

AJR

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

W. Rosenstock

PRELUDE TO HOLOCAUST

The November 1938 Pogroms

In these days, our memories go back to the happenings of 40 years ago, which were a decisive turning point in the fate of the Jews in Germany and Austria. It was in November 1938, for the first time since the ascent of the Nazi régime, that there was a wholesale physical onslaught on the Jewish population.

Looking back, we come to realise that the strangulation of German Jewry was carried out in stages. It began as soon as the Nazis had gained power and put into effect their doctrine that Jews were not part of the German people. The first measures were the laws of April 1933, by which, with certain exceptions, "non-Aryan" civil servants were dismissed. These laws with their implementary orders as well as the take-over and boycott of numerous Jewish businesses deprived many Jews of their livelihood. Yet beyond these material effects, the treatment as outcasts inflicted deep wounds on all sections of German Jewry. We also remember the arrests of Jewish and non-Jewish political activists; quite a few of them perished in the concentration camps, often after several years of suffering.

The next major step of degradation was the enactment of the Nuernberg Laws in 1935. They are notorious not only because of their fiendish contents but also because, differentiating between "Jews" and "Mischlinge", they revoked certain concessions made only two years before to certain categories of "Jews", e.g., participants of the First World War and pre-war civil servants. While they placed the "Mischlinge" into a somewhat less underprivileged position, they laid the foundations for all future actions against the "Jews" in the meaning of the Law.

Increasing Degradation

From then onwards, legislative and administrative measures, which were considered inconceivable at the beginning of the régime, gradually became cruel reality. There were pinpricks such as the introduction of special "Judenbaenke". There was the law of 1938 stipulating that Jews had to add to their first name the names "Israel" and "Sarah"; the discriminatory character of this measure may not be fully understood in this country, where quite a few Jews bear the name "Israel" and where "Sarah" is a fashionable name also among non-Jews. Yet there were immeasurably more serious actions in the cultural, social and economic field. Looking back at this constant deterioration it may, at first sight, appear surprising that there was no mass emigration during the first years of the régime. This was certainly not due to lack of self-respect but rather to the numerous difficulties with which the Jews were faced. Some felt so deeply

rooted in the country of their birth that they could not envisage a transplantation into a different environment. Others, like many non-Jews, expected that the régime would only last for a limited time; the discussion on this aspect, which was also conducted in some recent issues of this journal, will continue to occupy the minds of research workers, historians and laymen for a very long time to come. A further impediment arose from the fact that, for good or evil, German Jewry was on the average a middle-aged community, many of whose members could not face the task of building up their lives anew in an alien country, whose mentality and language they did not know and in which their professional experience would be useless. Last but not least, many countries which had admitted persecutees during the first years, closed their frontiers. In so far, they too have their share in the fate of German Jewry. Yet beyond this it is their main guilt that they remained inactive when there was still time to avert the catastrophe of the Second World War and all it entailed for mankind.

Yet while for the Jews the pre-war years under the Nazi régime were a period of external humiliation, they were at the same time a period of internal Jewish revival. People whose associations with Judaism and Jewish affairs had been non-existent or only tenuous until 1933, became anxious to find a new hold and to get knowledge of their Jewish heritage. It was not just an enforced withdrawal into a ghetto life, but a genuine return to the fold, enhanced by their integration into the values of European culture. The "return" found its expression in the organisation of Jewish adult education and in the creation of the Jewish Kulturbünde. These were courageous and constructive measures in a time of distress and decline, described by Ernst Simon in "Aufbau im Untergang" and by Herbert Freedman in "Juedisches Theater in Nazideutschland", both published by the Leo Baeck Institute.

Among the numerous manifestations of Jewish dignity in those dangerous years mention must be made of the prayer, recommended by the "Reichsvertretung" after the promulgation of the Nuernberg Laws; it resulted in the first arrest of Otto Hirsch, the Director of the Reichsvertretung, who perished in Mauthausen in 1941.

During all these years, the living space became narrower and narrower. In February 1938, Schacht was replaced as Minister of Economics by the committed Nazi Funk. One of the first measures instigated by him was the law of April 26, 1938, by which all Jews (with the exception of those who possessed less than 5,000 RM) had to register their

assets. To some extent, the arrests during the November pogroms were based on the particulars thus obtained. A few months later, Jews who were on the criminal register (in most cases for traffic and other minor delicts) were thrown into concentration camps. This was followed by the deportation of Polish Jews at the end of October.

All these actions were the prelude to the November pogroms which were in no way comparable with the acts of persecution and discrimination during the preceding five-and-a-half years. The events are sometimes dubbed as "Reichskristallnacht". Perhaps, in a futile attempt at wittiness, the term was originally coined by the Nazis themselves. Yet, unfortunately, after the war, it has often been used, with no ill intention, by serious-minded German and non-German historians. We cannot plead too strongly for its abrogation, because it belittles the happenings which were unique in their cruelty. More than 7,500 businesses were demolished, 150 synagogues all over the Reich were burnt, and if very few Jewish houses of prayers were spared, it was not for reasons of humanity but for the sake of closely adjoining buildings which might be endangered. In the course of the riots about 100 Jews, most of them at smaller places, were killed. Yet above all, 30,000 men of all ages were arrested and thrown into the concentration camps of Sachsenhausen, Dachau and Buchenwald. Of them, almost 500 lost their lives in the camps as the result of the cruelties of the guards.

Action not "Spontaneous"

It is uncontroversial that the pogroms were not a "spontaneous" reaction to the assassination of Legationsrat vom Rath in Paris, but that some drastic assault on the Jews had already been planned before and that the incident in Paris only served as a pretext. There were not only the economic measures based on the April 1938 law and menacing articles in "Das Schwarze Korps". It is also known that the prisoners of Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen were ordered to build new barracks and that in Dachau instructions were given to sew "Stars of David" on the camp uniforms in preparation for a mass influx of Jewish prisoners. Under all these circumstances it is irrelevant that apparently written documents on the planned mass arrests could so far not be traced. The personal report about a warning given at the beginning of 1938 by an official to a Jewish friend and related in this issue cannot easily be dismissed. There are many eye-witness reports on the sufferings in the camps, and quite a few of them are published in "Pogrom" by Lionel Kochan (Andre Deutsch, 1957) and "Crystal Night" by Rita Thalmann and Emmanuel Feinermann (Thames and Hudson, 1974).

Those who were spared incarceration had, albeit in a less cruel way, also to go through difficult times. Some constantly changed their abode, others found refuge with Christian friends. All of them, though not exposed to the sadism of the camp guards,

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PRELUDE TO HOLOCAUST

Continued from page 1

lived like outcasts in those days. The familiar streets through which they aimlessly wandered had become dangerous ground for them. They were to experience one of the most poignant curses threatened in the Bible with unsurpassable insight: "In the morning thou shalt say Would it were evening, and at evening thou shalt say Would it were morning."

Gradually, the prisoners returned from the camps, with shaven heads looking like criminals, and with frostbitten limbs. In most cases they had been released on the express undertaking that they would immediately prepare their emigration. This official order was hardly necessary because by now they had definitely come to realise that Germany had ceased to be their homeland. But where should they go? Most former countries of refuge had closed their frontiers or made the admission dependent on conditions, such as the possession of foreign currency, which the applicants could not fulfil. The United States rigidly stuck to their quota system: many lives would have been saved if the U.S. Government had lived up to the emergency. Palestine certificates were hardly available because Britain, then the mandatory power, wanted to avoid any complications in her relationship with the Arab population.

Nevertheless it still became possible that between November 1938 and the outbreak of war about 100,000 Jews were able to leave Germany. This figure is also remarkable if we consider it in the wider context of the emigration process from 1933 onwards. During the first five-and-a-half years, the number of emigrants amounted to about 150,000; this means that only under the pressure of the pogroms the number considerably rose.

Britain's Rescue Work

Among the countries which took part in the rescue work, Britain played an outstanding role. This happened at a time, when the country went through a serious economic crisis. Though the relaxation of the immigration policy was certainly to some extent meant as a kind of compensation for the severe restriction of Jewish immigration to Palestine, it was, in the first place, based on humanitarian considerations. On the other hand, about 150,000 Jews did not get out of Germany and, together with those who had fled to countries which were occupied by the Nazis during the war, became part of the six million victims of the Holocaust.

There are no films based on the happenings of November 1938 and, apart from photos, there is no visual aid to keep the memory of those days alive. Yet there is a comprehensive literature, and there are eye-witness reports laid down at Yad Vashem and in other Jewish institutions. We are the last generation which can speak from first-hand experience about those fateful days. It is one of our obligations to keep their memory alive. Like the Holocaust, the November pogrom has to serve as a warning signal at a time like ours, when terror from above or by individuals is again to be met in many parts of the world.

POGROMS PLANNED WELL IN ADVANCE

An Indicative Statement

It is generally accepted that the Grynspan incident only served as a pretext and that preparations of some drastic and far-reaching action against the Jews were already considered many months before. In this context the following personal report is of special interest. It was written in January 1945 by a German-Jewish lawyer, Justizrat Dr. Berthold Loewenstein of Leipzig, at the request of Dr. K. J. Ball-Kaduri of Tel Aviv, and copies of it are kept in the Wiener Library (London) and the Yad Vashem Archives (Jerusalem).

Dr. Loewenstein relates that soon after the Nazis had come to power, he became acquainted with an official in the German Currency Department, a certain Reichsbankoberinspektor Engelke. Like Dr. Loewenstein, Engelke had been a Freemason; for the sake of his job, he naturally kept this fact secret, as well as his objections to National Socialism. Despite his official position in the administration, he became quite friendly with the Loewensteins, whose children were already in Palestine, and freely visited their home. On these occasions, when the possibility of emigration was discussed, Engelke used to say that he did not think the régime would last.

However, in spring, 1938 his ideas changed. He then told Dr. Loewenstein that from what he had heard at meetings in the Economics Ministry, he must earnestly advise him to emigrate. But there was no hurry; late December, 1938 would be time enough to go. Accordingly, Dr. Loewenstein proceeded with his arrangements for leaving Germany throughout the summer and autumn 1938. But suddenly, all this leisurely and orderly progress was punctuated by an unexpected event: on October 29 Engelke arrived at the house in great agitation, saying that he had just come from a meeting at the Economics Ministry at which it had been made known that before mid-November "dreadful things" were to happen to the Jews, though he could give no details. The Loewensteins could not delay their emigration until the end of November; he must, he said, save them, they had to leave Germany within three days.

Nevertheless, not all the necessary visas had yet been obtained. On hearing this, Engelke said: "Well, in that case you have till the end of the week, but for your own safety you absolutely must leave Germany by November 5." He helped them to obtain the remaining papers, went with Dr. Loewenstein to the Swiss Consul whom he knew personally, and, to speed matters up, telegraphed for the grant of a visa. By this means, Dr. Loewenstein and his wife did in fact cross the German-Swiss frontier on November 5.

Because he feared that his friend might suffer, Dr. Loewenstein did not reveal the name during the war, but only after he knew that Engelke had died. His story rests on his own recollection of what was said to him, but in such circumstances it is naturally likely that his memory was clear. The report can therefore be taken as an indication that the date of the planned "dreadful things against the Jews" was fixed over a week before the death of vom Rath. J.L.

GERMAN MOVES AGAINST NAZIS

The West German Government has invited the Danish Government to join a common European stand against Nazism. It proposed that all European countries should use their legal powers to stop neo-Nazi activities. Bonn stated that West German neo-Nazi groups were known to print propaganda material in collaboration with a neo-Nazi group in the Danish Jutland region and were especially active in areas near the Danish border. The Danish police subsequently opened inquiries into the activities of the neo-Nazi headquarters in Aarhus, Jutland, and against a publishing house said to serve Nazi groups in the whole of Northern Europe. The German magazine "Wille und Weg" stated its address. The Danish Nazi movement and the publishers are linked with the World Union of National Socialists.

One trial to be started in Bochum in the near future concerns six men, aged between 67 and 71 years, who are accused of having taken part in the shooting of 7,000 Jews in White Ruthenia, Russia. The prosecution has asked for 201 witnesses to be called. Some of those living abroad will be interviewed at their places of residence by the Court which will travel to Los Angeles, Tel Aviv and the Soviet Union. The trial is expected to last at least six months.

Statute of Limitation

Dr. Rueckerl, head of the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes, has announced that investigations and proceedings against 3,618 people are being conducted in W. Germany, but there was an increasing difficulty in obtaining evidence of crimes committed at least 34 years ago. In a number of cases, however, there was enough documentary evidence for a conviction. In such cases proceedings will continue even after the Statute of Limitation has become operative in 1980.

The Federal Government has announced that, before the end of the year, it will publish a complete survey of documents on the prosecution of Nazi criminals since 1945. It will at the same time remind all relevant government authorities in Germany that the Statute of Limitation will become operative at the end of 1979 and that they should therefore submit all additional evidence in their possession to the Federal Government before that date.

PROSECUTION OF NEO-NAZIS

In Karlsruhe, the Police arrested three men who belonged to the neo-Nazi "Deutschvölkische Gemeinschaft", a splinter group with branches all over the Federal Republic. A search produced a large assortment of arms and ammunition.

In Munich, 23-year-old former sergeant Willibald K. was given a suspended sentence of ten months' imprisonment for attempting to set up the NSDAP Group Munich and Upper Bavaria. He and a 19-year-old apprentice chef had distributed Nazi pamphlets which they received from the notorious NSDAP/AO Gary Laucks in the USA. K. had also written an antisemitic pamphlet calling for the boycott of Jewish shops.

At Rees on the Lower Rhine, the manager of a toy wholesale business was fined 12,000 DM for distributing Nazi emblems. He had imported plastic fighter planes and military equipment with Nazi emblems from Britain.

On the other hand, the firm of Graf Klenau in Munich which sold yellow stars and Jewish identity cards (Kennkarten) in its sale-rooms was acquitted despite protests from many citizens, because it said in its catalogue that objects hailing from the Third Reich were offered for sale to scholars and students of the period in order to prevent unconstitutional activities and to serve research into contemporary history. The public prosecutor accepted this explanation and said, the offer of Yellow Stars at DM 310 each did not represent an insult to the dead, as no one entitled to do so, i.e. no Jewish citizen, had brought a complaint.

HOME NEWS

"THANK-YOU BRITAIN" FUND

Lectures by Sir Otto Kahn-Freund

The speaker at the forthcoming "Thank-You Britain" Fund lectures will be Sir Otto Kahn-Freund, Q.C., F.B.A. who has chosen the topical subject "Labour Relations—Heritage and Adjustment". Born in Frankfurt/Main, Sir Otto was a judge in the Berlin Labour Court until 1933. He came to this country as a refugee and soon obtained recognition as an outstanding jurist. Until his retirement in 1971, he was Professor of Comparative Law at the University of Oxford. He has always identified himself with his community of origin and repeatedly expressed his interest in the AJR, whose member he has been for many years. The lectures will be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, November 27; Thursday, November 30 and Monday, December 4, at the British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. To secure admission interested readers should ask for invitation cards from the British Academy.

ISRAEL'S TWIN CITIES

Some 400 representatives of 50 overseas cities and municipalities twinned with their Israeli counterparts, attended a conference held by the Union of Local Authorities in Israel to celebrate the State's 30th anniversary. They included representatives of the London borough of Barnet, twinned with Ramat Gan, Manchester, twinned with Rehovot, and Portsmouth and Hackney, both twinned with Haifa. Hackney and Barnet have the biggest Jewish populations of any local authority in Britain. Hackney Jews number 14 per cent of the population, and Barnet Jews 20 per cent.

YOUNG LIBERALS' PLO BID FAILS

During the Liberal Party Assembly in Stockport, the Young Liberals started to distribute leaflets published by the British Anti-Zionist Organisation. Unfortunately for them, a number of them found their way into a Jewish wedding reception which was being held at the same hotel as the conference. After a complaint to the police by an uncle of the bride, the hotel management forbade the distribution of any further literature on the premises. At a subsequent meeting of the Liberal Friends of Israel, Lord Wigoder, the Liberal Chief Whip apologised for the incident and assured the audience that no slight to the Jewish community had been intended. The Young Liberals also failed in their attempt to have a member of the Iraqi Youth League admitted as a fraternal delegate. A small number of Young Liberals protested against the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Israel by the Friends, but retreated when they were invited to attend. Mr. Bernard Silver, chairman of the Friends, announced during the meeting that among the new members enrolled was the immediate past chairman of the National League of Young Liberals, Mr. Steve Attack.

"GREAT BRITAIN 1938"

Broadcast of German Language BBC

To mark the 40th anniversary of its creation, the German language BBC broadcast an impressive programme under the heading "Grossbritannien 1938" on three consecutive evenings at the end of September. It recalled the political events and the cultural and social life of that critical year and included references to refugee artists, such as Elisabeth Bergner, the Baldwin Fund for the rescue of children and many other subjects connected with the anti-Jewish measures of the Nazi régime. The broadcast was prepared by Heinrich Wiedmann, and among the readers of the script were Hanne Norbert, Henry Imberg and several other former refugees.

NEW ANTI-FASCIST NEWSPAPER

A new paper entitled "The Defender" is shortly to be published. It will be a bi-monthly, aiming to oppose extremists of all factions. Although the newspaper is being launched in association with the Board of Deputies and Ajax, its scope will extend more widely than purely Jewish topics. Dr. Jacob Gewirtz, Mr. Terence Prittie and Mr. Walter Nelson will be among the editors and it is hoped that the new publication will "give a voice to all those who support a democratic, racially and religiously harmonious society".

£500 MILLION TRADE BOOST

Mr. John Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture, said at a dinner of the Anglo-Jewish Chamber of Commerce that trade between Israel and Britain was in a healthy state. In 1977, Britain had exported to Israel goods valued at some £270 million and bought from Israel £160 million worth of goods. The trade was likely to rise to a combined total of £500 million this year, and this was a success story largely attributable to the Chamber of Commerce. The Minister stressed that he felt strongly about the Arab boycott which was opposed and deplored by the Government as a whole. Britain was keen to do further trade with Israel, and his department was willing at all times to offer advice to all firms about to trade with the Jewish State. Israel had increased economic growth in the occupied territories and with her three million inhabitants had produced the same gross national product as Egypt with her population of 37 million.

AWARD FOR HERBERT SULZBACH

In recognition of his untiring services for the cause of conciliation and understanding between nations, Herbert Sulzbach, cultural officer of the German Embassy, was awarded the European Peace Cross, a distinction created by an organisation which was set up in 1962 by former French and German parachutists to promote friendship among former enemies. The presentation of the award took place at the German Embassy. We extend our sincerest congratulations to our friend, Herbert Sulzbach, on this further well-deserved honour bestowed on him.

The function at the Embassy was given wide publicity in the national press.

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Anglo-Judaica

Wizo's Diamond Jubilee

British Wizo which was founded 60 years ago by the late Rebecca Sieff, celebrated its diamond jubilee with a dinner at the Guildhall, London, in the presence of the Duchess of Gloucester and 400 guests including Mr. Chaim Herzog, Israel's former representative at the United Nations who said the situation in countries like Oman, Afghanistan, Chad, and the Horn of Africa were far-reaching dangers for world peace which would persist, even if the Arab-Israeli conflict were to be resolved.

Golders Green Cemetery Desecrated

Swastikas and a variety of obscenities were daubed and scratched on almost 200 headstones in the Reform and Sephardi cemeteries in Hoop Lane, Golders Green. The extent of the desecration suggests that a large group of people must have been involved, and in a telephone call the "88 group" of British National Socialists claimed responsibility. It is very difficult to remove the daubings, because most of the stones are old and worn. Children of a non-Jewish school have volunteered to help in cleaning them.

New Youth Centre at Edgware

The foundation-stone of the new £700,000 Brady-Maccabi youth and community centre at Edgware was unveiled in a ceremony attended by nearly 100 leaders and supporters of the Brady Club, Maccabi, and the Association for Jewish Youth. The centre will open early next week and provide a major focus for sporting and cultural activities in the north-west London area and later facilities for adults and senior citizens.

Bushey Cemetery Extended

Five acres of the third section of the Bushey cemetery extension were consecrated by the Chief Rabbi. Mr. Kosky, joint treasurer of the Burial Society, said the cemetery was so full that burials in the new section would have to start before the end of the year. The first burial at Bushey was on September 9, 1947. Since then, there have been nearly 15,000 burials. After the consecration, Mr. Kosky and Mr. S. Levin, president of the United Synagogue, lowered a box of holy books into an open grave which was then filled with earth by the assembled company.

A similar burial took place in Sheffield where the Rev. A. Brysh, minister of the United Hebrew Congregation, recited prayers as outworn prayerbooks and religious requisites were buried.

Shofar in Hospital

Members of the Chief Rabbi's Torah group and other clubs held short High Holy-day Services and blew shofar for Jewish in-patients at a number of North London hospitals.

New Manchester Communal Rabbi

Mr. Harold Slutzkin, president of the Manchester Shechita Board, has announced that the post of communal rabbi, last held by Rabbi Dr. Alexander Altmann, who was a rabbi in Berlin before he came to this country, is again to be filled. Rabbi Altmann, a great Jewish scholar, left in 1959 to take up an academic post in the United States and has since published a number of scholarly books.

Synagogue Theft

Brian Taylor, 37, a driver, and Anthony van der Leelle, 36, a salesman, were remanded on bail for stealing £9,600 worth of silver and religious ornaments from the East London Synagogue, Stepney. Their loot is alleged to include 57 silver teapots, two silver goblets, 14 silver breast plates, 44 assorted religious ornaments and a number of other silver articles.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Abba Eban Honoured

The former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton, once Albert Einstein's university. He will write a book there on present-day diplomacy under the impact of the media, summit meetings, and multi-national conferences which have eroded the part ambassadors are expected to play.

SOUTH AFRICA

Journalist expelled

Mr. Daniel Droos, a 33-year-old American-Jewish correspondent in South Africa for the "Chicago Daily News", the weekly "US News and World Report" and the Israeli daily "Maariv", was ordered to leave South Africa after a clash with the country's Information Department. This was due to an article he wrote about a South African lobbyist in Washington and to his refusal to disclose the sources of information published by him. He had been offered an appointment with "Argus", a company which runs all South African evening newspapers, but was refused a residence and work permit.

"Odal Youth"

A children's organisation named "Odal Youth" has been campaigning in Cape Town against "liberal attitudes" among teachers. The leader of the racist Anglo-Afrikaner Bond, Rudolph Schmidt, a former Hitler Youth member, has acknowledged that "Odal Youth" is receiving money and assistance from the Bond.

ORT HELPS BLACK JEWS

The Geneva-based World ORT Organisation has introduced a rural development scheme for the Beta Israel (Falashas), the black Jews of Ethiopia, with the help of the West German Government's Technical Assistance Department, the Canadian International Development Agency, and Swissaid. The long-running plans provide for help in agriculture, handicrafts, education and health, social services and water supply. About 28,000 Falashas live in Ethiopia. They have preserved their Jewish identity through many centuries—some estimate it to be more than 2,000 years.

CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S REMARKS

There is general indignation in political and Jewish circles in Austria about an interview which Jewish-born Chancellor Kreisky gave to a Dutch newspaper. In it he said inter alia Israeli Prime Minister Begin was a political grocer, "a little Polish lawyer from Warsaw or whatever he was". He added that the Israelis did not grasp subtlety in politics, and that their diplomats were the worst-hated in the world today. Israel was a police state, where the Arabs were second-class citizens. Dr. Otto Probst, Deputy Speaker of the Austrian Parliament and the "Grand Old Man" of the Socialist Party to which Mr. Kreisky belongs, has resigned as president of the Austrian-Israel Society in protest to the statements. Mr. Begin's reaction was that he treated the remarks with cold contempt and that Kreisky was "clearly a man who hates his mother and father".

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CEMETERIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO BE CLOSED

The International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia has announced that the Jewish cemeteries in Eibenschütz, Leitomishl, Mährisch-Kronau, Liptau, Neustadt an der Waag and a number of other places in Slovakia are to be closed and replaced by public parks. The authorities are, however, willing to authorise the reburial of coffins if applications are received by the competent authorities whose addresses can be obtained from the Council. (Suite 68, 12-13 Kenneth Street, London WC2E 8LH).

DISCRIMINATION IN GREECE

The leaders of the Central Board of the Greek Jewish Communities presented a memorandum to Prime Minister Karamanlis in which they gave examples of widespread discrimination against Jews, who could not be reserve officers in the Greek Army or serve on juries. The Prime Minister told them that he would see to it that such discrimination stopped and recalled the close links he had maintained with Greek Jews over many years. There are fewer than 5,000 Jews in Greece now; 3,000 of them are members of the Athens community, another 1,000 live in Salonika. Before the war, there were about 75,000 Jews in Greece.

SWASTIKAS IN SWEDEN

While the staff of a Gothenburg school were discussing a recent wave of racism amongst the children, somebody hoisted a swastika flag on the school building. The headmaster called in the police, stating that pupils between 14 and 15 had been distributing racist and Nazi leaflets and emblems and called for a fight against Jews, Turks, and Yugoslavs.

ANTISEMITIC REMARKS AT TURKISH FUNERAL

Mr. Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, strongly admonished a Moslem preacher who had said at the Ankara funeral of a Turkish personality that Jews were "the filthiest people in the world" and that humanity would not achieve peace "until the roots of the Jewish people are eradicated". Mr. Ecevit said Turkey was strongly opposed to racialism and any form of discrimination.

MENTEN RETRIAL ADJOURNED

The retrial of Peter Menten, the 79-year-old Dutch millionaire art collector, on war-crimes charges has been adjourned. Menten claims that when he served an eight-months' jail sentence in 1949 for helping the Nazis in Poland during the last war, the Dutch Minister of Justice, M. J. A. Donker, had promised him that he would not be tried again on similar charges. An official inquiry team has found no documentary evidence of such a promise and announced that a verbal promise of this kind was extremely unlikely.

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WJC ACTION PROGRAMME ON ANTISEMITISM

At its meeting in Brussels the European Branch of the World Jewish Congress passed a resolution calling for effectively combating increasing antisemitic and neo-Nazi manifestations. It adopted a programme which, among other things, calls for legislation prohibiting incitement to racial and religious hatred; educational measures and publication of suitable informative literature; and the initiation of democratic fronts in all countries of political parties, churches, trade unions and immigrant groups to fight neo-Nazi and antisemitism. (JTA)

CAMPAIGN FOR SOVIET JEWS

When a Leningrad delegation visited Manchester recently, Soviet Jewry groups in the city were only told at the very last moment and had to make hurried arrangements to hold demonstrations. Chief city executive Robert Calderwood had previously accused them of being responsible for a breakdown in relations between Leningrad and Manchester. During a civic reception at the Town Hall, a 140-strong protest demonstration was held outside. Mrs Sylvia Sheff, chairman of the 35s campaign for Soviet Jews, said she had been promised by the city council leader that when visitors from the USSR came to Manchester, the 35s would be brought in to meet them and to put forward their view about the treatment of Jews.

The Liverpool City Council decided after an emotional debate to end the twinning link the city has had with the Black Sea port of Odessa since 1955. The resolution, proposed by Liberal Councillor Cyril Carr, stressed "the distaste felt by Liverpool for the harassment and persecution of individuals seeking to monitor observance of the Helsinki agreement, or to join their families abroad". The resolution called on other local government authorities to associate themselves with their action and to take similar steps. All Labour members of the Council voted for the maintenance of ties with Odessa and called instead for strong protests via the Russian Embassy, and persuasion.

As a protest against violation of human rights, NALGO (National and Local Officers Association) has cancelled its invitation to its Russian counterpart, which was to have made a goodwill visit.

In Bournemouth, the National Council for Soviet Jewry held a seminar attended by over a hundred representatives of many countries. Among those present was Israel Zalmanson, the brother of Silva Zalmanson.

SOVIET ANTISEMITISM IN TORONTO

Visitors to a Soviet space display mounted in the Toronto Science Centre found themselves handed, along with space literature, a booklet entitled "The Sword of David". This contained such statements as: The Torah and Talmud "recommend deceiving the non-Jew . . . and taking his money". Distribution of all literature from the display was banned by the Centre's director immediately he learned of the book's contents.

Following a complaint from the Canadian Jewish Congress, a Soviet Embassy press attaché said that the distribution had been accidental and that the 78-page booklet had been intended for staff training, not general circulation.

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Margot Pottlitzer

A PHILANTHROPIST'S STORY

The life of refugee Arthur Hubert is remarkable for many reasons. It has just been described, modestly and unassumingly, in a book by Simon Kalisch, M.A., a Jewish scholar and descendant of the last leader of the Pressburg orthodox Jewish community, with prefaces by both the present chief rabbi Dr. Jakobovits, and his predecessor Sir Israel Brodie, and by Lord Fisher of Camden, President of the Board of Deputies*. It is a work of love, without any claim to literary eminence, but very readable for the sake of the story it has to tell. It does not matter that a few minor errors have crept in due to the fact that the author comes from an equally orthodox, but otherwise very different background with a different political experience, a fact which does not detract from the fascination it holds for readers whose own experience and background is again totally different.

For nearly a century before the rise of National Socialism, the Frankfurt orthodox community, was the most important spiritual focus of religious Judaism. It radiated into the surrounding countryside, the old Prussian Province of Hesse-Nassau where there were strong and active Jewish orthodox communities in small towns and villages. At the same time, under the influence of French occupation under Napoleon, emancipation had come to this region at an earlier date, and contacts with the Gentile neighbours were friendly and frequent.

This is the background against which the history of the Hubert family must be seen, of a family, moreover, which claimed to have descended from a Huguenot refugee converted to Judaism. As the author puts it: in the new vibrant economic order, the Jews quickly emerged as notable industrialists, and as in-

ventive and skilful merchants. "Many an erstwhile pedlar developed into a name of international repute, and many a gold- or silversmith into a widely known bullion-broker". He could have added that they brought their religious tradition of charity and community spirit into this new sphere, and many Jewish and non-Jewish charities and cultural foundations of the region relied to a large extent on their contributions. The Nazis found it less than easy to end this happy state of affairs.

The Huberts had lived in the small town of Schlüchtern, which even now has barely 6,000 inhabitants, for generations. They were active in many branches of the metal trade. Hubert, educated at Fulda, another centre of Jewish orthodoxy, joined the family firm and married Martha Goldschmidt who came from a background similar to his own, and who throughout his life shared his preoccupation with work for the welfare of less fortunate people. The business at first did not unduly suffer from Nazi interference after 1933, but as many Jews left the small town and either emigrated or settled somewhere where they were less conspicuous, Arthur and Martha Hubert strove to keep Jewish life going. When he was sent to Buchenwald concentration camp after the 1938 November pogroms, the firm was closed down. After his release, the family moved to Frankfurt, where their young son Walter attended the famous Philanthropin school. Of his 38 fellow-pupils, he was the only one to survive. It was due to Martha Hubert's brother who had earlier emigrated to Blackburn that they were eventually able to join him—almost at the very last moment. They arrived penniless and without labour permits—like so many others to await their visas to

go to the United States. When their belongings were held up in Holland, they were unable to pay the freight and lost everything they had been able to bring with them, including a Torah.

When war broke out, Arthur Hubert was interned for a while, and after his release he worked as night-watchman in a Blackburn warehouse. It was at that time that he began to take an active interest in the life of the Jewish community, which by then included many evacuees from London. Later on he became foreman at a metal factory, and eventually he was employed by Tom Martin (London) as a metal buyer—at £4 per week. He was so successful that he eventually went into business with one of the owners, and this was the beginning of a fantastic rise from rags to riches, as the Chief Rabbi says in his Foreword.

To the degree that his circumstances improved, his involvement with community matters and his contributions to religious and charitable causes increased. To follow his meteoric career, it is necessary to read the book in detail. It can only be mentioned in this short review that in 1964 his firm was floated on the London Stock Exchange and expanded steadily ever after. Its leading position in the metal reclaiming trade remained unchallenged. Nowadays its twenty-five operating companies employ a strike-free labour force of more than 850. The Group includes the largest aluminium smelter in the U.K. and makes a vital contribution to the balance of payments.

During all this time, a large part of Hubert's income has been devoted to further Jewish religious education by supporting Yeshivahs and seminaries for gifted students, by creating scholarships for talmudic and rabbinic studies and by helping to set up Jewish day-schools. In Israel, he is a supporter of the Jerusalem Kol Torah Yeshivah, founded by the late Rabbi Kunstadt, the former Dayan of Fulda, and the Jerusalem Academy established by his old friend and mentor from Manchester, Rabbi Horovitz, the former Rabbi of Mainz. He is a founder-member of the Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan from which he holds an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He received it at the same time as Prime Minister Begin received his. Even in America he is held in high honour because he made vast donations to the Beth-Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, New Jersey, founded in 1943 as a centre of learning for gifted refugee students and staffed by refugee scholars. His services to this country were recognised by the award of an O.B.E.

Arthur Hubert's wife and son are equally active in many fields. His son Walter who is a director of the family firm shares in all his father's charitable enterprises and has embraced two causes of his own: cancer research and football. As an enthusiastic football fan, he was made a director of Blackburn Rovers and it is said that he is probably the only director of any football club who never watches his team on a Saturday afternoon.

During the whole of his career, Arthur Hubert was in contact with and influenced by leaders of Jewish Orthodox learning in and from Germany, and we meet many well-known and well-remembered names in his life-story. In Lakewood he was invested as a "Distinguished Laureate of Torah Philanthropy". The Chief Rabbi sums up his admiration for him by saying that "his story is one of the great epics of Anglo-Jewry inscribed . . . in numerous institutions of Jewish learning now gracing the educational landscape in this country, in Israel, and even in the United States".

* Simon Kalisch, M.A., *A Builder of Judaism, the Story of Arthur Hubert and his Family*, Boaz House Publications, Manchester, 1978. 144 pp. £3.75.

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Eva G. Reichmann

"WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING"

A Study of the "Frontbund"

The literature on the catastrophe that overtook German Jewry has assumed gigantic proportions. This is as it should be. Even if other historic events threaten to push it into the background of the consciousness of our times: *nostra res agitur*—*nostra res* not as a historical episode slowly dissolving into the past, but rather as an event which perpetually revives itself in and with us with all its riddles awaiting ultimate elucidation.

It is therefore to be welcomed that an ever increasing number of young historians on the scene of the events, in Germany, are endeavouring to face the phenomenon. Even though some of their attempts may still cause misgivings because they fight shy of unambiguously condemning the Nazi crimes, it may be said—and we hope that it may be said for a long time to come—that the really important efforts to illuminate the dark corners of these events are clearly intended to show them up for what they really were: extremes of abysmal depravity which defy even the occasional attempt to explain them away as misguided idealism.

In this maze of evil confusion it is encouraging to find even modest attempts to contribute to an understanding of the inconceivable. Such a modest attempt is the book of a young German historian, Ulrich Dunker "Der Reichsbund Juedischer Frontsoldaten, 1919-1938. Geschichte eines juedischen Abwehrver-

eins" (Droste-Verlag, Duesseldorf 1977. DM 48.—).

The "Frontbund" was a marginal phenomenon in the great German-Jewish confrontation of those years. Equally, its history, its organisation, its activities and its end were marginal aspects of the fateful struggle which took place between the First World War and the final victory of Nazism. Every detail of this marginal phenomenon has been thoroughly and conscientiously researched and described by the author. Whereas monographs on the leading Jewish organisations, such as the *Centralverein* and the Zionist Federation, are still either missing or incomplete, this study is an extremely accomplished and—as far as possible in view of the scarcity of source-material—complete description of the emergence, the activities and the end of the Frontbund. Not infrequently, the author goes even beyond his actual subject. He describes the social and economic development of German Jewry from the beginning of the twentieth century, and provides an instructive survey of the history of antisemitism from the foundation of the German Reich to the outbreak of the First World War. 120 pages of sometimes very illuminating foot-notes and a detailed bibliography complete the well-researched and thorough book.

The history of a marginal phenomenon—but it is just the limitation of the subject matter which movingly stresses the limitless tragedy part of which it describes. The very existence of a defence organisation set up by Jewish ex-servicemen to vindicate their reputation against the reproach of Jewish cowardice must be regarded as a lamentable German speciality. The accusation that Jews who, in their overwhelming majority felt themselves completely German, had shirked their duty during the war goes back to its very be-

ginning. It reaches its climax with the "Juden-zählung", i.e. a census of Jews serving in the front-line, which took place on October 11, 1916. The result was never published. Allegedly, its motive was an intention to refute hostile denigration of Jewish front-line fighters. However, leaving aside motives and results: the stigma with which the census branded Jewish soldiers and civilians at the same time has never been healed. A league of Jewish ex-servicemen was set up to vindicate the honour of Jewish soldiers. What had been intended to expose Jewish disgrace, disgraced those who had provoked such self-justification.

The establishment of the Frontbund was one of many tragic necessities forced upon the Jews by the progressing antisemitism of those days. It tried—not always without success—to counteract continuing attempts to deprive the Jews of their rights by producing statistical proof, correcting notorious misrepresentations and at a later date by providing facilities for occupational re-training, by resettlement, by physically protecting individuals and meetings against attacks, by submitting memoranda and by discussions with politicians who were still accessible.

At first, its efforts proved not entirely unsuccessful. The most notable success was the introduction of a clause into the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service of April 7, 1933, which established the right to continue in their professions not only for Jewish civil servants who had held office before August 1, 1914, but also for Jewish ex-servicemen and for the fathers and sons of Jews killed in the First World War. This meant, it is true, a breach in the solidarity of Jewish victims of Nazi legislation by according privileges to certain categories, but the desire to retain the greatest possible number of Jews in employment still played such a paramount

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- 6 Nov. Paul Friedmann: "France—Selected Beauty Spots" (with colour slides).
- 13 Nov. John P. Barlow, Civ. Eng.: "London's Guides and Taxi-drivers".
- 20 Nov. F. C. Fifer, B.Sc., Ph.D.: "Travels in Brazil" (illustrated with slides).
- 27 Nov. Dr. Hans Freyhan: "Franz Schubert—Eine Wuerdigung anlaesslich seines 150. Todestages".
- 4 Dec. Dr. Alfred Halberstamm: "The Lighter side of the Law".
- 11 Dec. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: "Gerson von Bleichroeder, der letzte Hofjude—Bismarck und der deutsche Antisemitismus".
- 18 Dec. Celebration of 35th Anniversary of the Club. Details will be announced in the next issue.

1979

8 Jan. Dr. Kurt Pfueger: "Gedanken und Erinnerungen".

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"WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING" (contd.)

part in the thinking of the majority that this partial success was, on the whole, accepted.

Very soon, however, the satisfaction gave way to growing misgivings. Not only did the Frontbund boast unreservedly of its achievements, it was also realised that the success had been obtained at the expense of considerable ideological compromises, which more and more German Jews regarded as lacking in dignity. The partial success, even though it conferred benefits on a not inconsiderable minority, had torn the threatened Jewish community deeply asunder. It became increasingly obvious that under its chairman Captain Leo Loewenstein, the Frontbund disregarded the needs for a common defence and clearly fawned on the political foe in order to gain special privileges. All too soon, the limit of dishonour was surpassed. Intoxicated by its initial success, the Frontbund accepted the facts of life as presented by the Nazis. The break with the rest of the Jewish community, subjected to ever increasing harassment, became unavoidable.

The story which Ulrich Dunker has to relate of the years after 1933 is deeply shameful. The Frontbund's declarations of loyalty to the Nazi régime became steadily more unconditional. Without hesitation it used Nazi terminology and eventually did not refrain from solemnly adopting the *Fuehrerprinzip*. At first one still makes a vague reservation that the principle had in the first place been a measure introduced by the "national revolution", furthermore endangering the German Jews, but it was pointed out that this should not prevent the "realisation of the great advantages of the principle for the State and for all other communities". Henceforth, it would no longer be possible to "paralyse" the "strength and resolution of the leadership by deviating opinions". This proclamation established the Frontbund's complete break with the democratic republican constitution. It promised unambiguously "to educate German Youth in accordance with the doctrine of the present State", and, resolutely turning its back on all hitherto held ideas, it declared that "henceforth within German Jewry only those tendencies would prevail which were based on the national, military and social tenets of the present State".

There was no end to the renunciation of former loyalties. It was a dismal mockery of

the past. A nadir in this process was reached in a conversation between Captain Loewenstein and the Personal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, Legationsrat von Stutterheim, who noted in the minutes of the conversation: Loewenstein stated that the aims of the Frontbund could be better and more purely realised within the Nazi State than in the previous "Marxist State dominated by Jews which the Frontbund had always explicitly rejected".

Ulrich Dunker, the author, is a faithful chronicler of this development. Occasionally, he is also its cautious critic, for instance when he implies that the appeal to youth "to conform unconditionally" and to exercise "the soldierly virtues of discipline, readiness to fight, and loyal comradeship" was more suited to disguise than objectively to describe the situation. In a felicitous phrase, he repeatedly refers to the attitude of the League as "super-adjustment". And yet, this chary criticism, however understandable when proffered by a young German, is, of course, insufficient. The policy of the Frontbund was not a "fateful error", but rather an unscrupulous attempt to secure dishonourable advantages for a group of Jews that, seen against the background of real representation of German Jewry, was small and by no means representative.

At the same time, the legitimate representation, the *Reichsvertretung* created and supported by the great Jewish organisations, fought its brave, conscientious and realistic campaign against the common enemy. In the beginning it was fought not without the hope of a tolerable solution. Later the hope grew weaker and eventually it faded away. At the end of the day, only the resistance against relentlessly increasing despair dictated the measures that could still be taken. The understanding of even these desperate measures necessitates a degree of empathy from later generations which is not readily available. They have led to not a few misunderstandings among the survivors and those who claim to speak on their behalf, because they lack both the indispensable knowledge and appreciation. Only too often, misjudgements and misrepresentations distort the presentation of the terrible reality which the unfortunate victims had to endure. It is therefore not surprising that now and then such mis-

representations have also found their way into Dunker's record.

In order to understand what Dunker indulgently calls "super-adjustment", it must be emphasised that this vain attempt was not the only way open to the Jews. We must compare it with the attitude of the official *Reichsvertretung* which, in contrast to the Frontbund, followed its desperate way in blameless dignity, resisting an overwhelming fate whilst burdened by the knowledge of its inevitable failure.

Should it ever be possible to present the Jewish catastrophe in Germany in a way which is equal to the monstrous triumph of evil celebrating its infernal victories, the Frontbund, playing its part in the tragedy, will have to exchange the fool's cap for a black fool's helmet with an impenetrable visor, for even the depressing fool's bustle which today makes such sad and shameful reading had once started from misjudged truths of vital, if misjudged validity.

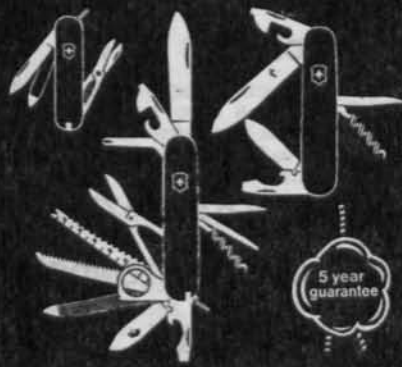
50 YEARS WEST CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE

The 50th anniversary of the West Central Liberal Synagogue, founded by the Hon. Lily and Marian Montagu was celebrated as a civil service, attended by the Mayor of Camden and representatives of the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues. During the war, after its place of worship was destroyed by a landmine, the present building in Whitfield Street was built. Fourteen persons attending the service, had been members for 50 years and were presented with commemorative certificates. Two of them are over 90. The present president, Mr. Jeremy Montagu is a great-nephew of the founders.

BEVIS MARKS SERVICE FOR MONASH BRANCH, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

At a rededication service in the Bevis Marks synagogue, members of the Monash Branch of the Royal British Legion were joined by representatives of the Spanish and Portuguese community, and of Australia and the City of London. There followed a reception in the church hall of St. Botolph Without, which was addressed by Mr. Martin Savitt. He warned against those who wished to belittle the Legion's war effort and "rewrite history", and pleaded that black, brown and white people should fight together in peace as in war.

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

PRESIDENT SCHEEL VISITS BERLIN COMMUNAL CENTRE

On September 13, Federal President Walter Scheel paid a visit to the Fasanenstrasse Communal Centre in Berlin. He was welcomed by the Chairman of the Community, Herr Heinz Galinski. In his address, the President stated that, as in former times, the Berlin Jewish community was the largest one in Germany. He recalled the names of Jewish Berliners who had made outstanding contributions to Germany's political and cultural life. "It is important for us", the President said, "that we find a proper relationship with our Jewish fellow citizens. The few Jews who live in our midst are not Israelis or foreigners but German fellow citizens. Even today it is not easy for a Jew to live and to remain in Germany. Such a decision calls for a great strength of forgiveness. Let us be thankful to them. It must never happen again that the fate of a German is determined by the fact that he is of Jewish descent."

PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS "HOLOCAUST"

The German Federal Parliament will have to discuss the advisability of showing the Holocaust film in German, the performance of which is scheduled for the beginning of next year. Deputy Olaf Schwencke (SPD) has submitted a parliamentary question asking whether the Federal Government shares his objection against showing the film, or what it intends to do at least to prepare the broadcast by introducing it with qualified historical and educational explanations. Deputy Schwencke refers to the superficiality and the factual mistakes of the film and describes it as a commercial horror style production.

JEWISH SUBJECTS IN SCHOOLBOOKS

The fifth German-Israeli schoolbook conference has just ended. It was also attended by educationalists from Britain, France, Austria, and the Netherlands. The generally agreed conclusion was that Judaism was usually mentioned in history books in connection with medieval history and the history of National Socialism, but no mention was made about what has happened since. Professor Schallenger of Duisburg University said there was a difference between discrimination against minorities and antisemitism: while there was discrimination against Turkish "guest-workers" in Germany, nobody had ever doubted Turkey's right to exist. Auschwitz should not be treated as a "historical chamber of horrors", it should be examined and researched within the framework of the history of its time. It was hoped that the results of the congress would be reflected in new history-books in all countries.

CHAGALL'S STAINED GLASS FOR MAINZ CHURCH

Marc Chagall's wife, Valentina, representatives of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish communities, and many others recently attended a service in St. Stephan's Church, Mainz, at which a stained glass window by the 91-year-old artist was consecrated. Chagall himself could not attend the ceremony for reasons of health.

The window is in six parts and depicts scenes and symbols from the Old Testament. It was the gift of the Rhineland-Palatinate Government and is the first such work which Chagall has carried out for a church in Germany. An exhibition in his honour has also been opened in the Mainz museum.

JEWISH MUSEUM IN WEST BERLIN

The Society for a Jewish Museum in Berlin, jointly with the Berlin Museum, recently arranged an exhibition at which the works by Jewish artists were on show. As the director of Berlin Museum, Professor Dr. Irmgardt Wirth, reported it is intended to re-erect the famous Ephraim Palais next to the Berlin Museum in the Lindenstrasse and to use it for the permanent exhibition of works pertinent to Jewish art, history and religion. It is expected that the foundation stone for the old-new building will be laid next year and that the Jewish Museum, which is to be administered as a Jewish department of the Berlin Museum, will be ready in 1982.

NEW OLD-AGE HOME IN BERLIN

As the present Jewish old-age home in Berlin's Iranische Strasse does not satisfy modern requirements, the foundation-stone for a large home for senior citizens was laid in Charlottenburg (close to the Lietzensee) in the presence of civic and Jewish dignitaries. The Charlottenburg town council had agreed to give the building-plot to the Jewish community, and both the Berlin Senate and the Charlottenburg Council contributed substantially to the building costs.

FRANKFURT CEMETERY DESECRATED

In the nights from September 2-3 and 4-5, the historical Rat-Beil-Strasse Jewish cemetery where many outstanding Jewish personalities are buried, was desecrated. No less than 134 tombstones were turned over and some of the stones were severely damaged. So far, the culprits could not be found.

DORTMUND INVITES FORMER CITIZENS

Since 1973, the City of Dortmund has invited former citizens, who had been forced to leave the town under the Nazis. Many have already accepted the invitation, which includes hospitality and contributions to travel and other expenses. Enquiries about details should be addressed to: Oberbuergermeister Samtlebe, Suedwall 2-4, 4600 Dortmund 1, West Germany.

BERTHA PAPPENHEIM REMEMBERED

At Neu-Isenburg near Frankfurt, a bust of Bertha Pappenheim, founder of the German League of Jewish Women, was placed in the central library, and a plaque was put on the former Home for Unmarried Mothers and their children which she ran in the town. Bertha Pappenheim was born in Vienna in 1859 and died in Neu-Isenburg in 1936. She was also the subject of a long study by Sigmund Freud who analysed her. The original home was burned down in 1938.

STREET FIGHTS IN MANNHEIM

During a congress of the Baden National Democratic Party (NPD), 3,000 Left-wing demonstrators clashed with party members. One demonstrator was seriously injured, and 76 people were arrested. Subsequently, the mayor banned a Sunday afternoon demonstration of the NPD and a police force of 1,200 men had to keep order.

FURTHER WAR CRIMES TRIALS IN THE GDR

Dr. Przybylski, attorney-general of the East German Republic, said in a TV interview, that in the German Democratic Republic further war crime trials might be held for years to come. In his view, it was impossible to uncover completely crimes by state organisations which had been directed from above. Some war criminals were still abroad with forged identity documents, or living under assumed names, or changing their abode so often that it was difficult to apprehend them. If such people were caught, they would be brought to justice at any time.

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THE ISRAELI SCENE

ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC REPORT

Although the Israeli inflation rate is running at over 40 per cent, a cheering note is struck by a recent CBI survey, which states: "... Direct exports—perhaps the ultimate test of an economy's viability—are expanding at heartwarming rates". Following the August Fashion Week held in London, it was stated that British imports of Israeli clothes have this year already exceeded the total for 1977. A similar Fashion Week will be held in August, 1979.

NEW AIR CHARTER POLICY

No restrictions on foreign nationals traveling by charter plane to Israel will operate in future. Previously, only nationals of the country of departure could make use of such flights.

RECORD OF TOURISTS

During the first seven months of 1978, the number of British tourists in Israel totalled 55,300, a rise of 25 per cent on last year. Nearly 50,000 of them went by air, an increase of 31 per cent.

NEW ARMY JOBS FOR GIRLS

During their army service, girls can now volunteer to work in tank training stations. They have to learn to drive and service tanks in order to be able to train the men who will use them. They are, however, not to take part in the actual battle training.

NEW USES FOR MANURE

Israeli scientists have discovered a process by which cattle manure is used for the manufacture of fibreboard, and chicken droppings are turned into protein-rich cattle-feed.

END OF TEACHERS STRIKE

Only two days after Israel's schools had opened their doors for the winter term, 60,000 teachers came out on strike for higher pay. Nearly a million children were affected. The only teachers not taking part were those in schools for the handicapped and for new immigrant children, and those working along the border with Lebanon. On the following day, 15,000 teachers in State religious schools resumed work after the Sephardi Chief Rabbi, Oviadia Yossed had ruled that depriving children of learning violated rabbinical law. However they restricted lessons to religious subjects. Rabbi Shlomo Goren, the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, ruled that the strike did not violate rabbinical law, but that religious studies should be pursued. The remaining teachers resumed work after the Camp David agreement, stating that they felt it "their duty" to be with our children at this historic time. They added that they would continue to claim 35 per cent pay rise and other benefits.

ROMAN ANCHOR FIND

Israeli archaeologists excavated a 2,000-year-old Roman anchor on a beach south of Haifa. It is made from wood and lead, is five metres long and weighs 1½ tons. Later on it will be displayed in the Haifa Maritime Museum.

GRAPES FROM THE PAST

During excavations near Tel Aviv, archaeologists found undamaged grapes, complete with skin and pips, from the late Canaanite period, shortly before Moses sent his messengers who came back laden with vines.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

BRITISH TRADE UNIONS AS MEDIATORS

The Israel Histadruth has asked the British TUC to act as intermediary between the Arab and Israel trade unions. At the recent TUC congress in Brighton, a representative of the Histadruth, Mr Aharon Barnea, said that trade unions in Arab countries operated under severe constraints, but the Histadruth was eager to establish links with them. He asked TUC leaders who maintain contacts with Arab unions, to tell them about this.

EGYPT HELPS TO REPAIR MOSQUE

During President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last year, his deputy, Dr. Tohami, promised to the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Teddy Kollek, that Egypt would help to restore the pulpit in the El Aksa Mosque which was badly damaged by a fire started by a mentally deranged Australian tourist in 1969. Egypt is the only Arab country with architects and craftsmen specialising in the type of repairs required. Dr. Tohami wrote to Mr. Kollek that this was an attempt to break through the barriers of darkness by peaceful co-operation.

BALLET COMPANY IN TROUBLE

After a successful tour of London, the Bathsheva Dance Company had to cancel its proposed tour of South Africa because the Government refused further subsidies and there would have been a deficit of £17,200. The company receives an annual subsidy of £158,000. At the end of the short London season, they had difficulty in settling their hotel bills and the Israeli Ministry of Education had to send the money after receiving guarantees from local supporters and the Israeli Embassy in Britain. Mr. Paul Sanasardo, the Ballet's noted American choreographer, said Israel would have to decide whether it wanted a national dance company.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH EGYPT

Telephone and telegraph links between Israel and Egypt have been re-established. They were originally set up via the international exchange after President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, but when the bilateral negotiations broke down in January, the Egyptians stopped accepting incoming calls. Journalists in Cairo and Tel Aviv have now begun again to send reports to each others' newspapers.

KNESSET MEMBERS MEET PLO

Israeli Ministers have called for a report on a meeting between two members of the Knesset and a Palestine Liberation Organisation representative which took place at a reception held by the Mayor of Bonn for 500 delegates to the conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The meeting between Mr. Avraham Melamed of the National Religious party, Mr. Mordechai Wirshubski of the Left-wing Shinui Party, and Abdullah al-Franji of the PLO was arranged by British journalist Edwin Roth. Both men said they had explained to the PLO representative that Israel could not agree to the inclusion of the PLO in Middle East peace talks as long as it maintained its murderous activities against Israel. Other Knesset members in Bonn refused to talk to PLO men, as it was Israel's policy that there could be no contacts whatsoever with the PLO, because they were not prepared to talk to murderers.

CONSIDERATE MOSLEMS

Moslem religious dignitaries have responded to a request by Mayor Teddy Kollek and scores of Jewish inhabitants to lessen the volume of the calls to prayer-broadcast from the minarets of mosques all over Jerusalem every morning and at other times of the day. The early morning calls were so loud that they disturbed the sleep of residents.

Walter Schwab

A DISPUTATIOUS CROWD

Jewish Socialists of Various Outlooks

Norah Levin, an American Professor of Modern History, says on page 420 of her book* that Jewish Socialists from Eastern Europe were notoriously disputatious. This statement is amply proved by her detailed descriptions, as it were a blow-by-blow account of the rise and progress of Jewish Socialist movements in the U.S.A., Russia and Palestine.

One of the author's difficulties is to define who was or was not a Jewish Socialist. Apparently you could be a Jew and a Socialist, but this did not necessarily make you a Jewish Socialist. Karl Marx was a Jew, although he did not regard himself as one, and certainly was a Socialist. But he was not a Jewish Socialist since he did great harm to the Jewish cause by advocating the elimination of Judaism which in his view had become the embodiment of *Schacherei*—huckstering. Even worse, as the author points out, there were Jewish revolutionaries in the *Narodnik* movement who saw something good in pogroms as being the instinctive outpouring of the anger of the Russian masses against their oppressors.

This inner conflict bedevilled the Jewish Socialist Movement. It became even clearer with the emergence of Zionism as a welcome alternative to the kind of Socialism which might resolve the plight of the Jewish masses but only at the expense of their Jewishness. The conflict was well stated by the poet Abraham Liessin: "When I learned I was a convinced Marxist, I also discovered I was not a Russian, not just a human being (which is merely an abstraction) but a Jew. Marxism intensified my sense of reality, and the reality surrounding me was Jewish". He eventually gravitated to the *Bundist* philosophy, but only after the *Bund* itself had developed a positive attitude to Jewish culture. In a sense the conflict was resolved by the establishment of Socialist Zionism, erected on the philosophical basis expounded by Nachman Syrkin in Zurich in 1898 and later published as *Die Judenfrage und der sozialistische Judenstaat*.

Professor Levin devotes the last part of her work to the development of this ideology in Palestine with special reference to the establishment of communal settlements and the relationships, such as they were, with the indigenous Arab workers.

The author has covered a great deal of ground in this important book and has gathered together a lot of material not otherwise readily available. Not all this material, interesting though it is in itself, is essential to the main theme of the work. It might have helped if some drastic editorial pruning had been undertaken before the book was actually published.

* Norah Levin: *Jewish Socialist Movements 1871-1917*. While Messiah Tarried. The Littman Library of Jewish Civilisation. Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978. £9.

LOST SISTER FOUND

Mr. Walter Wynate of Torquay is preparing to go to Israel to meet his sister from whom he had not heard for over 30 years. In 1948, when his name was Wolf Weinblum, he saw her at a Displaced Persons camp in Regensburg. Both came from Poland. He had come to England in 1938 and immediately after the war traced his sister, the only survivor of his family, in the camp. Soon afterwards she left the camp and he lost all contact with her. Last January, through the Israeli Ministry of the Interior, he got in touch with somebody who knew her. She had married in Israel and now lives in Rehovot.

MISCELLANEOUS

UNREQUITED LOVE?

During the Weymouth world sailing championships, a 19-year-old art student, Miss Stacey Rosenberg, gave red roses and a kiss to one of the winning Russian crew members and handed him a letter in Russian, pleading the case of Soviet Jews and dissidents. The Russian read the letter and shouted: "Not correct". Subsequently, one of the deputations from Bournemouth's Campaign for Soviet Jews spoke to him in German and he replied in German that the reports in the Western Press and on TV were not true, and that the dissidents were "not good".

MASTER BUTCHER

The newly elected master of the Worshipful Company of Butchers in the City of London is Mr. Jack Clarfelt, deputy chairman of the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and director of National Farmers Union Holdings Ltd. He is a qualified solicitor who, at 64, has spent half of his life in the meat business. His family has been in the meat trade for four generations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POST

Mr. Basil Feldman, managing director of Dunbee-Combex-Marx Ltd, the manufacturers of toys and do-it-yourself products, has been appointed chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the Clothing Industry by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Feldman is also a member of the GLC arts committee.

CHANGES IN WJC LEADERSHIP

Lord Fisher, now chairman of the World Jewish Council's governing board, has resigned as chairman of the European branch. He is succeeded by Mr. Maurice Grynvoel, president of the French section. A new vice-chairman of the European branch is Mr. Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.

HOPE FOR SURVIVAL

Mr. Abraham Carmel, a former Catholic priest who was received into Judaism by the London Beth Din in 1953, and who is now a teacher at a New York Yeshiva, said during a recent visit to London, the young leadership so badly lacking in Britain should come from Carmel College where Mr. Carmel taught from 1951 to 1959, and from Jewish day schools. The Jewish community's high divorce and low birth rate amounted to communal suicide. Mr. Carmel has taught English and comparative religion in Brooklyn since 1963 and said he regretted that lay leaders in communal affairs did not use him more, especially for fund-raising for Israel, because he was suspect as a proselyte, but he was a fervent religious Zionist. After his return to America, he will celebrate the silver jubilee of his conversion by dedicating himself to "converting Jews to Judaism". In three years, when he is due for retirement, he will go to Israel. His conversion, 25 years ago, was the first of a fully ordained Catholic priest since the eleventh century.

"ROADS TO CONFLICT"

A ten-part series on the Arab-Jewish conflict and its origins is being shown on BBC-1 over the next two months. It has been produced by the BBC's further education department in order to give viewers "a clear grasp of the facts which have created the present intractable and volatile situation." The programme, called "Roads to Conflict" was filmed in Israel, Jordan, London, and the United States. It will show the development of Palestine since the days of the Ottoman Empire and the beginnings of both the Zionist and Arab nationalist movements.

POST OFFICE USERS COUNCIL

Mrs. Barbara Creme, of Sale, chairman of the management committee of the Jewish Home for the Blind at Southport, has been appointed a member of the Post Office Users' national council.

HANS FEIBUSCH EXHIBITION

It is not surprising that a gifted artist can readily turn with equal success from one medium to another. Hans Feibusch, famous as a mural artist, with much of his work adorning churches and other buildings, including the West London Synagogue, has now turned to sculpture as a result of eye trouble from which he has now largely recovered. He was born in Frankfurt-on-Main in 1898 and first studied medicine in Munich before turning to art. At first he worked in Frankfurt, receiving the Prussian State Gold Medal in 1931, but with the advent of the Nazis he was forced to leave and settled in England. An exhibition, marking his 80th birthday, was recently held at the Orangery, Holland Park and comprised a large number of sculptures, including a number of portrait busts, as well as some large gouaches and studies for murals executed in London, Chichester, Coventry, Portsmouth and elsewhere throughout the country. His three-dimensional work is finely formed and boldly executed, but to me his wall paintings will always stand out for their strong colours and masterful designs. He hesitantly describes himself as "an old worked-out painter playing with clay", but the work displayed at this exhibition is evidence enough of the creative impulse that he still retains.

ALICE SCHWAB

A JEWISH SCHOLAR

Professor Jack Winegreen has retired after 41 years as Professor of Hebrew at Trinity College, Dublin. During this time, he only once took leave of absence: in 1946/47 he went to Belsen as director of education, and he, together with his wife, Bertha, did sterling work in the rehabilitation of survivors under the aegis of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad. Among his many books of scholarship, his "Practical Grammar of Classical Hebrew", published in 1939, still sells some 4,000 copies a year.

FAMILY EVENTS

Births

Wiener.—On September 29, to Melanie and Stephen Wiener, a daughter, Caroline Michelle, granddaughter to Hans and Gerda Wiener, and Natalie and Jack Goldwhite.

Birthdays

Suschitzky. — Mrs. Adele Suschitzky from Vienna, now at Osmond House, will be 100 years old on November 19. Her son, and his wife, her three grandchildren with their families (seven great-grandchildren) wish her many more happy years.

Deaths

Apt.—Mrs. Elli Apt, of Clara Nehab House, passed away peacefully on September 23 in her 78th year. Deeply mourned by her cousin, Miss A. Nussbaum and many friends.

Gruenblatt.—Esther Gruenblatt, widow of Joel, mother of Rahel and Ruth, died suddenly in full possession of her faculties on September 21 at the age of 87. Greatly missed by her family and friends, to whom she was kind to the last.

Jacoby.—On September 27, in his 86th year, Edgar Jacob, husband of the late Emmi Jacoby and father of Marianne and Hanni.

Strauss.—Edith Strauss (née Kornfeld), of 5 Westly Court, Dartmouth Road, London, N.W.2 (formerly Beuthen/Berlin), passed away on October 8, aged 77, after a severe illness, courageously borne. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her husband, brother, family and friends.

Weisenbeck.—Our beloved mother, Clara Weisenbeck (née Hess), of 122 Empire Court, Wembley Park, widow of the late Alfred Weisenbeck (Munich) passed peacefully away on September 16 in her 98th year. Deeply mourned by her daughters and sons-in-law, Marianne and Josef Bronner, and Irene and Ernest Baer, nieces, nephews and many friends. She was loved and respected by all who knew her.

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IN MEMORIAM

1938/39: TWO MEN WHO RESCUED THE VICTIMS

Robert Auty, professor of Slavonic Philology at Oxford, has died recently, aged 63. Jewish refugees have a lot to thank him for. In 1938, he was assistant lecturer in German at Cambridge university, where his circle of friends included a number of refugees from Nazi Germany. On November 10, he went to Munich and successfully negotiated for the release of Dachau prisoners. In addition, with a list of names provided by the Cambridge Refugees Committee and in answer to many personal appeals on the spot, he set about tracing numerous Jews right across Germany and secured their release and their early departure from the country. He became known as "the modern Pimpernel" amongst the hundreds who owed their lives to him. After the outbreak of war, he worked with the Czech Government in Exile in London, and after 1943 with the Foreign Office. Until the end of his life, he remained in touch with many of those he had rescued and who had started new and successful lives in this country.

In August 1938, on the initiative of the Council for German Jewry and the Central British Fund, the Plough Settlement Association Ltd. was incorporated to settle refugees from Germany on farms in Kenya. A local committee was set up there and Colonel A. Dunstan Adams, a leading Nairobi chartered accountant, who died recently, looked after the administration. The Colonel, a non-Jew, administered the scheme over a quarter of a century, and its success was largely due to him.

BRUNO EISNER

The pianist Bruno Eisner died in New York in his 94th year. Born in Vienna, he became famous by the concerts he gave all over Europe during his earlier years. For some time, he also taught at the "Sternsche Konservatorium" in Berlin and the "Vogtsche Konservatorium" in Hamburg. In the U.S., he was musical tutor at several universities and ultimately concentrated his professional activities on coaching individual pupils.

PROFESSOR BERNARD HALPERN

One of France's leading medical scientists, Professor Bernard Halpern, has died, aged 74. He was born in a small Ukrainian village, and emigrated to France at the age of 15. His parents remained behind, and his mother died at Bergen-Belsen. He became a world authority on allergies. During the war, he was approached in his Paris laboratory by high-ranking Nazis who invited him to Berlin where a special laboratory would be built for him to work on his discovery in the sphere of blood categories. He was promised full immunity from persecution and offered a letter of protection signed by Hitler himself. However, on the day after his meeting with the Nazis, he went into hiding in a small village, where he continued his research until the end of the war. In 1964, he was elected a member of the French Academy of Sciences and made a Commander of the Legion d'Honneur. He wrote over 400 scientific books and treatises and was a life-long active Zionist.

HORACE REECE

With the sudden death of Horace Reece, aged 64, the small Worcester Jewish community lost one of its leading members. He was born Horst Riesenburger in Germany, and after a spell at Dachau, obtained a permit to go to Britain. At one time he was head gardener of the city of Worcester, later, until his recent retirement, a teacher at Pershore High School. He took an active interest in community affairs and became hon. secretary of the Worcester Hebrew Congregation where he conducted the Hebrew classes until the community became too small to support its own synagogue. Throughout his life he was active in Zionist causes, and he also worked for the local Samaritans.

RABBI DR. LEO ADLER

Rabbi Dr. Leo Adler, for 22 years rabbi of Basle, has died aged 62. He was born in Ansbach and studied at the Mir Yeshiva. He first emigrated to New York where he held the office of youth rabbi. In Switzerland he was president of the Rabbis' Association and established the first Jewish day school in Basle.

MRS. WIJSMULLER-MEIJER

Mrs. Geertruida Wijsmuller-Meijer who has died in Amsterdam, aged 82, rescued an estimated 9,000 Jews, mainly children, during the Nazi era. A few hours before the Dutch capitulation on May 15, 1940, she spirited some 200 children out of Amsterdam. She spent the war years throughout occupied Europe, rescuing thousands of refugees and on one occasion fearlessly confronted Eichmann. After the war, she was invited by the Jerusalem Yad Vashem to plant a tree dedicated to her in the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles. Her story is related in the book "Geen Tyd Voor Tranen" (No Time for Tears).

THE LATE MIRIAM WARBURG

Mrs. Frances Rubens, past President of the International Council of Jewish Women, writes:

Miriam Warburg, whose death was announced in the September issue of this journal, was one of the most imaginative thinkers I have ever met. Ideas poured out of her alert mind and the International Council of Jewish Women was fortunate in having her as its Geneva representative at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations Organisation when it obtained Consultative Status with that body in 1964. I cannot pay sufficient tribute to her dedication to her work.

She was a well-known personality in U.N. circles as was her husband who represented the B'nai B'rith. Together they devised an outstanding booklet for Human Rights Year which was highly praised by the U.N. Organisation and widely distributed. For International Women's Year Miriam devised a special leaflet which, again, was highly praised.

Owing to her husband's appointment as B'nai B'rith's representative to the European Council they moved to Strasbourg. It was largely due to Miriam's initiative that ICJW sought and gained Consultative Status with that body also and she served as its representative there until she died.

All her work for the International Council of Jewish Women was voluntary. Her devotion and the spirited way in which she went about her work will long be remembered.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

London-Berlin. Under the heading "The Seventies meet the Twenties" the London Goethe Institute organises a series of cultural events which will link the two cities and comprises many forms of art and entertainment. During November and December there will be lectures, exhibitions, concerts and film evenings. Among others, Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" and "Testament des Dr. Mabuse" as well as "Maedchen in Uniform" "Im Western nichts Neues" will be shown. A full programme of the events may be obtained from the Goethe Institute, 50 Princes Gate, London S.W.7.—Under the same auspices, there will be performances of many German films at the National Film Theatre, collectively entitled "German Entertainment Cinema", with Paul Czinner films "Der Geiger von Florenz" and "Ariane" (starring Elisabeth Bergner).

Vienna. Ferdinand Bruckner's play "Die Rassen" made a deep impression on its audience when revived by the intimate "Theater der Courage". This little theatre is the successor to one of Vienna's "Kleinkunst" cabarets of the Thirties "Der liebe Augustin", initiated and managed for many years by the "Augustin's" founder Stella Kadmon.

40 Years Ago. 1938 saw the premières of the Richard Strauss operas "Daphne" and "Friedenstag", for which a new librettist had to be found as the "Non-Aryan" Stefan Zweig was no longer "desirable". "Friedenstag" which ends with a hymn to peace enjoyed great popularity in Germany in those crisis years of 1938/39; afterwards, the operas did not succeed on any similar scale as the composer's previous works.

Birthdays. Friedrich Torberg, critic, author ("Schüler Gerber", "Hier bin ich, mein Vater", "Die Tante Jolesch") and translator (he translated Ephraim Kishon into German) is 70; Maria Reining, soprano, member of the Vienna State Opera from 1935 to 1958, best known as "Meistersinger" Eva, Arabella and Marschallin, was the subject of 75th birthday celebrations.

Obituary. Lina Carstens, the German stage and film actress about whose career and successes we reported in this column earlier this year, has died in Munich, aged 85. The versatile German star actor O. E. Hasse died in full harness at the age of 75; he had just been rehearsing the title role of Goetz's "Dr. Med. Hiob Praetorius" at the Theater am Kurfuerstendamm, Berlin. S.B.

Jewish Music for Guildhall School. A collection of Jewish music, including Israeli records and scores, founded in memory of Mr. Harry Rosenzweig, has been deposited at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is available to the public in its reference library. Mr. Rosenzweig came to Britain from Poland in 1903 and established himself as a wholesale dress manufacturer in Newcastle where he died three years ago, aged 94. He was a life-long music enthusiast.

Johanna Lichtenstern-Metzger, whose Children's Choir has often been enjoyed by the members of the AJR Club and the residents of our Old Age Homes, packed over 200 people into Holborn Central Library for an illustrated talk "Jewish Song through the Ages". Accom-

panied on the piano by her husband Paul Lichtenstern, she conducted the Kol Rinah Choir in Yiddish and Chasidish folk songs and Israeli compositions. The event was sponsored by the London Music Club.

Jewish Living Drama Limited is the name of a recently formed professional drama group which aims at creating a Jewish cultural centre for drama, music and art with a library and workshop classes. It stems from the recent season of Jewish plays at the Almost Free Theatre which was advertised and reviewed in "AJR Information". One of the founder members of the new group is Martin Landau, a former refugee and one-time director of the Ben Uri Gallery. M.P.

A GIFTED SCULPTOR

Lilliane Yauner, wife of a Brighton medical practitioner, has been commissioned by the University of Sussex to do a head of Sir Laurence Olivier. One of her other remarkable works is a bronze of Jacqueline du Pré, the brilliant cellist whose career was cut short by multiple sclerosis. The bronze, which was exhibited at the Festival Hall last year, will be sold in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Mrs. Yauner is a member of the Citroen car family, and a relative of hers, Hanan Cidor (Citroen), was at one time Israeli Ambassador at the Hague.

CENTENARIAN AT OSMOND HOUSE

On November 19, Mrs. Adele Suschitzky, a resident of Osmond House, The Bishops Avenue, N.2, will celebrate her hundredth birthday. Born in Bruenn, she came to this country from Vienna, where the Suschitzky family owned the "Anzengruber-Verlag", which was closed down at once by the Nazis. We extend our cordial congratulations to the centenarian.

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