This gratuitous denial of provable fact matches the denials perpetrated by "Richard E. Harwood". The merest coincidences presumably. Nor the only one either. Both too were at London University (though of "Harwood" nothing was known there: he had not then yet donned his magic hood); both parade as German scholars, both dabble in contemporary German history. "Harwood", even

managed to translate his pamphlet into German, and the standard of his German is about equal to the standard of his scholarship.

His basic idea is that the Nazis' aim was not the extermination of Jewry but their emigration. "The term Final Solution (he writes) meant only the emigration of Jews". In fact (he asserts) "the Nazi view of Jewish emigration was . . . formulated along the lines of modern Zionism", because, according to "Harwood", "Theodor Herzl, in his work *The Jewish State*, had originally conceived of Madagascar as a national homeland for the Jews, and this possibility was seriously studied by the Nazis. It had been a main plank of the National Socialist party platform before 1933 and was published by the party in pamphlet form".

Apart from the nonsense of the first sentence sufficiently demonstrated by *Mein Kampf's* abuse of Zionism (p. 356), Herzl never as much as mentioned Madagascar either in his book or anywhere else, nor was the Madagascar scheme a plank, let alone a "main plank", in Nazi policy before 1933.

A Welter of Distortions

I do not have to explain here that of course the Nazi intention was entirely different. I have dealt with the litany of hatred and the openly avowed design of murder in a previous article (AJR, October 1977). Murder was the Nazi profession from the very start, and, as Karl Dietrich Bracher says in his profound study of *The German Dictatorship*, "the extermination grew out of the biologicistic insanity of Nazi ideology". This is the basic consideration for any understanding of the Holocaust.

"Harwood", however, does not as much as refer to Nazi ideology; he regards it as wholly irrelevant. "To argue", he writes, "whether the German attitude to the Jews was right or not" was "no part of the discussion". He makes much of what he calls Dr Weizmann's "declaration of war" on behalf of the Jewish Agency (which he twists into "World Jewry"), but the Nazi declarations of war on the Jews long before 1939, even 1933, in fact ever since Hitler first entered politics, are blandly ignored. So far as "Harwood" is concerned they do not exist. On the contrary, he summarily asserts: "Never at any time had the Nazi leadership even contemplated a policy of genocide".

In the manner of orthodox Nazi propaganda, he inflates the Jewish share in the German population from 0.7 to 5 per cent, and with callous indifference to truth, he accepts the fact that "rightly or wrongly, the Germany of Adolf Hitler considered the Jews to be a disloyal and avaricious element as well as a force of decadence".

Having so refurbished the Nazi cause, "Har-

wood" produces "quotations" designed to show that conditions in some of the camps—Dachau and Belsen—were "humane". Benedikt Kautsky, a former prisoner, is stated to have written in his book *Teufel und Verdammte* that "in no camp at any time did I come across such installation as a gas chamber". What Kautsky does say is this: "I should like now briefly to refer to the gas chambers. Though I did not see them myself, they have been described to me by so many trustworthy people that I have no hesitation in reproducing their testimony". He goes on: "The system of gas chambers was not hurriedly improvised. It was the result of years of painstaking experiments". This passage is omitted by "Harwood".

A similar half-truth is a reference to the Swiss paper *Baseler Nachrichten* which is stated to have declared, in a report dated 13 June 1946, that "a maximum of only one-and-a-half million Jews could be numbered as casualties". "Harwood" ignores a correction published by the same paper on 7 October 1952 when a critical analysis of the previous story arrived at the conclusion that the number of Jewish victims was approximately 5,800,000.

In the same way, "Harwood" deals with another Swiss paper, *Die Tat*, Zurich of 19 January 1955, which (he writes) "in a survey of all Second World War casualties . . . put the 'Loss of victims of persecution because of politics, race or religion who died in prisons and concentration camps between 1939 and 1945' at 300,000 not all of whom were Jews". The paper had done nothing of the kind. The figure of 300,000 referred to "Germans and German Jews", i.e. mention was made of only one group of Jews and a comparatively small one at that.

"Harwood", who probably never saw the Swiss paper, seriously accepts this figure—"the most accurate assessment"—of all victims of Nazi persecution. He also had the audacity to claim as an authority for this lie the International Red Cross who, however, promptly exposed his trick in the following statement: "The figures cited by the author of the booklet are based on statistics falsely attributed to us, evidently for the purpose of giving them credibility, despite the fact that we never publish information of this kind".

Another example of how "Harwood" treats Red Cross evidence. He writes: "They were permitted to distribute food parcels to major concentration camps in Germany from August 1942"; the "major concentration camps" were in fact Dachau and Oranienburg. He then quotes from the 1948 Red Cross Report: "From February 1943 onwards this concession was extended to all other camps and prisons". Actually the original said: ". . . to all other camps and prisons in Germany—a vital difference as most of the camps were outside Germany".

Again "Harwood" asserts that Red Cross delegates allowed to visit the camps found no evidence of a deliberate policy to exterminate the Jews. Yet the 1948 Report explicitly

Continued on page 2, column 1

DEBAUCHERS OF TRUTH

Continued from page 1

refers to "a discriminatory régime which aimed more or less openly at their extermination", and "under National Socialism (it was said), the Jews had become in truth outcasts, condemned by rigid racial legislation to suffer tyranny, persecution and systematic extermination. No kind of protection shielded them".

A student of "Harwood's" technique of handling the Red Cross reports sums up: "Out of a total of 15 citations, six were correct. In eight more, either specific or general omissions of the text material were of such a nature as to bias the reader to believe that, on the whole, the Red Cross found conditions for European Jews pretty good under the Nazi domination. Essentially, Harwood's technique relative to the Red Cross references was to achieve his objectives by omitting important details".

Deportation "Peaceful Resettlement"

"Harwood" does not scruple to refer to prisoners of the Warsaw Ghetto being "peacefully resettled" elsewhere. He has not heard of (or simply chooses to ignore) the notorious, cunningly contrived Nazi system of linguistic camouflage (*Sprachregelung*) which called deportation "resettlement" and murder "special treatment". He writes just like an obedient servant of the Ministry of Propaganda.

A blatant example of his methods is the way he, as indeed all the distorters of history now, manipulate the long discredited libel that *The Diary of Anne Frank* is a forgery. This lie is becoming quite a vogue; David Irving, for example, who has "discovered" that Hitler did not know of the extermination, writes: "Many forgeries are notorious, like that of the Diary of Anne Frank (here a civil action brought by a New York film author proved that he had written it in co-operation with the girl's father)". So it is perhaps worth stating the facts. According to "Harwood", the Diary was "first published in 1952". This is an untruth for a start. The Diary was published in 1947 in Amsterdam. The Dutch original was followed by translations into French and German in 1950, and an English translation appeared in 1952.

In the same year, 1952, a dramatised version of the Diary was written by Meyer Levin, the American Jewish author. He had read the Diary in 1950 and wrote to Otto Frank, the father, offering to get it published in English and at once suggesting a film. There was, first, some agreement between the two, then disagreement leading to litigation. The point at issue all the time was the dramatisation of the Diary, not of course its authenticity, and it is these two aspects that the new purveyors of antisemitic lies are trying to confuse in the hope that Anne's Diary will be regarded as a forgery.

"Harwood" canvasses his lie about the Diary on the authority of an obscure Swedish Nazi paper, and here at least he acknowledges the source. In other cases he makes no such acknowledgement. In fact much of his "research" has been cribbed from an American booklet *The Myth of the Six Million*, published anonymously in 1969, with an introduction by a contributing editor of the antisemitic magazine *American Mercury*. He helped himself liberally, even literally, to whole passages from this pack of lies including the Swedish Nazi lie about Anne Frank.

More details could be cited—though I think I have told enough—to debunk this miserable wretch who, yes, claims to have made "a great deal of careful research" and based his lies

on "irrefutable evidence". Authoritative historians have so far refrained from speaking up, but Professor Hugh Trevor Roper has stated his considered judgment that, behind a simulated objectivity of expression (this pamphlet) is in fact an irresponsible and tendentious publication which avoids material evidence and presents selected half-truths and distortions for the sole purpose of serving antisemitic propaganda".

Some trenchant notice was taken by the foremost French newspaper *Le Monde* which thought "all this is so fantastic, so monstrous, alike in its folly and its disgrace, that one is tempted to throw this filth away while representing an urge to vomit". But the writer went on: "And yet, it would be wrong. One might fancy that such unheard-of allegations could never be taken seriously except among readers blinded by racial hatred or sufficiently imbecile to swallow the bizarre and scandalous stuff. This pamphlet, however, is liable to impress the ignorant, and after all the charlatans, mountebanks and downright scoundrels in this enlightened century of ours are too many for confidence to be placed in the critical faculties of the generality of our contemporaries".

Pamphlet Widely Circularised

Actually the pamphlet has already been widely distributed, not only in English (in this country particularly among MPs, and more especially history teachers) but also in German and French. It was used by the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United Nations who read the entire text into the record. By contrast, while it circulates unhampered in Germany and Austria, it was banned in South Africa where the S. A. Jewish Board of Deputies produced a valuable documentation entitled "Six Million Did Die: The Truth shall Prevail".

In Britain no action has so far been taken. After copies were sent to heads of history departments and school librarians, the Under-Secretary for Education stated in Parliament: "It is not only unacceptable, it is disgraceful to publish material of this kind which bears no relation whatever to the evidence of crimes which were committed".

The Board of Deputies has advised all educational authorities in the country about the nature of the pamphlet. An attempt to institute criminal proceedings failed because the Director of Public Prosecutions held that "whilst the author had ignored substantiated evidence which is contrary to his case, it would be extremely difficult to prove that he had intended 'to stir up hatred against any section of the public in Great Britain distinguished by colour, race or ethnic or national origin'". This of course was the requirement under the old Race Relations Act. Under the new (1976) Act such an intention is no longer essential. It remains to be seen what if anything will be done now.

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GERMAN NEWS

NAZI CRIMES UNDER INVESTIGATION

The Ludwigsburg Central Office for the investigation of Nazi crimes has stated that it has still 193 cases on its books on which the investigations have not been concluded. Since it was set up in 1958, the office has initiated 3,951 cases of which 3,758 were passed on to the Public Prosecutor.

GOVERNMENT CONCERN OVER NAZI PROPAGANDA

Hans-Jochen Vogel, Federal Minister of Justice expressed his concern over the increasing distribution of Nazi propaganda in a letter to the Ministers of Justice of the various Länder. He suggested new legislation against the sale of Nazi literature, toys and insignia, even though existing legislation already made such sales a criminal offence. Public prosecutors should be encouraged to open proceedings more frequently, and the police should be instructed to investigate wherever there was a case of illegal Nazi propaganda.

H. G. Wolters, Secretary of State in the Youth Ministry, announced that his office would begin to bring proceedings against publishers of Nazi material likely to corrupt young minds. The market was flooded with publications of this kind which were liable to undermine the authority of the Government and its position abroad.

Jürgen Dittberner, a member of the Berlin Senate, protested against the uninhibited sale of swastika badges by a flying salesman during a public performance at the Berlin Ice Stadium.

In Hanover, a Citizens' Defence League was set up to counteract numerous neo-Nazi provocations in the city and the surrounding countryside. During a recent demonstration, one of the neo-Nazi leaders had asked for two minutes' silence in remembrance of the banned Horst Wessel song. The audience then stood to attention, raising their arms in the Hitler salute. A young policeman explained his non-intervention by saying that he had not wished to get into trouble with his superiors.

According to official estimates, the most important neo-Nazi organisation, the "Young National Democrats", are the most important among the extreme organisations of young people. It has some 2,000 members, brought together in 30 localised groups, and is led by Gösta Thomas, a student of Political Science who preaches the pseudo-scientific biological creed of the Nazis.

Two men who gave the Nazi salute at the funeral of the Rome SS chief, Herbert Kappler in Soltau, have been charged with "using the symbols of an anti-constitutional organisation". One of them had called out "Heil Hitler" and raised his arm in the Nazi salute.

S.S. CAMP GUARDS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR PENSIONS

The Federal Social Court in Kassel has decided that former members of the S.S. who were detailed to guards duty in concentration camps, did not thereby become members of the regular Armed Forces. For this reason they do not qualify for military pensions.

UNSUNG HEROINE HONOURED

The Federal Order of Merit has been awarded to Frau Elisabeth Weeg, of Gut Schöna, near Cologne, in recognition of her courage in sheltering a Jewish couple and their daughter from 1944 till the end of the war and thus saving their lives. In the award she was praised for having disregarded her own safety in the service of humanity.

HOME NEWS

RALLY FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Under the auspices of the recently founded Interfaith and All-Party Committee for Racial Justice a rally was held at Central Hall, Westminster, on March 2. The occupants of the platform as well as the members of the audience comprised people of Christian, Jewish and other denominations as well as of various ethnic origins and political affiliations. One of the three speakers, Mr. Peter Walker, M.P., stressed that the difficulties encountered by the new immigrants could only be overcome by constructive measures, especially in the fields of employment, training and housing. Mr. David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, took issue with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's remark that Britain might be "swamped" by immigrants. Last year, he said, the total of coloured immigration was less than the capacity of a first division football ground. Miss Joan Lester stated that it was a fallacy to assume that ethnic groups were also uniform cultural entities; there was, for instance, among the indigenous British population a vast cultural difference between members of the working class and the upper class. All speakers agreed that the trend towards a multi-racial society was not only a natural process but would also result in an enrichment of the country. At the end of the rally, which was chaired by Mr. Jonathan Dimbleby, a manifesto was adopted which called on all people, whatever their race or creed, to fight against race prejudice and discrimination.

ATTACKS ON TORY M.P.

Windows and delivery vans of the "Hendon Times" were plastered with stickers saying: "Students against racialism and Zionism; Mr. John Gorst is a racist Zionist and should be removed; no platform for racialism". Mr. Gorst, who is Conservative M.P. for Hendon North, blamed Left-wing extremists belonging to a coalition group of Polytechnic students "Socialists Students Alliance," but the group denied this.

NAZI RELICS AT MUSEUM

For its forthcoming exhibition "Germany 1870-1945", the Imperial War Museum has acquired two huge collections of Nazi memorabilia. One, consisting mainly of uniforms and military equipment, was bought from an American collector, the other, the so-called Browning collection, contains thousands of Nazi items, Hitler's monogrammed sheets, Himmler's pay book, Goebbels' white dress uniform, a book bound in human skin and a bar of soap made from a human body. The Board of Deputies has put itself at the disposal of the Museum in preparing the exhibition. Dr. Frankland, director of the museum said he could understand that a small minority of people might react to such an exhibition, but he refused to "run the museum on the grounds of what the National Front is doing".

SALE OF NAZI BADGES

Arnott's Department Store in Glasgow, which belongs to the House of Fraser group, has withdrawn Nazi badges from sale after protests by the Jewish community. Mr. Sakol, chairman of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, had said that it was a great shame that a store of such a group should sell such emblems which were an insult not only to Jews but to all those members of the community at large who had fought against Nazism.

REBUKE TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

In a letter signed by Lord Janner, the Board of Deputies has protested to Amnesty International for describing Israel as a country with a bad human rights record and for demanding that Israel should release 25 "prisoners of conscience".

"12 HOURS FOR ISRAEL"

Celebrations at Earls Court

British Jewry's major celebration of Israel's 30th anniversary will be held on Sunday, May 7, at Earls Court under the heading "12 Hours for Israel". There will be, among other things, exhibitions of English and Israeli displays, which demonstrate the progress made during a 30-year-old relationship, shops and stores of Israeli products, films and debates.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MEETING

Sunday, May 14

This year, the Meeting in memory of the Six Million Jewish Martyrs will be held on Sunday, May 14, at 3 p.m., in the Cambridge Theatre, Earls Court, London, W.C.2. As on past occasions, the AJR is associated with this important annual function but, this year for the first time, the address on behalf of the sponsoring organisations will be delivered by a representative of the AJR, our Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx. The main speaker will be The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, Q.C., Member of Parliament for Hendon South. It is hoped that in memory of their nearest ones many members of the AJR and their friends will attend the meeting.

BAN ON NATIONAL FRONT IN SOUTHEAST

The town council of Southend has officially banned the National Front from hiring public halls under its control, including the civic centre. Councillor Bowyer said the Front created violence and animosity wherever it went, and the Southend Trades Council said the Front's members were "merchants of hate and violence."

CONCENTRATION CAMP HERO REMEMBERED

Nearly 500 representatives of many Jewish and non-Jewish organisations attended a meeting at Southgate to set up a fund in memory of Charles Coward, who died in 1976. As a Royal Artillery Sergeant-Major, he was taken prisoner during the Second World War, and from his camp near Auschwitz helped many Jews and others to escape. He is the only Englishman for whom a tree was planted in the Avenue of Righteous Gentiles at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The fund is to be used for a £4,000 physiotherapy room at a Cheshire Home for the Disabled, and a plaque, remembering the six million Jewish dead, will be placed outside the home.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

Bishop in Synagogue

The Bishop of Willesden, the Rt. Rev. Hewlett Thompson, addressed the Cricklewood Jewish community on "Church community past and present". It was the first such address by a local bishop to the congregation. The Bishop said the present Christian-Jewish dialogue was more significant than anything else which happened at the moment in the ecumenical movement.

Party for Jewish Woman at House of Commons

In 1971, Mrs. Doreen Gainsford, a 40-year-old housewife, founded the "35s Club" to fight for the right of Jewish people to leave the Soviet Union. Since then, she has led more than 400 demonstrations and her organisation claims to have been responsible for the release of nearly 150,000 Soviet Jews. When she recently decided to emigrate to Israel, more than 300 MPs, including Foreign Secretary, Dr. David Owen, gave her a farewell party at the House of Commons.

Intermarriage in Britain

According to a survey undertaken by a department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the rate of intermarriage in Britain is 20 per cent, compared to some 50 per cent in other West European countries and about 40 per cent in the United States and Latin America. It was pointed out, however, that at least in North America, a large number of non-Jewish spouses became converts to Judaism.

Orthodox Jews at Royal Free Hospital

After the closure of the Jewish maternity hospital at Stoke Newington, the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, has agreed to make maternity beds available for Orthodox Jewish mothers. Facilities will be provided for the lighting of candles on Friday nights, and a room for up to ten people will be made available for circumcision. Kosher meals will be provided with the help of volunteers.

Israeli Hotel in Manchester

Mr. Amnon Shakrov, an Israeli who has lived in England for 15 years, has opened the only Israeli-owned hotel in the North of England at Whalley Range, near Manchester. The restaurant is kosher, but not under supervision and open to non-residents.

Freemasons at Synagogue

More than 400 freemasons from Glasgow and the West of Scotland, including Glasgow's Lord Provost, Mr. David Hodge, attended Lodge Montefiore's annual divine service in the Garnethill Synagogue.

Israel Crafts Exhibited

Eight Israeli firms participated in the International Spring Fair at the Birmingham Exhibition Centre. They exhibited gold and silver jewellery, ceramics, glassware and leather goods. Subsequently, 50 buyers from the U.K. promised to attend the Jerusalem Jewellery and Arts and Crafts Fair in April.

New Manchester Home for Aged Plans

Heathlands, the Manchester Jewish Home for the Aged, will get a £400,000 extension. One third of this sum has so far been raised. It will provide an extra 30 beds. The waiting list for beds is kept at 100, and many applicants have to be turned away.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Israel Cleared of Torture

The Washington State Department has published a report on the human rights record of each of the 105 countries which receive military or economic aid from America. It states that Israel is "a fully fledged parliamentary democracy whose standards of justice . . . are comparable to those of the U.S. and other Western democracies". It adds, however, that some of the standards are not always maintained in the occupied territories—a dilemma "that will probably only be resolved in the context of a final peace settlement with its neighbours". It alleges that sometimes inexperienced reserve members of the Armed Forces used excessive force in quelling demonstrations and restoring order, and that there had been instances of arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, denial of fair public trial and political freedom of expression in the occupied territories. In Israel proper, Arabs had probably a higher per capita income than in any of the surrounding countries, and also higher than that of many Jewish Israelis of Sephardi origin. Proven instances of discrimination against Israeli Arabs were very rare.

March on Hitler's Birthday

Mr. James Thompson, the Governor of Illinois, has promised to march with Jews and other anti-fascists in the peaceful counter-demonstration, if the new legal steps to stop a Nazi parade on April 20, Hitler's birthday, in the predominantly Jewish town of Skokie, near Chicago, do not succeed. Members of a large number of churches, veterans' and disabled peoples' organisations have also promised to participate in the counter-demonstration.

Nazi Groups

In a report published by the American Jewish Committee it is alleged that there are at least eight Nazi groups in the country, but that their total membership does not exceed 2,000. George Dietz, the leader of the White Power Movement in West Virginia, had grown up in Hitler Germany as the son of an S.S. man.

No Oscar for Miss Redgrave?

Vanessa Redgrave has been nominated for an Oscar for her portrayal of the Jewish writer Lillian Hellman in the film "Julia" which deals with a rescue operation for Nazi victims in the 'thirties. The Jewish Defence League has threatened to demonstrate against her nomination because she has financed and acted as narrator in a documentary "The Palestinians", which takes sides for the Palestinians and was hotly debated when it was shown at last year's London Film Festival. It has not been shown in the United States but, even so, Jewish groups urged 20th Century-Fox not to employ the actress again. The film-makers refused, saying the idea was all too reminiscent of the early 1950s witch-hunt in Hollywood, of which incidentally, Lillian Hellman herself had been a victim.

During a visit to Malta as a guest of the ruling Labour Party, Vanessa Redgrave said that she was persecuted by British Zionists and capitalists, "in particular Jews" who were trying to destroy her career.

"Golda" Play a Flop

The Broadway play "Golda" about Mrs. Golda Meir has closed after a run of only 3½ months. Anne Bancroft, the star had been fighting influenza for several weeks and stated that she could not get rid of it because in her role she had to smoke eight packets of cigarettes a week.

Grateful Refugee

According to a report published in the "Daily Telegraph", Dr. Harry Goldberg, who fled to the United States as the result of Nazi persecution, has left his \$170,000 (£87,000) estate to the American Government in gratitude for the freedom he enjoyed during his life as a general practitioner in Brooklyn. The money is payable after the death of Dr. Goldberg's wife.

Shots Fired at Chasidim

Twice in recent weeks shots were fired at buses in New York which were filled with Chasidim, but nobody was hurt. Five young men of Latin American origin were arrested after a car chase by police.

Mysterious Illness

A New York medical centre has established—in co-operation with medical authorities in Israel—that the rare Tay-Sachs disease, a fatal hereditary illness, is almost exclusively found in babies whose parents are Ashkenazi Jews. Because of a misformation of brain cells, children are born blind and mentally defective and usually die before they are four. Marriage advisory bureaux suggest pre-natal investigation and abortion if the foetus is affected. Orthodox authorities who do not object to abortion if a pregnant woman has German measles, do not agree to abortion in Tay-Sachs cases.

CANADA

Soviet Couples Remarry

Two Soviet Jewish couples who settled in Hamilton, Ontario, have remarried at an Orthodox synagogue. The rabbi said this was a collective wedding for those who were unable to have a religious ceremony in the U.S.S.R. The couples reported that it was virtually impossible to have a religious wedding in Russia, but a few very old men had occasionally performed the ceremony behind closed doors and curtains.

AUSTRALIA

The Influence of Jewish Refugees on Jewish Life

In a book by Rabbi Israel Porush on the Great Synagogue of Sydney, the author maintains that both the Synagogue and the Jewish community would have disappeared if it had not been for the influx of Jewish refugees in the 'thirties. He adds that they were far from universally welcome. Otto Schiff had urged from Bloomsbury House in London that Australia should award as many immigration permits as possible, but the Synagogue's Board of Management hesitated "fearing unfavourable public reaction", and only agreed on the forceful insistence of a future Chief Rabbi of Britain, then Rabbi Israel Brodie of Melbourne.

Jewish School in Melbourne

The Union for Progressive Judaism has opened a new kindergarten and primary school for over 200 children. It is called the Melbourne King David School, and its headmaster is Mr. Norman Rothman who taught in Croydon for over ten years before returning to his native country. His aim is to provide an integrated Jewish education. Melbourne has the largest Jewish community in Australia—some 35,000. The city's main Jewish day school, Mount Scopus College, with more than 2,500 pupils is one of the largest Jewish schools in the world outside Israel. Between 60 and 70 Jewish schoolchildren in Melbourne attend other Jewish day schools.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

BRAZIL

A Priest's Conversion

Father de Araujo, the 47-year-old priest in charge of the cathedral in Caica in northern Brazil, who has been interested in Judaism since his student days, has begun to observe all Jewish Holy-days and to pray three times daily to the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob". He has built a medieval-style castle outside the town with a huge Shield of David over its entrance and all the rooms lit by seven-armed candlesticks. The priest claims partial Jewish descent.

DOCUMENTATION OF AUSTRIAN PERSECUTION

The 40th anniversary of the "Anschluss" provides a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the importance of the research on Resistance and Persecution in Austria, carried out by the Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes (Address: Altes Rathaus, Wipplinger Str. 8 A-1010 Wien 1). The three volumes dealing with the happenings in Vienna are already out of stock. A volume about the Burgenland will be ready shortly, and the volumes covering Upper Austria, Tyrol and Salzburg are being prepared. The Dokumentationsarchiv would welcome any support towards its venture.

It is estimated that more than 65,000 Austrian Jews perished in the extermination camps and that about 130,000 Jews left the country.

DENMARK

A False Talmud

A borrower in the State Library in Aalborg who wanted to consult a copy of the Talmud, found in its place a 60-page neo-Nazi pamphlet, entitled "Talmud" and containing falsified quotations from the Talmud. When he complained, the librarian refused to remove the pamphlet from the shelves. Subsequently, the Bishop of Aalborg and Chief Rabbi Melchior of Denmark published a statement saying that Nazi propaganda could not be tolerated in Danish libraries.

FRANCE

Mayor apologises

The Socialist Mayor of Marseilles, Mr. Defferre, apologised to the Jewish citizens of the town for the recent spate of antisemitic attacks when he addressed an audience of thousands at the first "Twelve Hours for Israel" rally held outside Paris. Members of all political parties, with the exception of the Communists were present.

GREECE

MP's Attack Refuted

Mr. Veroff-Tositsas, the Greek Defence Minister, said that the remarks of a Crete MP, that Jews, Zionists and multi-national companies were trying to take over the island of Crete, were the greatest inaccuracies ever heard in the Greek Parliament. The remark had been made during a debate on American bases in Crete.

SWEDEN

Currency Smuggling for Relief Work

Two half-Jewish publisher brothers, Albert and Simon Bonnier, have been acquitted of infringing currency regulations by depositing the equivalent of £500,000 in Swiss banks, after they explained that their subsidiary firm "Mercatron" in Liechtenstein was linked with a secret relief organisation for persecuted Jews, and that the payments were transactions by foreigners and not subjected to Swedish law.

R. Grunberger

A NEW WEIZMANN BIOGRAPHY

The founding fathers of new nations frequently come in groups of three—such as Washington, Jefferson and Franklin in the case of the United States, or Mazzini, Garibaldi and Cavour in that of Italy. The creation of modern Israel likewise resulted from the efforts of three men: Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion.

Other similarities suggest themselves. Like their Italian counterparts the creators of Israel encountered clerical hostility, and two of them—Weizmann and Ben-Gurion—were often at cross-purposes with one another. Weizmann resembled one of the American founding fathers, viz. Benjamin Franklin, in combining scientific genius with statesmanship, and so forth.

Yet, despite such similarities, huge differences set the creation of Israel apart from that of any other nation state in history. Whereas Franklin, for instance, worked *in situ* for the independence of the land of his birth, Weizmann was born in Russia, acquired his education in Germany, and worked out of Britain to institute a Jewish National Home in Palestine. (Summarised boldly like this, his life illustrates the chief obstacle to the creation of the Jewish nation state: the fact that nation and state were not in the same place.)

Weizmann, was an *Ostjude*, born into that segment of the dispersed nation which was simultaneously the most numerous and the most depressed. In consequence it was an even greater achievement for him than it had been for Herzl—the comfortably born, quasi-assimilated Austro-Hungarian—to achieve the status of a leader in the eyes of Jews and of the world at large. The feel of Jewish life in Eastern Europe at that time is beautifully evoked in Mr. Litvinoff's Weizmann biography.*

"They were a people of extremes. Some, through their wealth and initiative, held the reins guiding a corrupt and reluctant Imperial Russia into its industrial dawn.

* Barnett Litvinoff: Weizmann, Last of the Patriarchs. Hodder & Stoughton. £5.95.

The mass were so poor, they lived by trading their mean skills and second-hand goods for kopeks, and subsisted on black bread and herrings, a diet varied only to honour the Sabbath day. . . . They received no privileges of citizenship, and expected none. By conversion to the Church they could attain whatever Holy Russia offered by way of education and status. It was a course sometimes thankfully embraced. But for the vast majority employment meant the cobbler's last, the tailor's bench, the peddler's pack. They occupied entire towns and sprawling villages. . . . In this universe of wretchedness the Jews could still find elements of happiness. For many it lay in the belief that nothing was real except the certainty that one day the Messiah would arrive and lead them back to the Promised Land. It was all there in the texts, to be repeated over and over again as an exercise towards the speeding of the day. Or happiness could be found in the peace of the Sabbath and the cycle of the seasons, with the faces in the family lit by the candles separating a sacred day from the profane. Or in making money by serving the creature needs of the *goy* and giving a portion to support a poor co-religionist; or in some secret place where fellow-conspirators were planning to defeat the great oppression; or in flight".

Family Background

Weizmann senior was a timber merchant, having inherited the business from his father-in-law, whose daughter he had married while a free-boarder of the house. He was fifteen at the time, his bride Rachel fourteen, and he had come to Motol from a neighbouring village to study under the local rabbi. Despite his traditional background Ozer Weizmann was a progressive-minded *pater familias* who wanted to give his numerous children—including his daughters—a modern-style education. Chaim consequently learnt Russian (after Yiddish and Hebrew) and attended a secondary school, where he conceived an interest in the science of chemistry that was to become one of the driving forces of his life. Debarred, as a Jew, from university studies in Russia, he eventu-

ally moved to Berlin, where he graduated and began work as a research chemist.

In 1897, when Weizmann was twenty-three, Theodor Herzl convened the First Zionist Congress at Basle. This key event set in train the co-ordination of diverse forms of Zionist activity that had started up all over Eastern Europe in response to the wave of Tsarist pogroms of the 1880s. It also strengthened those who, like Weizmann, were fighting the battle for Zionism against Marxism within the organisations of the Russian Jewish students in Germany.

Weizmann himself was a delegate to the Second Zionist Congress; hereafter his battles, which continued over half a century, were to be largely with fellow-Zionists. Around the turn of the century there was faction fighting between the pro-Herzl "politicals" who favoured secret diplomacy and fund-raising, and the pro-Ussishkin "practicals" who espoused cultural activities and colonisation. Soon afterwards controversy centred on Herzl's *Alt-Neuland* concept which Ahad Ha'am denounced as lacking in Jewish values, and on the advisability of accepting Uganda as a stop-gap alternative to Palestine.

Controversy continued after Herzl's death in 1904. Now resident in Britain, Weizmann tangled with Israel Zangwill, Herbert Bentwich, *Jewish Chronicle* editor Greenberg and other Anglo-Jewish notables. But he also forged important friendships—with Simon Marks, Israel Sieff, Harry Sacher—and established useful contacts with C. P. Scott, editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, and leading Liberal politicians, notably Lloyd George. The circumstances under which, during the First World War, Weizmann made a discovery which Lloyd George described as crucial in turning the fortunes of the struggle, and subsequently elicited the Balfour Declaration from H.M. Government, are too well known to require reiterating here.

From the Balfour Declaration and the San Remo Treaty (conferring the mandate over Palestine on Britain) onwards Weizmann proceeded from the assumption of a community of interests between Britain and Jewry, which aroused increasing criticism from militant Zionists. Also, having met Prince Faisal twice, he mistakenly thought their meetings augured well for future Arab-Jewish co-operation. His conciliatory attitude to the Arabs—likewise a cause of bitter intra-Zionist controversy—assumed the lengths of his actually agreeing to a temporary stop on Jewish immigration into Palestine in the 1920s.

The end of that decade saw the two main planks of Weizmann's platform—trust in Britain and co-operation with the Arabs—splintering under the pressure of events. Murderous attacks by Arabs on Jews, notably at Hebron, caused the British government to issue a White Paper watering down the Balfour Declaration. In 1931 Weizmann resigned the presidency of the World Zionist Organisation, the target of disparate, but simultaneous, attacks by the Revisionist leader Jabotinsky on the Right and the *Histadrut* leader Ben-Gurion on the Left.

He nonetheless continued to be regarded as the chief spokesman for Jewry on the world political stage. There was, however, little he could do as the Nazi shadow of death lengthened over Europe. When, in 1939, H.M. Government compounded the catastrophe of European Jewry by curtailing immigration into Palestine, Ben-Gurion could state that the *Jishuv* would fight the White Paper as if there were no war, and fight the war as if there were no White Paper, but Weizmann, in London, could only protest.

Continued on page 6

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WEIZMANN BIOGRAPHY

(continued from page 5)

At the Biltmore Conference in 1942 Zionism moved decisively into an anti-British posture. Within two years Jewish assassins gunned down Lord Moyne, British Minister of State in the Middle East, firing the first shots in the three-sided Israeli War of Independence. Weizmann played a very subsidiary role in that conflict, although he briefly returned to the centre of the world political stage when he successfully lobbied various national delegations assembled at Lake Success in October 1947 to vote on the U.N. Partition Plan. That vote constituted the legal basis for the existence of the State of Israel; its physical basis was laid by Ben-Gurion during the momentous events of May 1948.

On the 14th of that month Ben-Gurion proclaimed Israeli independence and on the 15th, while fighting engulfed the land from Dan to Beersheba, the Provisional State Council sent Weizmann a telegram: "On the establishment of the Jewish State we send our greetings to you, who have done more than any other living man towards its creation. We look forward to the day when we shall see you at the head of the State established in peace".

Thus Weizmann became the founding president of the first Jewish State established since the destruction of the Second Temple. It was, however, a hollow consummation of a life's work. Ben-Gurion, his adversary of many years' standing, did not invite him to a single government meeting, and even denied him access to Cabinet minutes. Weizmann lived out his few remaining illness-ridden years (he died in 1952) in Rehovot, vainly hoping for an opportunity to heal Israel's conflict with the Arabs, or mitigate her estrangement from Soviet Russia.

Weizmann left behind a scientific institute at Rehovot that is among the finest in the world. He also left behind a reputation for idealism and moderation which stamps him a child of the late nineteenth century with its belief in progress, rather than of our own more jaundiced age. History alone will tell whether men of his stamp play a more productive role in nation building than *Realpolitiker* like Ben-Gurion or Begin.

JUDAICA IN PENGUIN

The latest monthly batch of new Penguin books (end-February) brought some items of special Jewish interest. First of all, the beautifully produced modernised Passover Haggadah, prepared by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and neatly printed in Hebrew and English. The whole ceremony is dramatised in the form of a dialogue between the Reader and the assembled group, giving all participants their roles, thus preventing the casual inattentiveness of some of those present. A slight rearrangement of the text appears in the form of suggestions, either to correct some additions and changes which crept in during the centuries, in connection with actual events, e.g. at the time of the Crusades, or to make the context more logical. To mention only one idea: the authors think the introduction of Mazza and Moror must have its place before Ma-nishtaneh, otherwise how could the child inquire about their meaning? The insertion of modern fragments is also optional, from Anne Frank to Bialik, and even Israel's Declaration of Independence. The traditional songs are put in slightly different order so that the ceremony does not conclude with Chad Gadya but rather with an ecstatic climax leading to "Next Year in Jerusalem", interpreted in a transcendental, not geographical sense pointing to the hope of redemption for Israel and the world.

Another new Penguin is a short introduction into the history of Jewish immigration to America, starting with the flow of German Jews (1830-1880), through the quite different waves from Eastern Europe (1870-1924) with all their miseries to their final integration, thus creating the present powerful American Jewish community and its lobby; a fascinating story.

The third item in this series, a Shorter Atlas of the Bible, takes us much further back in Jewish history covering the time from the beginning of culture in Palestine, the appearance of the Patriarchs and the Exodus through the whole period of the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel up to the beginning of the Christian era. A great many pictures, wisely selected within the unavoidable restrictions of a pocket book, make this atlas very instructive. The name of the author on p.246 is Reifenberg, not Reigenberg.

ROBERT WELTSCH

¹ A Passover Haggadah. Drawings by Leonard Baskin. 123 pp. (25 pp. music) £2.25.

² Abraham J. Karp: *Golden Door to America. The Jewish Immigrant Experience.* 272 pp. £1.25.

³ Luc. H. Grollenberg: *The Penguin Shorter Atlas of the Bible.* 265 pp. £1.75.

THE GOEBBELS DIARIES

On two consecutive Sundays, the "Observer" published extracts from a newly found collection of Goebbels' diaries which go on until just before the end of the Second World War. They have already appeared in Germany with an introduction by Rolf Hochhuth, and have been much discussed in the German press. One entry, not included in the "Observer" extract reads: "As soon as one has the power, one must kill those (foreign) Jews. In Germany, fortunately, we have already done it thoroughly, and I can only hope that the world will follow our example". This has upset quite a few neo-Nazis who claim that Auschwitz never happened. The publication has also upset a number of anti-Nazis who maintain that Goebbels' surviving family did not have the right to sell the copyright, because the diaries contain excerpts from official documents, written in the Ministry for Propaganda and Enlightenment on official note-paper which should therefore have been returned to the Federal Archives.

In a lighter vein, our board-member, Dr. Erna Goldschmidt has written a letter to the "Observer" in which she claims to be one of Goebbels' oldest acquaintances and recounts that "der kleine Goebbels", as he was called, was her neighbour at Heidelberg University where they were both listening to Friedrich Gundolf's lectures on German literature. After saying that Gundolf, though a brilliant writer, was a poor lecturer, she continues:

"To Goebbels I was known as the 'girl in the pink jumper', because . . . (during the inflation) nobody could afford new garments. Even then Goebbels kept a diary and he would read it carefully and ask me to complete the missing sentences in Gundolf's last lecture for him. Once, when I happened to acquire a light blue blouse, he asked me how to find the girl in the pink jumper because without her he could not make out certain sequences in the last lecture. We had lunch at the university canteen, and I told him once that I was Jewish. He answered: 'So is Gundelfinger! (Gundolf's original name)'. It was a great surprise to me when—two semesters later at Munich—I learned that he had taken part in an anti-semitic demonstration."

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GENERAL MEETING

on Thursday, May 25, at 7.45 p.m.
at Hannah Karminski House,
9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3
(Side Entrance)

I

Report on AJR Activities
Treasurer's Report
Discussion
Election of Executive and Board

The list of candidates submitted by the Executive
will be published in the next issue
Members who wish to propose candidates for the
Board should write to the General Secretary by
the end of April; the nomination of younger mem-
bers would be particularly welcome

II

Mr. MARTIN SAVITT
Chairman of the Defence and Group
Relations Committee of the Board
of Deputies
will speak on

THE WORK OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES' DEFENCE COMMITTEE

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

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JEWISH MESSIANIC MOVEMENTS

at Hampstead Zion House

57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3

Tuesday, April 11, 8 for 8.15 p.m.

Barnet Litvinoff on

SHABBETAI ZEVI

Tuesday, May 2, 8 for 8.15 p.m.

Robert Wistrich, M.A., Ph.D., on

THE MESSIANIC IDEA IN MODERN TIMES

Detailed leaflets from Mr. H. M. Hirsch,

Tel. 435 7221

Guests very welcome

THE ISRAELI SCENE

RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Ehrlich, Israel's Finance Minister, visited South Africa and met the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Botha, and the Economic Affairs Minister, Mr. Heunis. He obtained a promise of £41 million aid for investment in industry, commerce, tourism and films for the next three years. South Africa has also agreed to the sale of Israeli bonds in South Africa and promised the lifting of restrictions on import licences for Israeli goods. A delegation from South Africa will visit Israel in the near future to arrange for El Al to fly Boeing 747 jumbos on its Johannesburg service. Israel will also be granted fishing rights in South African waters. The Israeli national shipping line, Zim, operates some 40 ships carrying goods to and from South Africa, and South African shipping interests operate a joint service with the Israelis between Durban and Elat. Many Israeli ships sail under flags of convenience and have non-Israeli crews because of the antagonism of some African countries against ships flying the Israeli flag.

After his return to Jerusalem, Mr. Ehrlich was attacked in the press and during the 29th Zionist Congress, attended by more than 800 world delegates. When he explained to them that there were always economic failures because every country made mistakes, one of the delegates shouted: "Like your trip to South Africa". Mr. Ehrlich's reply that Israel was not in a position to choose its friends, did not endear him to the representatives of South Africa.

GERMAN CITIES' DONATIONS

The city of Munich has donated DM 50,000 (about £12,500) towards the setting up of chairs for German studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Krefeld Protestant minister, Helmut Stark, has appealed to all Christians of the town to contribute to the funds for a new synagogue. There are about 100 Jews living in Krefeld now, but they have not the means to build a suitable place of worship. In 1938, there were still 1,200 Jews in the town, most of whom were deported and killed.

The Lord Mayor of Würzburg announced that in future the city will look after the two Jewish cemeteries, one of which is no longer in use. There will be a regular provision for the maintenance of these cemeteries in the city budget.

BUBER FOUNDATION AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

A Buber Memorial Fund, set up by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will provide funds for a Buber Chair for comparative religion and for the Martin Buber Centre for Adult Education.

JEW'S HEART FOR ARAB PATIENT

A 21-year-old Israeli Arab who suffered from an incurable heart-muscle disease, was given a new heart in a transplant operation in Petach Tikva. The donor was a 60-year-old Jew who bequeathed his body to science. It was the second heart transplant operation in Israel.

CAMPS

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TV FILM BAN RESISTED

The Israeli Minister of Education banned the showing of the TV film "Hirbet Hiziah", which shows the eviction of the inhabitants of an imaginary Arab village during the War of Independence. In protest, the broadcasting staff blacked out all TV programmes for 45 minutes, and a storm of protest arose in the press, in political circles and the general public. Subsequently, the Broadcasting Authority rejected the ban and when the film was shown it attracted a record audience. The author of the script, Izhar Smilansky, said that even though there was no village of Hirbet Hiziah, he had based his story on events he had himself witnessed.

FRIENDSHIP WITH GERMANY GROUP IN KNESSET

Thirteen members of the Knesset which belong to government and opposition parties, have formed a "Parliamentary Union for Friendship with Federal Germany", the first such Union in the Knesset. In the Bonn Parliament, there is a corresponding group of some 100 deputies which has existed for some time.

ADVISERS EXPELLED FROM ETHIOPIA

After Israel's Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Dayan, revealed in an interview on Swiss TV that Israel had given military aid to Ethiopia, all Israelis in that country were expelled. All advisers have now returned home. When a Knesset committee demanded Mr. Dayan's resignation, Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister, said Dayan had committed a human error anyone might have made. His attackers insisted that Israel had now lost its only friend on the shores of the Red Sea through which vital Persian oil cargoes for Israel pass. Mr. Ehrlich, the Finance Minister, had stated during his visit to South America that there was not a single Israeli in Ethiopia in a military or non-military capacity, and any material supplied by Israel was infinitesimal compared to that provided by other countries.

THE CRIME WAVE

After a five-month investigation, the Government-appointed Shimron Committee, published a 194-page report confirming the existence of organised crime in Israel. The names of between ten and twenty "bosses" who control the underworld, were given to the Prime Minister and to police chiefs in another, secret document. The published report alleges that about £1,700 million are yearly channelled into the black market, that high government and army officials had underworld connections and that police and customs officials co-operated in large-scale smuggling and theft at the ports. The drug traffic is estimated at £34 million a year, and there are said to be more than 10,000 permanent drug users in the country. There was an "underworld sub-culture" parallel to normal society, and black capital was used in both legal and illegal enterprises.

PROTESTS AGAINST MISSION BILL

Most Church representatives in Israel have joined the newly-formed "United Church Council" to protest against recent legislation, nicknamed the "Mission Bill", which makes it an offence to attract converts by offering material rewards. They sent a telegram to the Prime Minister protesting against what they call a serious blow to religious freedom which could interfere with school and welfare work. Protests were also lodged by the newly formed "International Christians for Israel" organisation, established by several hundred representatives of various evangelical Christian groups from ten countries who recently travelled to Israel to express their solidarity with the Jewish State.

SUCCESSFUL FOOD FAIR

The first international conference and exhibition of Jewish culinary art in Jerusalem was attended by several hundred leading chefs and caterers from many European countries, from America and South Africa as well as by Israeli chefs and hoteliers. At least 95 per cent of the foreign chefs and many on the Israeli ones were not Jewish, but only kosher food, supervised by the Israeli rabbinate, was cooked and eaten. Competitors had to prepare meals of six different hors d'oeuvre dishes, four salads, one egg dish, two poultry dishes, three fish dishes, and various desserts.

ISRAEL LOOKS FOR OIL

Mr. Modai, the Israeli Energy Minister, is visiting Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela to see whether it would be possible to buy oil from these countries. He is also going to the United States to try and find prospectors for oil or borings within Israel's old borders. At the moment drilling is expected to begin south of Tel Aviv. The building of underground oil reservoirs is also under discussion to prevent an oil crisis in case an Arab or Communist country were to close the Red Sea Strait of Bab El Mandeb.

"GENERAL BEGIN"

Count Sokolnicki, self-styled president of the Republic of Poland in Exile, has announced through the Free Poland's Press Agency in London, W5, that, after consultation with the Inspector-General of the Polish Armed Forces in Exile, it had been decided to promote Prime Minister Menachem Begin to the rank of Honorary Brigadier-General. Mr. Begin served in the Polish Army in Russia during the last war before emigrating to Palestine where he became a lance-corporal on indefinite leave during his leadership of the Irgun. The Polish Government in Exile is not recognised by any government.

ORT HELPS ARABS

At the special request of the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Begin, part of the £13 million which the World Ort Union has planned to spend in Israel in 1978, will be used for the extension of training centres for Israeli Arabs. The organisation has a deficit of some £500,000 in its record 1978 budget of nearly £28 million, mainly due to the fall in the value of the dollar.

PROTEST AGAINST TEACHING OF ARABIC

Rabbi Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, has protested against the Israeli Education Ministry's proposal to teach Arabic in all Israeli schools, saying that this idea expressed the depth of the galut mentality. Real Jewish education should not be sacrificed just because an Arab leader had come to talk about peace.

GERMAN VISITORS TO ISRAEL

More than 107,000 Germans visited Israel in 1977, the year when the overall number of tourists exceeded one million for the first time. This year weekly charter flights will take place between Hamburg and Tel Aviv every Saturday. A week's flight with accommodation will cost about £180.

HUMPHREY CANCER CENTRE

The Israeli Government has allocated a special grant of £525,000 to a new cancer centre at the Hebrew University to be named after the late U.S. Senator Hubert Humphrey.

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WERNER ROSENSTOCK 70

Those of our readers who are unfamiliar with the technicalities of newspaper production, will be surprised to learn that in exceptional cases it is just possible to have something published which the editor does not see before it has appeared in print. It seems to me that the imminent birthday of the Editor himself (on 10th April) is such an exceptional case. His colleagues and friends have decided that this is a unique occasion to express their admiration and gratitude to him for his lifelong devotion to the cause of Jewish refugees.

We are printing below a selection from the wealth of birthday messages received. They reveal, among other things, that this paper is widely regarded as Werner Rosenstock's outstanding achievement. This may well be the case—it is certainly that part of his work of which the great majority of people are aware.

However, he has done far more. He spent his formative years in the German Jewish Youth Movement which has left its imprint on his character and his life style. In Germany he used his legal training in the *Centralverein* to advise people on Nazi laws and in particular on the 1935 Nuremberg laws, and later in the *Reichsvertretung* to help Nazi victims in finding places of refuge.

He arrived in Britain in 1939, and like many of his fellow-refugees he found it very hard to make ends meet. When in 1941 the Association of Jewish Refugees was founded, he became its first secretary under a distinguished and very demanding executive whose members had been leading figures in Jewish life on the Continent. It required a superhuman effort to realise the aims the young organisation had set itself in an as yet unfamiliar environment: to enable refugees to explain their special circumstances and correct mis-

apprehensions among the authorities and the general public, and to help them to find a new identity. This involved, especially after the outbreak of war, dealing with restrictive legislation, establishing contacts with members of parliament and other leading politicians as well as with the various refugee organisations, organising legal and careers advice and a rudimentary social service, and advising refugees on a great variety of special problems. As the war drew to an end, and as news came through about what had happened to those left behind, post-war planning became equally important: a special "Transmare" service was set up in preparation for the reunification of families, and strenuous efforts were made to secure information about the fate of individuals and about those who had survived. Even at times, when some of the ideological and political work was taken over by such distinguished men as Hans Reichmann and Curt Alexander, the day-to-day work remained in Werner Rosenstock's hands. I cannot forbear mentioning that at a time when the average membership fee was about 2/6d, the remuneration paid for such exertions was far from princely, and, again like many other refugee wives, Susanne Rosenstock had to take a job to contribute to the household expenses, and young Michael, the Rosenstocks' son, had to rely on well-earned scholarships to obtain an education worthy of the family tradition.

Soon after the war, *AJR Information* was started in order to establish a permanent link between those who directed the Association's activities and its members, and to inform these members about events and legislation of special interest to them. The journal has fulfilled this task beyond one's wildest expectations. At the same time, another matter re-

quired urgent attention: the provision of Old Age Homes for an ageing and largely impoverished refugee population. Together with the Central British Fund which has administered restitution money for heirless property since it first became available, and supported by a number of ad hoc committees of devoted volunteers, Dr. Rosenstock bore much of the responsibility for this demanding work.

Since those days, the emphasis on the tasks facing the Association has again shifted; and whilst the Old Age Homes and the Residential Homes which were opened to complement them, have lost none of their importance, social work in the widest possible sense and in keeping with modern ideas, now occupies the centre of its activities. A new general secretary, Mrs. S. R. Taussig, has relieved Dr. Rosenstock of much of the heavy burden this entails, and as director of the organisation he is now able to devote most of his time to the wider issues involved and of course to his beloved journal.

To end on a personal note: in the tributes printed below, many of Werner Rosenstock's friends and fellow-workers have referred to parts of his life and activities in which they themselves were involved. On the other hand, I am one of the very few who shared the struggles and anxieties and occasional satisfaction of the crucial war years, and I felt that this, too, needed recording. I also feel that, taken together, the various contributions to this birthday tribute not only illuminate one man's personal history, but at the same time they reflect the history of the community which he has served so well. May he long be spared to continue in its service.

MARGOT POTTITZER

Birthday messages

From Mr. C. T. Marx

Most societies of men, whatever their objects, cultural or social, charitable or religious, legal or political, depend for their success and endurance upon the enthusiastic services of relatively few people. The multifarious activities of the AJR impinge on all these fields, and among those whose contributions have made it what it is, Werner Rosenstock surely occupies a special place.

He has been active in our administration from the earliest days and, following many years as our General Secretary, is still our Director, whose wide knowledge of the problems and aspirations of refugees has played, and continues to play, an invaluable part in the deliberations of the Executive Committee and the Board and, indeed, the day-to-day work of our administration.

AJR Information, which occupies much of his time, has for many years not only chronicled the life of refugees in Great Britain from early struggles to establishment and success in new surroundings, but also reflected our community's cultural and other interests. In editing this, our very own journal, he may yet be found to have created the most enduring memorial to the fate of all of us.

Through his dedicated work, Werner Rosenstock is known to virtually all our members and to a wide circle of refugees and others in many parts of the world. All of them will wish to join in our congratulations on his 70th birthday. We wish him many happy returns of the day, every kind thought for long years to come of domestic happiness with

his wife, Susanne, and his family, and strength to continue, with enjoyment to himself, his activities in our interest.

C. T. MARX

Chairman of the AJR

From Mrs. S. R. Taussig

Although I first met Werner Rosenstock some 13 years ago, it is only in the last two that I have learned to know him as a man of delightful personality and diverse gifts. When I succeeded him as General Secretary of AJR, it was in the expectation that our relationship would be one of at best armed truce and at worst open war. It was therefore with great delight that it soon became apparent that he is a man of many parts and that we have much in common—most of all a sense of humour. His is of the truest kind, that is that he can always take the joke against himself with a rueful grin and even cap it into the bargain. His achievement as General Secretary of AJR for some 35 years is known to everybody who has had personal contacts and has read *AJR Information*, which he continues to edit to a very high degree of erudition and precision. His academic ability is obvious to all and he is recognised as a fearless antagonist of injustice and racialism and protagonist of the rights of the individual and those freedoms which most of us hold dear. There are not so many however who know him as a colleague—all thumbs and theory when it comes to machines and appliances, all understanding and compassion in his personal dealings, always ready to speak out without fear or favour and give support where he feels it is needed, whether for a person or a cause. Indeed, it is his sense of justice and impartiality which is the ruling passion of his life and

which he applies constantly in his professional and personal dealings. What more can one say of any man? It is surely something of which to be proud on reaching the three score and ten.

SHIRLEY R. TAUSSIG

General Secretary, AJR

From Mr. H. O. Joseph, O.B.E.

Over the past years, Dr. Rosenstock has established himself as the most prolific contributor of congratulatory messages to these pages, so that it is appropriate that for once he should be at the receiving end: I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to pay my tribute to a dedicated worker on a rather special occasion.

The CBF and AJR have over a long period been associated in the administration of the British share of the heirless funds recovered by the Jewish Trust Corporation. Dr. Rosenstock has played an important role in this work especially in connection with the Old Age Homes and has earned a fine reputation because of his capability and devotion to the cause.

Clearly Dr. Rosenstock still has much to offer the community and in expressing congratulations on this anniversary it is the hope of all of us that he will be spared for very many years to continue his activities in good health.

H. O. JOSEPH, O.B.E.

Central British Fund.

From the AJR Staff

Best wishes to our Director, a rough diamond with a heart of gold, for many more years of happy co-operation.

THE AJR STAFF

Birthday messages

From Mr. G. D. Paul

I am delighted to have this opportunity, on behalf of the JEWISH CHRONICLE, to join in the well-deserved tributes to Dr. Werner Rosenstock on his 70th birthday. We have had a long and, I hope he will agree, mutually beneficial relationship in which we have learned to admire and respect his dedication not merely to the organisations which he has served, but also the individuals who still turn to him for help and advice in the rebuilding of lives shattered by the most terrible experience in the history of the Jewish people. We salute him on this special occasion and trust that he will be spared for many more years of service to those for whom he is a source of comfort and trust.

GEOFFREY D. PAUL

Editor, JEWISH CHRONICLE

From Dr. F. E. Falk

I first met Werner Rosenstock when, in 1939, he visited the Kitchener Camp of which I was an inmate, on behalf of "Bloomsbury House". He impressed us all by his sympathetic understanding for our position, and by his efforts to improve the camp conditions. After the war, I joined the AJR of which Werner was then Assistant General Secretary and our contacts became closer during more and more intimate co-operation in Board and Executive. I learned, over a period of 30 years, to appreciate and hold in the highest regard, Werner Rosenstock's human qualities and professional achievements, first as the late Dr. Reichmann's deputy, then as Chief Executive of the AJR. He was a man of complete sincerity, unflinching courtesy, calmness in all situations, ever-ready helpfulness. In his work, he displayed the utmost devotion to the organisation and his fellow refugees, and an exceptional instinct for the tactics and political approach which would produce the best results. Thanks mainly to him, the AJR today enjoys a very high reputation for the soundness and moderation of its policies.

Werner Rosenstock's work as editor of *AJR Information* is being given due recognition by others. I was always particularly impressed by his own contributions to this excellent publication: His clear and articulate style of writing, breadth of knowledge and understanding, and fine sense of judgement.

On the death of Bruno Woyda, Werner Rosenstock was appointed Honorary Secretary of the Council of Jews from Germany, the world-wide representative organisation of our group. His work in this capacity is perhaps less known than it should be. It has been of the greatest assistance to the Chairmen and Presidium of the Council in the sometimes difficult negotiations which revolve around the protection of the interests of Jewish refugees from Germany. His clarity of mind and fairness of judgement have always been invaluable.

I have greatly enjoyed working with Werner Rosenstock. He understood how to make the co-operation harmonious. I join with great pleasure the many well-wishers who on this occasion express their tributes and their warm good wishes to him and his wife and loyal companion Susanne. May he long have the health and strength to continue his good work and to help, with his vast knowledge and experience, to shape our destiny.

Vice-Chairman, AJR

Dr. F. E. FALK

Robert Weltsch

PRAISE OF AN EDITOR

The man who celebrates his seventieth birthday these days is a central figure for the community of Jews from Germany who became refugees during the sinister days of the Hitler Régime and after the rescue in this country organised themselves in the Association of Jewish Refugees, a name which this body has retained until the present. Most of the people who came to Britain forty years ago are now old men and women, many have left us for ever; their children, now grown up and in active life, can no longer be classified as refugees, although in most cases they are aware of their own and their parents' past and its impact. Looking back we may say that this group has overcome the critical stage in their lives, and become citizens in their new homeland, surmounting the material and mental hardships connected with such a process. Integrated into their new sphere of life, they are certainly conscious of their debt of gratitude to the country which has given them asylum when they were persecuted. During this time, Werner Rosenstock was always among those standing on guard and stretching out a helping hand to those in need. He was one of the architects of the institutions which were the successful tools in promoting this development.

I was not a refugee in Britain and was not present in London when all this happened, but I know enough of that time to have an idea what is demanded of a man who fills a responsible post in that situation. He has to be not only of organisational ability but also of idealistic views and of great humanity, a man of patience and friendliness, not only an adviser and an advocate for the right and interests of the refugees, but also the organiser of a big network of social services, especially for the lonely and the old. I am not an expert in this field, yet as an outsider I can fully appreciate what Werner Rosenstock with a small circle of excellent assistants and suitable staff has successfully achieved in this respect. Fortunately, there was a group of men and women available who had brought experience of Jewish work from the old country and who assembled again in London under the auspices of the Council of Jews from Germany. This body, in some way a successor of the *Reichsvertretung*, was privileged to receive back its mentor, Leo Baeck, after his liberation from Theresienstadt. Rosenstock, as director of the AJR, became later General Secretary of this Council, under the presidency of Leo Baeck and later of Siegfried Moses. He is now also a member of the London Board of the Leo Baeck Institute whose programme is the research into the history and achievements of German Jewry and the preservation of its cultural heritage. Rosenstock himself has always been interested in this subject and has made some important contributions, especially in the field of genealogy and demography.

If I am not competent to pass judgement on the organisation of social work, I may perhaps speak with more authority about Werner Rosenstock's literary and journalistic activity, especially *AJR Information*. In the creation of this little paper, he has given to the AJR its own characteristic mouthpiece. From small beginnings the publication which he edited, has grown into a serious and respected organ. Originally intended for a modest task, mainly communication among the members and defence of former German Jews, rights and interests, later also in the efforts to secure material restitution from Germany, it became under the editorship of Rosenstock a journal of character and considerable intellectual level.

Among the publications of this kind, *AJR Information* in London has attained a position respected in the Jewish world beyond the limited circle of the Society's members. A monthly, to which, for technical reasons, copy has to be delivered three or four weeks in advance, is at a disadvantage in keeping pace with topical events; admirably, *AJR Information* achieves even that within its limits. The editor is an example of open-mindedness and liberal spirit who allows individual opinion if proffered in a dignified manner. So this paper is now not only an effective representation of group interests, but also a tribune for discussing the great problems of Jewish life in this critical time. For all this we must be grateful to the editor who mostly prefers to maintain his own humility.

A family occasion is an opportunity for looking back, for letting pass in front of our imagination all the precarious years we have lived through; in the case of Rosenstock beginning from the comparatively innocent time of the youth movement up to the deadly problems of the decline and disintegration of German Jewry and its great organisations, of the survivors' transition into a new kind of existence. Of this awful, yet in some respect grand time others will speak who had more opportunity than I had to observe Werner Rosenstock closely. I only want to assure him that his work is appreciated beyond the circle of those who were associated with him from early youth or later as refugees; and I want to add my sincere wishes to him and his wife, Susanne, especially for good health and enduring vitality. I may not be competent in all branches of his activities, but I am certainly competent in all that concerns old age; so allow me to say that 70 appears to me as a stage where a man may still feel himself full of strength and energy. In our time, concepts of age have radically changed; many believe Life Begins at Seventy—not to be taken verbally, of course, but in its deeper meaning which all of us have to discover.

Eva G. Reichmann

A DEEP WELL ...

"Deep is the well of the past. Should one not call it unfathomable?" It may appear frivolous to apply these words with which Thomas Mann precedes his work, "Joseph und seine Brüder", designed to plunge into the deepest antiquity, to a personal reminiscence devoted to one who fortunately dwells safely in our midst, full of life and enterprise—a well indeed, but not one of the past but of the up-to-date, vigorous present.

And yet: when thinking of Werner Rosenstock, now turning the corner of seventy, I cannot refrain from delving into past memories. Is it not very nearly a life-time we spent in close communion devoted to work for Judaism, its defence, its preservation, its revival?

When Werner Rosenstock, a young student of law, entered the circle of the "Central-Verein" in Berlin, I belonged already to the "older generation", if an age difference of little more than a decade deserves this pompous description. And indeed: the "generation gap" was very much conspicuous through its absence. Those already at work there had never been obliged to a uniformity of thought; we were an independent crowd up to the point of fundamental principles. The deviations of opinions were very much in evidence and conscious to us all. Although differences of

continued on page 10

A DEEP WELL . . .

continued from page 9

years had little to do with this, the arrival of a youth, straight from the Jewish youth movement and shaped by it more decisively than many of his comrades, brought a whiff of fresh air into our office rooms. To me, his outlook had a particular affinity and attraction. The similarity in seeing things of the present and future, in agreement and criticism, became the basis of a friendship which has lasted ever since. It need hardly be mentioned that our friendship, if not the co-operation, has instantly included Werner's wife, Susi, from the happy days of their courtship and marriage.

To mention only one point which occupied both our minds at that time more than many others: while working in the midst of a circle which is nowadays disapprovingly and highly inaccurately called "assimilationists", Werner and myself, together with a considerable number of friends, were in ardent sympathy with the creation of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. However devoid of reality our ideas may have been at the time—dreams nurtured by Martin Buber and Achad Haam far more than by any solid knowledge of the country and its conditions—they meant to us a very real image of Jewish consolidation. If anything, it was these dreams which set us apart from the main part of the C.V. we served; but the fact that there were no restrictions to dreams and allegiances, even though during a short, but to us rather significant episode, they led to a genuine variance with the organisational majority, rather stimulated than weakened our loyalty to the whole. It also deepened our individual friendship through the harmony of our innocent rebellion which—far beyond its practical importance—proved meaningful to us both.

"Deep is the well of the past". At this juncture in Werner's life the sum of countable years which separates us from that period of our youth is no longer insignificant. But it is immeasurably multiplied when their contents are taken into account—violent, ruinous, catastrophic and eventually yet again constructive, creative and restorative. The comparison indeed gives the lie to the mere yardstick of numbers. The "well of time" was deepened by the impact of the flood whose horror wiped out millions of our kinsmen and at the last moment we were both miraculously saved to the hospitable shores of this country.

Though in different spheres of activities we both continued to serve the Jewish cause—a relationship that was emphasised by the close co-operation through many years between Werner and my late husband, Hans Reichmann.

One of our "birthday-child's" most praiseworthy features—it would be impossible to enumerate them all—is his sterling loyalty to friends and ideas. Within the violent tumble of our lives he succeeded in preserving his unmistakable identity, while never resisting new initiatives where they were called for. When the AJR was founded as the independent organisation of the refugees from Nazi oppression, Werner Rosenstock was one of those who, from the start, was as its service, an indispensable helper in making it grow from strength to strength. Now he is our Director. After passing through several stages differing in their emphasis on the activities which were in the centre of topical necessities, they have now shifted to the field of social work as is self-evident in an ageing group of people. Our Director devotes himself to it with his usual dedication and zeal. But whenever he has the opportunity to talk publicly about the implicit duties, he will never neglect the

driving force dominating all his actions. He will first sketch the political and ideological frame within which he performs these duties. He never ignores the references to the demands of time and place, thus raising the day-to-day work on to the level of the wider aspects of our Jewish existence.

It is the same universal Jewish vision which characterises the monthly he edits, *AJR Information*. In it he has managed to create something which ranges far above what is usually understood as the periodical of an organisation. While it is this too, giving the necessary coherence to a membership widely differing in origin and age, it has become a valuable organ of Jewry as a whole—informative, independent, courageous in controversial matters, impartial as far as necessary, but with a clear face of its own, spreading solid knowledge and emanating authority.

"A deep well" indeed, but by no means an unfathomable one. A very consistent development made the young boy, inspired by the Jewish youth movement, into the septuagenarian who leads and administers one of the great Jewish organisations, in which tradition and revival have found an exemplary combination. Long may it prosper. Long may it enjoy Werner Rosenstock's devotion and guidance to the lasting benefit of us all.

A FAMILY RELATION

To write a public birthday tribute to one's own father calls for the sort of psychological acrobatics which are usually associated with the more esoteric oriental religions. Nevertheless, even at the risk of embarrassing both father and son, it is worth trying to provide the readers of *AJR Information* with a glimpse (but no more than a glimpse) of a side to the editor's personality to which only I have access.

It may come as a surprise to some readers that "putting to bed" makes Werner Rosenstock think of children and grandchildren as well as newspapers. He has never, to my knowledge, confused the two, although at times it must have been difficult not to, with galley proofs on one side of a small table and a son doing his homework directly opposite, in one of the two small rooms which were home in more austere days. Two sons growing up together, one might almost say. This, at any rate, is the impression which the experience has left with me. I still regard the monthly issue of *AJR Information* as a sort of letter from a brother, a brother who is younger chronologically but older in every other respect.

This, of course, is only an incidental aspect to being the son of this particular *Berufsjude*. Another is one which the children of other *Berufsjuden* probably share. It is the advantage of never having to search for one's roots. They were always there, ready to be put to work and so, I feel, enabled me to skip a stage in my development and begin to start growing in both directions (both upwards and downwards) while others were still trying to find their cultural feet. Living in a new society where conflicts between immigrant parents and their children have often led to personal tragedies I have learned to appreciate this, though not without a slight, perverse pang of regret, because it highlights one thing which has always been missing in my relationship with my father: I do not think we have ever had a good fight. This might have been a valuable experience for both of us. Perhaps we owe each other an apology for this mutual deprivation. If so, it is certainly the only thing for which he owes me one.

Ontario.

MICHAEL ROSENSTOCK

TESTAMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP

FROM C.V. TO A.J.R.

Dear Werner,

Those who have followed your writings over the years know of your special interest in all that concerns your native Berlin. Closer inspection will reveal a bias towards one particular district; the Hansa Quarter—hardly surprising, for here were the surroundings in which you grew up. And it was here that we first met, both of us still schoolboys. Although we did not attend the same school (yours was the *Kuerschner Reformrealgymnasium*) we both sat together in the religion classes which were held at my school, the *Friedrichs Werdersches Gymnasium*. Our teachers included Rabbi Dr. Julius Lewkowitz (later deported by the Nazis), who introduced us to the basic philosophy of Judaism, and Ludwig Pincoffs, an ardent Zionist, whose subjects were Hebrew and Jewish history.

In those days, we were just acquaintances. I did not share your experiences in the Jewish youth movement which contributed so fundamentally to your personal development and outlook. Later, we both worked for the C.V., you in the organisation itself, myself as music critic of the *C. V. Zeitung* during the Nazi years, before my emigration.

But it was the AJR that really brought us together and turned acquaintance into friendship. I joined the organisation from the very beginning. Helping with the canvassing of prospective new members, I spent a good deal of time at the Office where I had much encouragement and assistance from you. I realised more and more how much we had in common as regards background and outlook, and this became even more evident when you became Editor of *AJR Information* and invited me to contribute to the paper from time to time. On this special occasion it may not be inappropriate for me to confess that I always considered it a privilege to write for this paper which owes its unique standard to your editorship.

You have carried on in the best traditions of the German-Jewish Press; at the same time you have fully responded to the needs of the day and to the ever-changing political scene as it affects the AJR community of former Central European Jews, and you have kept a judicious balance in controversial matters. Moreover, you have always maintained and emphasised the links with our past, serving, within the more limited framework of a monthly, the guiding idea and purpose of the Leo Baeck Institute by probing into our "roots" and keeping our "remnant" in touch with the history of German Jewry. Thus, facing past and present, *AJR Information*—every issue of it—is instrumental in revitalising and strengthening our sense of identity.

For over three decades I have attended the AJR Board Meetings. They have reflected the course of events, from the grim war years to the better times of today. Your reports have been a regular feature, and they have always been representative of all the AJR stands for. Throughout all the changes within the organisation, you have been *ein ruhender Punkt in der Erscheinungen Flucht*—but not nostalgically clinging to the past; always alert and aware of new developments.

Looking back on what I have seen of your work I feel I must sum it up in the simplest words: A great job well done!

With warmest wishes for you and your wife.

Your
HANS FREYHAN

Testaments of Friendship—continued

A TOWER OF STRENGTH

Among those who will congratulate Dr. Rosenstock on his 70th birthday, I shall probably be the only outsider—the "Austrian". As such I wish to pay tribute to his achievements and to thank him for the co-operation and indeed for the close understanding of each other's views and attitudes which has developed between us over the years. Dr. Rosenstock has been among the architects of that admirable structure of interlocking bodies which represent the interests of the Jews from Germany whom a cruel fate has dispersed over the face of the earth. In particular he has been a tower of strength in the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain. Our—for many years almost daily—contacts stem from the allocation of funds by the Jewish Trust Corporation towards the establishment of Old Age Homes for victims of Nazism, an activity in which we were both deeply involved.

Another source of permanent contact has been *AJR Information*. I have always been an ardent and thorough cover-to-cover reader of this, Dr. Rosenstock's very own creation which reflects the wide and, I am tempted to say, encyclopaedic range of his multifarious interests and scholarship on a highly intellectual level, worthy of the elitist tradition of German (and incidentally, too, of Austrian) Jewry.

That there was never a lack of space for articles in which C. I. K. informed the paper's readers on developments in Austria of interest to them, especially in the field of Social Insurance, a matter of special concern to C. I. K., and that Dr. Rosenstock did his best to disseminate such knowledge through other media read by emigrants from Austria outside the United Kingdom—for all this would wish to express his sincere thanks to him on this festive occasion

His old C. I. K.

(Dr. C. I. KAPRALIK)

A MESSAGE FROM FRANCE

Lieber Werner,

Zwar hatte ich viel über Dich gehört, da ich Deine Frau, Susi, die—wie man so schön sagt—Freud und Leid, Not und Erfolg mit Dir geteilt hat, schon aus der Studienzeit her kannte. Dich aber habe ich erst—soll ich sagen—kennen, lieben und schätzen gelernt bei der Arbeit im Council. Dass Du nun auch schon das quasi biblische Alter von 70 Jahren erreichst, ist kaum glaubhaft. Du bist nach wie vor der pflichttreue, gewissenhafte, zuverlässige Arbeiter, dessen ganzes Leben um die Fragen und das Datum des Redaktionsschlusses Deiner *AJR*-Zeitschrift kreist. Dieses Blatt ist für uns alle ein Vorbild, und es orientiert weit über den eigentlichen Kreis der früheren Emigranten aus Deutschland hinaus viele Menschen in aller Welt über die Probleme, die uns alle angehen. Du redigierst diese von uns immer ungeduldig erwartete Zeitschrift wirklich meisterhaft. Mach so weiter!

Herzlichen Glückwunsch in Freundschaft,
Deine RUTH FABIAN
Solidarité, Paris

Note: To avoid disappointment, well-wishers should note that Dr. Rosenstock will spend his birthday in Israel.

THE FRIEND OF THE AJR CLUB

The AJR Club is joining wholeheartedly in the tributes extended to Dr. Werner Rosenstock on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Since its inception Dr. Rosenstock has been a sponsor and a friend of the Club. Whenever problems arose, we could rely on his helpful advice. He always attends our festivities at which he delights his audience with his humorous speeches.

We wish him to continue his outstanding work as Director of the AJR, as Editor of *AJR Information* and his welfare activities for a long time to come.

MARGARET JACOBY

Chairman, AJR Club.

THE JOURNALIST

Not that I had not known him before. But towards the end of 1945 we met "officially" to prepare the first issue of *AJR Information*—more than that: to discuss its name, layout, structure, content, aim and function. W. R. acted as the representative of the AJR and only after my co-editor Ernst G. Lowenthal left, did he take over some of the editorial work till, at the end of 1950, after my departure for Israel, he assumed the post of editor.

The brief pieces on the front page of No. 1, January, 1946, reveal at one glance our preoccupations at that time—the struggle for naturalisation, the fight for the right of the survivors of the Holocaust to immigrate into Palestine, and the Nuremberg Trials. W. R., though coming from the organisational side, yet with a vast experience in "Gegenwartsarbeit", took quickly to his new journalistic calling. Well versed in all things Jewish, with a grasp for the essential, he grew into this profession, a young man of not yet 38.

It was not easy to establish a new Jewish journal, it was no less easy to keep it going for over 32 years, widely read, respected, appreciated. How strange to look back, not in anger but with pride, at those meetings in the evenings, when never without a pinch of humour among little stories and anecdotes but mainly among the more weighty exchange of news and opinion, another issue of *AJR Information* was born. The journal has taken its rightful and important place in Anglo-Jewry like W. R., one of its creators, its editor—its personification.

HERBERT FREEDEN

Jerusalem.

ACROSS TWO CONTINENTS

In gloomy hours I meditate on how Hitler took away from me the country where I was born, the language which is my mother-tongue and my own sphere of activity, but then I try hard to restore the balance by recalling all the things which he was unable to take from me. In this respect I am always happy to remember my close friendship with people with whom I worked together in the old Centralverein Deutscher Staatsbürger Jüdischen Glaubens, and fortunately Werner Rosenstock and his wife belonged to them. We not only shared the same ideals, I also enjoyed the benefit and warmth of their friendship.

I first met Werner Rosenstock in the 'twenties. We were both members of the German Jewish Youth Movement, and I was indebted to him for writing a sympathetic review of my Gabriel Riesser biography in *Der Kämpfer*, the magazine of the Youth Movement. At that time, we were both under the spell of the unforgettable Ludwig Tietz.

When I had to leave for Shanghai with my wife in March 1939, I felt we could not leave

Berlin without bidding farewell to the Rosenstocks. After the last war, we settled in Melbourne, and I was very pleased when my relations with Werner Rosenstock were re-established. He invited me to contribute to *AJR Information* and thus gave me the chance of writing once more in my special field, the history of the Jews in Germany. When I saw him again in London in September 1976, I noticed at once that he had retained his qualities of friendship: his warm-hearted interest in a friend's condition, his quick grasp of one's ideas and his readiness to help.

Therefore, as he now joins the septuagenarians, my wife and I send our best wishes to him and his family. We particularly wish Werner and his wife that they may enjoy a full measure of happiness and health for many years to come.

FRITZ FRIEDLANDER

North Caulfield, Victoria, Australia.

UNITED IN WORK AND FRIENDSHIP

Dear Werner,

I must be one of your oldest friends—if not in age, then of longest standing. Common activity in the German-Jewish Youth movement imparted on us a common sense of responsibility towards our community in its darkest days, and in days of reconstruction and revival here in England. Only the Tiergarten separated in those days the Hansa Viertel from the Alter Westen, and physical size distinguished "Krümel" and "Pünktchen" as little as common interests and work did when we reached the adult stage.

I have in front of me your doctoral thesis of 1934 dealing with the serious consequences for members of a jury who without good reason neglect their duties. You must have taken your own investigations to heart—there can hardly have been any occasion in subsequent years when you neglected the duties and responsibilities which you took upon yourself and discharged meticulously and conscientiously.

In the short curriculum vitae appended to your *Dissertation* you briefly refer to your dismissal from the higher legal state service in 1933, in consequence of the Nazi law for "Reconstruction of the Professional Civil Service"—their loss of your services was the gain of the Jewish organisations. Your handwritten dedication, thanking me for proof reading, and encouraging me with "vivant sequentes" was taken to heart—we met again at the Central Verein, and in the late 'thirties we worked at the common task of exploring emigration possibilities and facilitating the emigration of German Jews to countries outside Israel—you as a departmental head of the *Reichsvertretung* and I as head of the *Hilfsverein Secretariat*. Your special task was the selection of candidates to be admitted to Kitchener Camp at Richborough near Sandwich—where thousands of refugees who had no other immediate emigration possibilities found refuge and security. I was amongst those whom you dispatched to this corner of Kent where, to quote George Mikes, England and I set foot on each other.

The war separated our ways, but then we met again on common ground in work for Jewish refugees in Britain. Much is being said on your years of service to our community in this country—may it be my privilege and that of common friends to remain united with you in work and friendship over many years to come—ad meah we-essrim shanah!

Yours as ever

ARNOLD HORWELL

A further tribute appears on page 12

Alfons Rosenberg

GUNDOLF AND THE BAAL SHEM

Nobody who was adult and aware before 1933 will be able to read the correspondence between Gundolf and Wolfskehl* without deep emotion and a feeling of an indescribable loss. The achievement as much as the later tragedy of the Jews in Germany becomes symbolic in the lives of these two remarkable personalities. Furthermore, for readers of *AJR Information* I thought it advisable to stress the Jewish aspect of their letters.

We learn that Gundolf, professor of German literature in Heidelberg, came from a highly educated family in Darmstadt, where Jewishness was still an element and Rabbi Selver a not infrequent visitor. Gundolf more and more loses any connection with this background whilst Wolfskehl finds it impossible to cut off ties with a past, his past, thousands of years old. Gundolf can lose himself in German literature, Caesar, Shakespeare, Goethe, and George. Wolfskehl's mind is much more comprehensive, searching, universal and at the time deeply conscious of the mystery, the

* Karl und Hanna Wolfskehl: Briefwechsel mit Friedrich Gundolf 1899-1931. Castrum Peregrini Presse Amsterdam 1977. 2 Bde.

Testaments of Friendship—continued

ROOTS IN THE PAST

Berlin-born Werner Rosenstock has spent the greater part of his 70 years in Britain and almost three-quarters of his active life in the North West of London. Brought up in the North-Western part of Berlin, i.e., in its so-called Hansa Moabit District (depicted by him so vividly and somewhat nostalgically in "Gegenwart im Rueckblick", the memorial-book published in 1970, when the post-war Jewish community commemorated its 25th anniversary), he seems to prefer N.W. localities.

Re-visiting Berlin from time to time, he likes to walk along the streets and places once familiar to him; he travels on buses, steamers and in the occasional taxi. He would also admit looking up telephone directories to find out whether any of his former classmates, schoolmasters or lawyers from whom he received his legal training in the early 'thirties, might still be around. And he definitely would not return home without spending at least one night at West Berlin's well-known political cabaret "Die Stachelschweine". Do not all these characteristics prove a quite natural and understandable nostalgia for his origins by a broad-minded, though critical man?

With his getting on in age, loyalty has remained a striking element of his character. Whilst he has always been most faithful to the friends of his youth and his formative years, he has also taken a profound interest in the tracing of ancestors and in maintaining contact even with remote relatives on the Continent. Parallel with such inclinations of a genealogical nature, W. R., for many years faced with, and versed in, the social problems of the Jewish refugee community, has developed an even stronger sense for compiling and analysing material in regard to the history of that specific minority group. Surely, just at his 70th it will give him particular satisfaction to be assured that his untiring endeavours in this respect have not been in vain.

ERNST G. LOWENTHAL

Berlin.

unfathomable depth of the destiny of individuals and nations. In these two contrasting attitudes probably lies the reason for the fact that Gundolf was able to write numerous books (and disappointing poetry) whilst Wolfskehl gave his best in essays and in conversation: the infinite. Therefore, his burning love for German romanticism.

The life—in every sense of the word—of both men is dominated by their "Meister" Stefan George. The letters do not give a clue why this was the case as far as Wolfskehl is concerned but they do so with respect to Gundolf who writes: "Ich glaube der Meister hat mich sehr gern . . . Und wie ich ihn verehere und liebe, darf ich mich wehevoller duenken als vordem, und da ich des Verehrten Kuesse und Haende-druecke fuehle, wird mich keine staubige Gegenwart mehr mit schleimigen Fingern beruehren".

This craving for a master and a spiritual guide remains with him throughout his life. Hasn't he, apart from George, chosen three personalities, dominant in their own field, as his loadstars: Caesar—Shakespeare—Goethe?

Wolfskehl is interested in and sympathises with Zionism, that is to say he is not completely dependent on a "Meister", he has other ways of belonging.

Meeting Martin Buber

It is interesting to see what Gundolf writes when he is confronted with a Jewish book. He had met Buber socially in Berlin and speaks of him in a letter in a friendly if somewhat condescending way. In 1908 he published in the *Preussische Jahrbuecher* a three-page review of Martin Buber's "Die Legende des Baalschem". He recognises that Buber has a great mastery of the German language or rather that the language has a mastery over Buber which causes him to express more than is genuine. Buber, Gundolf writes, has a deep understanding of the Jewish myth and treats it with inner experience, love and piety. Yet he only faces it and is not in it and thus can't find the adequate point of view. He tries a poetic renaissance, the review goes on, but only great poets can do this successfully. Buber's "Legende" does not impress us as specifically chassidic, hardly even as Jewish. It is a work of literature into which its author poured his own excitements or religious feelings. A review written with sympathy and cool detachment.

Strange to say, the correspondence between Wolfskehl and Gundolf tells hardly anything about George himself. Altogether, we notice some reticence concerning happenings within the George circle. Possibly, the writers took into account a later publication of their letters.

At the outbreak of the First World War, the two are swept off their feet through enthusiastic patriotism. Another effect of the war. In 1917, Gundolf, in the army, writes: "Vater bin ich auch geworden, das gehoert zu den Kriegs-strapazen".

Gundolf's star as the leading historian of German literature and admired author rises and shines over Germany. In 1929 he gives the memorial lecture in the Reichstag on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Lessing's birth. Wolfskehl asks in this connection: "Hast du [Hindenburg] kennen gelernt? Er weste doch an?"

Gundolf died in 1931, 50 years old.

The book gives us a most vivid impression of the two correspondents, of the atmosphere of their times, assessed from a very special and limited angle. Many readers will for the first time be aware of Hanna Wolfskehl as a strong and intelligent person, caring and understanding. The notes appended to the books deserve the highest praise.

In 1930, Wolfskehl writes about his insecure situation. He had lost his fortune and his eyes caused him great anxiety. With a strange feeling we read: "Nur gut, dass ich den Wanderstab handnah in der Ecke habe und die Lenden immer geguertet sind".

FIRST AWARD OF MARTIN BUBER-PRIZE

The head of the Trades Union Holding Company in Frankfurt, Walter Hesselbach, is the first recipient of the Martin Buber-Prize of the Karl-Hermann-Flach Foundation which was created last year. The citation says that he was chosen for his services in promoting better understanding between Germans and Jews. In the historical St. Paul's Church in Frankfurt, the prize was awarded during the official celebration of the Buber centenary. Minister Karry stressed Hesselbach's contribution to the creation of the State of Israel. Professor Talmon of the Hebrew University celebrated Buber as one of the great European and Jewish thinkers of our times.

HANS CASPARIUS AT FILM FESTIVAL

Hans Casparius, who has been making films for 50 years, visited the Berlin Film Festival where two of his earliest films were shown. There has also been an exhibition of his work at Berlin's new exhibition centre in Buda-peststrasse. Casparius worked as a cameraman on a number of films by the great G. W. Pabst, among them the classic "White Hell of Piz Palü" with Leni Riefenstahl. From 1930 to 1934 he travelled and filmed with Dr. Arnold Hoellriegel in Africa, Canada, Libya and Palestine, and settled in London in 1935. He has made a number of documentary and educational films since then and at the moment, at the age of 78, he works on a film of Michelangelo's Day of Judgement to the music of Verdi's Requiem.

FILM ON JEWISH SPORT IN NAZI GERMANY

Mr. Paul Yogi Mayer, who grew up in the German Jewish Youth Movement and who has since done work with and for Jewish and non-Jewish young people in this country, has been asked by the Berlin TV service to assist in the making of a film about German Jewish achievements in sport. He was himself a sportsman in Germany and had even been included in a Jewish squad for which the Nazi sports authorities had asked for a possible inclusion in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. The Nazis wanted to show that they did not discriminate against Jews. In fact, no Jew—or Jewess—was chosen.

JEWISH LEADER ADDRESSES ARMY

Mr. Werner Nachmann, chairman of the Central Council for Jews in Germany, was invited to address members of the Defence Staff and prominent men and women in the Stuttgart Theodor Heuss barracks. The Military Command Post V had invited some 400 people to listen to him on the subject: "How does a Jewish citizen see the Federal Republic and its Armed Forces?" He gave an outline of Jewish experience in Germany and referred to recent antisemitic and neo-Nazi demonstrations, saying that regrettably much had been left undone to inform the younger generation of what had happened to German Jews, and that the fact that some 30,000 of them had returned to Germany, pointed to their rootedness in the country, but it should also be realised that they could not forget the past.

H. W. Freyhan

MUSICIAN AND HUMANITARIAN

Since the 1920s, when he startled the musical world as a child prodigy, Yehudi Menuhin has ranked among the century's most outstanding violinists. Lately he has also made his mark as a conductor and as the founder of a school for young musicians which enjoys international repute.

Having turned sixty he has felt the urge to cast his mind back in a review of his life and work up to the present (*Yehudi Menuhin, Unfinished Journey*. Macdonald and Jane's London, 1977.—£5.95).

This very readable autobiography is bound to appeal in the first instance—but by no means exclusively—to musicians and music lovers all over the world, who will find ample rewards in his discussion of technical and interpretative problems. Furthermore, in covering every Continent on his concert tours he has met most of the prominent composers and performers of his time and, as a keen but always generous observer, he has packed his book with fascinating pen-portraits. Last but not least, this highly educated musician has strong leanings towards contemplation and philosophical thought which enables him to probe deeply into all aspects of his life and his art.

Menuhin's musical sympathies are far from narrow and extend beyond the confines of Western music: he has long been involved with leading representatives of Indian music. On the other hand, he stands aloof from the avant-garde: even as regards the twentieth-century classics, his strongest affinity lies with

Bartok rather than with Stravinsky and the Schoenberg school.

The aversion against narrow-mindedness that determines his musical tastes applies even more to his general outlook. The noble humanity which one senses in his Beethoven interpretations is deeply rooted in his whole personality. It is also part of his family heritage.

His life-long attachment to his family is strikingly reminiscent of Felix Mendelssohn. But while in Mendelssohn's case the family background emerges primarily from his correspondence Menuhin presents his own reflections on his closest relations. Moreover, his quest extends to those earlier generations of Russian Jews from whom his ancestors came, and he links his parents' personalities with the difference in their regional origin. He is fully aware of the impact of his parents' migrations: from Czarist Russia to pre-1914 Palestine and then to the U.S.A., where they married. Both were Hebrew-speaking and earned their livelihood as teachers of Jewish subjects.

Yet there was a difference between their situation and that of the majority of Jewish immigrants who had come straight from Eastern Europe and tended to cling to their old way of life. The Menuhins, arriving from Palestine, were refugees only in a remote sense. They became disillusioned with both Orthodoxy and Zionism and longed for a life free from all restrictions. Yet it was an encounter with antisemitism in New York which made Yehudi's energetic mother decide on her son's first name (meaning "the Jew").

Pride in their Jewish identity remained intact with the parents and their children although it did not prevent the father from adopting an excessive anti-Zionist stance. (Yehudi refrains from mentioning his father's regrettable contributions to a German neo-Nazi paper.) But even in this extremist attitude Moshe Menuhin was motivated by a humanitarian concern with the plight of the Arabs. In Yehudi, this basic humanitarianism generated a more positive trait which has governed his actions all his life, although he, too, became involved in controversies on this account, especially when he played for German audiences shortly after the end of the Nazi régime and stood up for Furtwaengler. Even so, awareness of his sincere motivation

made hostile D.P.s and later his Israeli public shed their initial objections and gave him a warm welcome. Never above self-criticism, he now reflects that he might well have acted differently if he had lost closest relations in the Holocaust. Fundamentally he is guided by an aversion against labelling human beings as mere members of a nation or race.

This basic conception has also prompted him to speak up and act on behalf of Russian dissidents, and he did this in Moscow!

Pondering over the mission of music he recalls Schiller and Beethoven: "*Deine Zauber binden wieder, was die Mode streng geteilt.*" He admits: "A twentieth-century lifetime cannot preserve such hopes from the battering of disappointment". Yet "the experience has neither proved fatal nor taught me that music must be weak before human implacability and the wise musician should dumbly fiddle while the world burns . . . I have never regretted stirring up hornets' nests, however. What does this make me? I wonder. An amiable fool blundering into delicate situations which the angels of prudence suspend their breath to contemplate? A self-righteous prig who believes everyone is marching out of step?" Yehudi Menuhin prefers to be "a man perfectly aware he has no monopoly of rectitude who yet pits conviction against received opinion".

These are not the words of a naïve dreamer. One may detect in them part of the Jewish heritage, as represented by the great prophets, without being exclusive about it. (Menuhin would disapprove of that!). In any case, they are characteristic of the man who says, in his Epilogue: "The real pleasures are indistinguishable from duties, the real freedom is responsibility".



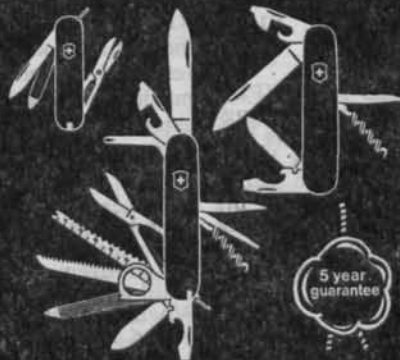
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MISCELLANEOUS

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TAXABILITY OF AUSTRIAN PAYMENTS

On January 31, Mr. Sainsbury, MP, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will seek to extend the provisions of Section 22 of the Finance Act 1961, exemption from tax of compensation for National Socialist persecution, to exempt from tax comparable annuities paid under the law of the Austrian Republic.

In his written answer, Mr. Robert Sheldon stated: "Section 377 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970—formerly Section 22 of the Finance Act 1961—extends only to those compensation annuities paid by the Federal Republic of Germany to victims of National Socialist persecution which were computed on the basis that they would be free of German and foreign tax. So far as I am aware, no comparable annuities are paid by the Austrian Republic.

"One half of pensions paid by the Austrian Government to victims of National Socialist persecution is exempt from United Kingdom tax—and has been since 1974—in the same way as similar pensions paid by the Federal Republic of Germany which are not wholly exempted under Section 377. I have no plans for increasing the amount exempted".

ISRAEL

The Israeli Minister of Immigrant Absorption, Mr. David Levi, stopped in London on his return from the United States to Israel. He had also been to Canada and Austria in order to persuade Israelis who have settled abroad, to return home. It is estimated that more than 300,000, 10 per cent of the total population, live abroad. On the other hand, nearly 1,000 people emigrated from the UK to Israel in 1977, more than in any year since 1972.

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.

Birthday

The AJR Club extends heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Greenwood on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Deaths

Braunsberg.—Mrs. Emmy Braunsberg (née Hirschfeld) passed away peacefully on February 23 in Locarno after a short illness in her 84th year. Deeply mourned by her sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

Falkenstein.—Mrs. Richard Falkenstein (née Gruenhuett) passed away peacefully on February 12. Mourned by relatives and friends.

Fisher.—Stephanie Fisher passed away in Osmond House, The Bishop's Avenue, N.2, after a long and painful illness. Deeply mourned by her sister Margit.

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NEWS FROM THE EAST

Memorial Building at Auschwitz

Israeli organisations of anti-Nazi fighters, in co-operation with the Warsaw Jewish Historical Institute, will open a Jewish building on the site of Auschwitz concentration camp on the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The building has been designed to symbolise Jewish martyrdom and resistance in the whole of Nazi-occupied Europe. The Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and many overseas museums have contributed documentary material.

Homage to Riga Jews

About 200 Jews now living in Riga paid tribute at Rumboli outside the Latvian capital to the tens of thousands of Jews murdered there by the Nazis in 1941, in spite of attempts by the Soviet authorities to prevent them from doing so by broadcasting music loudly over the loudspeakers on the site.

Israel not to be excluded from Olympic Games

The chairman of the Soviet Olympic Committee has denied foreign press reports that Israel would be excluded from the 1980 Games in Moscow. He stated that all countries belonging to the International Olympic Committee would receive invitations.

BRITISH PRIZE FOR HITLER FILM

The British Film Institute Prize for 1977 was awarded to Hans Jürgen Syberberg for his Hitler film, judged to be the most original and imaginative film of the year.

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Miscellaneous

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Personal

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WOULD A WIDOWER who is perhaps lonely like to meet an attractive widow in the 60s, independent, no children, with good home, to build up a friendly companionship? When replying, please give telephone number. Box 720.

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UNATTACHED WIDOW in her 60s, living in her own house, car owner, widely travelled, interested in music, theatre, books, would like to meet gentleman with same interests. Box 724.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiries

Grunwald.—Lotte Grunwald (née Calm). Last known address "Way-side", Hinksey, Hill Top, Oxford, formerly Berlin-Schoeneberg (Chamisso Lyceum). Present address required by Ruth Lowenstein (née Fernbach), 6 Wellington House, Eton Road, London, NW3 4SY.

Lauchheimer.—Relatives of the late Alice Lauchheimer, born 1902 in Stuttgart, sought by Jewish Refugees Committee—Woburn House, London, WC1H 0EP. Tel: 01-387 5461.

Steinberg.—Edgar Steinberg, born 9.5.1912, last known address in Germany Weisstrasse 4, Plauen i. Vogtland, is believed to have emigrated to the UK in 1936 and to have lived in Manchester. Will readers who can give information please write to Erich Beyer, Bartingallee 20, 1 Berlin 21.

AJR Enquiries

Rose.—Mrs. Hilda Rose. Last known address 87 Shawdene Road, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4AJ.

THEATRE AND CULTURE

Leading the Field. Franz (Ferenc) Molnar, the Hungarian-born author who died in exile in the United States, is still the most-performed twentieth-century playwright in Germany and Austria although some of his many comedies are no longer topical. "Liliom" and "The play's the thing" (Spiel im Schloss) are being revived regularly. London had the brilliant "Woolf" (Märchen vom Wolf) performed at the Apollo Theatre a short while ago, whilst the "Guardsman" (Gardeoffizier) in an excellent production (with Diana Rigg) will continue at the Lyttelton throughout April.

Vienna. Galsworthy's 1922 play "Loyalties", a drama dealing with society's attitude to anti-semitism, is once more arousing interest at Vienna's "Volkstheater".—At the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the death of Egon Friedell (he committed suicide after Austria's "Anschluss"), an exhibition at Vienna's City Library shows that great intellectual as writer, essayist and cabaretist. As an actor, he was one of the first to join Max Reinhardt when Vienna's Josefstadt Theatre opened in 1924.

Munich. A much discussed young actor, Jacques Breuer, is in the cast of a "Liebelei" (Schnitzler) revival at the Residenztheater. His father, the late Siegfried Breuer, is still remembered from early post-war days when his views clashed with one of our refugee-actresses with whom he was filming.

Titbits. The "White Horse Inn" in St. Wolfgang is 100 years old; the hotel has been the property of the Peter family for many decades; Heinz Rühmann (76), an indefatigable pilot, has just had his flying licence renewed; Hans

Weigel, the Austrian writer, has been awarded the Nestroy Ring 1977.

Obituary. Willy Domgraf-Fassbaender, world famous baritone, died a few days before his 81st birthday.—Cologne-born actor Karl John has died in Guetersloh at the age of 72.—Robert Heger, composer and conductor, died in Munich, aged 91.—The sudden death of Margit Schenker-Angerer (74) after a bout of influenza, will grieve her many admirers who remember her as a great soprano and all those who knew her from her social activities in London where she lived.

S.B.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GEORG HERMANN RENAISSANCE

I read with great interest your paragraph in the February issue and am glad that Jettchen Gebert and her creator have not been forgotten. Surely Jettchen Gebert has been in every Jewish household in Berlin and perhaps elsewhere and must now be in private libraries all over the world.

Since my "family copies" were lost I have managed to get Jettchen in 1957 but have not been able to find Henriette Jacoby.

I have Georg Hermann's delightful "Spaziergang in Potsdam". Could any of your readers tell me if I am right in saying that Georg Hermann conducted tours in Old Berlin on Sundays, which were very popular. To my knowledge that would have been in the years between 1920-30.

(Miss) E. MANES

7 Tannery Close,
Burford, Oxford, OX8 4SN.

HENRY MATHEWS EXHIBITION

After 30 years in the dress trade, Berlin-born Henry Mathews had had enough and decided to devote himself to his art which he originally studied at the Kunstgewerbeschule in Berlin. An exhibition of his work was recently opened in the attractive exhibition hall of Harrow Library in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. A. G. Sellers, and the local Member of Parliament. Henry Mathews' bold outlines and restrained but meaningful use of colour is sometimes reminiscent of the work of the Hamburg painter, Otto Tügel. The exhibition, which was held until March 11, mainly comprised paintings, gouaches and collages based on themes from Shakespeare and the German composers, of which "La Belle Hélène" by Offenbach merits special mention, as well as two attractive studies of Elisabeth Bergner. Mr. Mathews has also done other work based on biblical themes and it is to be hoped that a further opportunity will arise to see a wider variety of the work of this assured artist.

ALICE SCHWAB

MAX LIEBERMANN EXHIBITION

Appeal for Loan of Works

Under the heading "Max Liebermann und seine Zeit" the National Gallery is preparing an Exhibition scheduled for autumn 1979. The promoters of the Exhibition would greatly appreciate it if they could receive on loan any paintings or biographical documents (photos, letters, manuscripts, etc.) in private possession. Any communications should be addressed to the Nationalgalerie, Potsdamer Str. 50, D-1000 Berlin 30.

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IN MEMORIAM

SIMON BISCHHEIM

By the death of Simon Bischheim in his 93rd year the community of former German Jews in this country has lost one of its oldest and most faithful active members. Originating from a family, which had been living in Frankfurt (Main) for many generations, he recorded the history of his ancestors and his own life story in a vividly written private print for the benefit of his descendants. He also took an active part in the work of the Committee set up for sponsoring research on the history of Frankfurt Jewry.

A successful business man in Frankfurt, he was one of the first Jewish immigrants to this country after the Nazis had come to power. Here, his house in Edgware became a rallying point for many fellow refugees especially after the mass influx from 1938 onwards. An accomplished violinist he also arranged chamber music evenings in his home. He joined the Edgware Synagogue and thus also established personal contacts with his Jewish British-born neighbours. After his wife had died and his children had founded their own families, he moved to St. John's Wood.

The numerous causes to which Simon Bischheim devoted his selfless services included the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck Lodge and the AJR. He was not only in age but also in seniority of office the oldest member of the AJR Executive to which he was elected as far back as 1952. As long as his health made it possible, he regularly took part in the deliberations of the Executive. He also constantly enlisted the financial support of his business friends for *AJR Information*. One of the last functions he attended was the Chanukah celebration at Otto Schiff House, when the lights of a beautiful huge menorah, donated by him and his family in memory of his late wife, were kindled for the first time.

Simon Bischheim combined a strong sense of purpose with an endearing ability of establishing personal bonds with people of various walks of life. Endowed with a *joie de vivre* he did not get tired of travelling, visiting relatives and friends in Israel and U.S.A. and spending holidays in Switzerland.

Almost three years have passed since, at an unforgettable party, his family and friends celebrated his 90th birthday. Guests who had got to know him at various stages of his life, paid tribute to him, and Simon Bischheim's

response was of his customary vigour, which is rarely to be found among nonagenarians.

He was the head of a closely knit family. The untimely death of his wife 20 years ago was a great blow to him. Yet he had the love of his children and grandchildren. They will find consolation in the knowledge that he was granted a long and full life and that their sense of loss is shared by a wide range of grateful friends.

W.R.

WALTER HERTNER

Walter Hertner died on February 11, shortly before his 71st birthday. Since 1940 he had worked as an actor and producer for the German service of the BBC, one of the distinguished band of personalities of German literature, theatre and film. He loved the theatre with all his heart and wrote about the London stage not only for the BBC but also for Swiss and German radio stations. Hertner was born in Berlin where for some years he was a member of the ensemble of the Juedischer Kulturbund. He had engagements in Strasbourg, Bruenn and Switzerland. Many will remember him from the *Laterndl* in London and from his readings at the Goethe Institute in memory of Heine and Alfred Kerr. Almost to the last he preserved to an unbelievable degree his youthful enthusiasm not only for the stage but also for music in all its forms.

A.R.

LEOPOLDINE HERZ

Many of us and, in particular, those who had close connections with the old "Blue Danube Club" will be very sorry to learn of the death, at 83, of Professor Peter Herz's wife, "Frau Poldi", as she was known to hundreds. She had been suffering and was practically immobilised for a long time. She had been married to Peter Herz for 52 years. If the words "companionship" and "unflinching loyalty" are to be symbolised, there could not have been a better example. Our sympathies are with her husband who used to rely on her in every aspect of private and professional life.

S.B.

GERHARD L. TIETZ

Mr. Gerhard L. Tietz, who died on February 2 in his 84th year, was the youngest son of Leonhard Tietz, the founder of the well-known chain of department stores throughout the Rhineland. He studied at Munich University and after the end of the First World War, in which he was severely wounded, joined the family firm. He was elected to the board of directors in 1926 and ran the main store in Cologne until 1933, when the Gestapo barred him from entering his premises. He emigrated to England in 1934 and served with H.M. Forces from 1940-45. Later, after many difficulties, he established an import-export business, dealing frequently with the John Lewis Partnership and Kaufhof in Cologne, which was his former firm. Like his sisters, Mrs. Luise and Mrs. Anne Eliel, who predeceased him, Gerhard Tietz excelled by a strong feeling of solidarity with his fellow refugees. He was a member of the AJR Board, whose sessions he regularly attended, and will be remembered with gratitude by all who knew him. We extend our sympathy to his widow and the other members of his family.

DR. ADOLPHE BOBASCH

Dr. Adolphe Bobasch, who died in his 84th year, was a successful lawyer in Prague, until the events of 1939 forced him to leave his homeland. He settled in London as an independent international lawyer. In this capacity he excelled by an instinctive, intuitive grasp of the law, not so much as an abstract discipline but of its practical application in the best interest of each client. Many people not only in this country but also abroad have to thank him for their present comparative economic well-being.

ARNULF PINS

Dr. Arnulf M. Pins, director of the Middle East region of the "Joint", died in Jerusalem at the early age of 51. Born in Duisburg, he emigrated with his family to Palestine in 1936 and from there to the U.S. in 1939. From 1972 to 1974 he was executive director of the Claims Conference and the Memorial Foundation and, in this capacity, in close contact with the organisations of Nazi victims and their leading personalities.

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