

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

W. Rosenstock

WHERE EXODUS FAILED

German Jews in Occupied France

This month, when we are celebrating Pesach, we think of our own exodus from Germany to this country. We also remember those, who perished in the holocaust because they could not emigrate or were caught up in a Western European country during the war. A recent publication about the emigrants in France records their fate.*

The book is the first publication under a scheme, which was launched and partly financed by the "Council of Jews from Germany" at the suggestion of Professor Herbert Strauss (New York), and whose ultimate aim is a comprehensive history of the emigrated Jews from Germany in their main countries of resettlement. In the preface to the book, Ruth Fabian pays tribute to the preparatory work done by the late Dr. Kurt L. Lang.

Contrary to other countries, France was considered by most immigrants as a temporary refuge, pending a re-emigration overseas. While the total number of immigrants from Germany in France between 1933 and 1940 is estimated at 150,000, there were never more than 60,000 of them in the country at the same time.

A further difference between France and most other countries of emigration arises from the comparatively higher proportion of—non-Jewish and Jewish—political refugees. There is no strict demarcation line between political and Jewish refugees, but it is certainly no accident that the book carries the title "German" emigration. Unfortunately, some political emigrants labelled those of their fellow emigrants who had left Germany "only" because they were Jews, as "Wirtschaftsemigranten". The authors strongly dissociate themselves from this derogatory classification, stating that the non-political emigrants, too, left Germany in the first place to save their lives and not only because their economic basis in Germany was destroyed or endangered.

The book deals in its first part with the pre-war situation. The second section describes the development during the war from the beginning of the hostilities up to the occupation of the whole country. The post-war situation of the surviving refugees is briefly referred to in an Epilogue.

During the years between 1933 and 1938, the emigrants from Germany, 80 per cent of whom were Jews, had to face the hostility of antisemitic and fascist elements, last but not least in the administration. The French-born Jews were first sympathetic to them, because they considered the assimilated German Jews as people of their own cultural level. Yet gradually the old story in Jewish history re-

peated itself; like many German Jews before 1933 in their attitude to the "Ostjuden", many French Jews considered the newcomers with their alien habits as a danger to their own social and political security. Some of them, the authors note, felt so safe in their and their ancestors' homeland that even after the German occupation they could not believe that they, too, were affected by the anti-Jewish measures. On the other hand, they actively participated in the charitable work for the refugees and, to quote one example, one of the leading French-Jewish honorary officers of the responsible relief organisations, Staatsrat Jacques Helbronner shared the fate of many of his fellow Jews and was deported to Auschwitz.

Immigrants' Insecurity

The book gives a detailed survey of the various organisations in charge of the refugees. Of course, there were bound to arise difficulties also on the part of the recipients. Having been financially independent before their flight, they did not find it easy to become beneficiaries of welfare support. Another, almost unsurmountable, difficulty the emigrants had to face during the pre-war years arose from the insecurity of their status. The book carries meticulous descriptions of the various regulations governing their residence and labour permits.

A special chapter is dedicated to the manifold political and cultural activities before the war. Notwithstanding the frictions between the various political groups there were also unifying enterprises such as the creation of a "Deutsche Freiheitsbibliothek" on May 10, 1934, the first anniversary of the burning of books by the Nazis. It comprised more than 20,000 volumes, most of which were donated by emigrants, and was later linked with the "Internationale anti-faschistische Archiv", which by 1939 had collected more than 200,000 newspapers and thousands of leaflets and brochures.

The anti-alien, and even pro-German, attitude of certain sections of the French administration is, among other things, reflected in a law, promulgated as early as November, 1938, which gave the authorities the right to arrest "undesirable aliens". Significantly, this law was first put into effect on the occasion of Ribbentrop's visit to Paris on December 6, 1938, when a number of emigrants were arrested and interned or forbidden to stay in Paris.

Things came to a crunch when war broke out. All male "enemy aliens" between the age of 17 and 48 were interned, including those who had registered as volunteers for

the French army during the summer 1939. The only chance of release from internment was the "voluntary" enlistment with the Foreign Legion. Those, who made use of this "chance" were deported to North Africa, where they had to endure terrible hardship, especially as their "comrades" and superiors included criminals. In 1940, the internment camps were transformed into labour camps. After the beginning of the German offensive in May 1940, the internment was extended to men up to 65 and to women between 17 and 55. When the German-French armistice was concluded on June 22, 1940, some commandants opened the gates, giving the inmates the chance to try and escape to the Southern, unoccupied Zone of France. There were, however, also commandants, who handed over all camp internees to the Nazis.

Those, who reached the Southern Zone ("Vichy France") were interned anew. The authors give detailed descriptions of the conditions in the various camps. In accordance with the Armistice Agreement, German officials visited the camps, to liberate the "genuine" Germans and to hand over those, who were supposed to be active anti-Nazis, to the Gestapo.

The Jewish and non-Jewish relief organisations retained the opportunity of looking after the refugees inside and outside the camps. They were also instrumental in rescuing many by providing them with immigration papers to the United States. Their work was, however, complicated by the requirement of an exit visa from the Vichy authorities. In many cases, the endangered emigrants had to cross the border illegally. The book gives several examples of the tragedies involved in this—often unsuccessful—exodus.

In 1941, a special department for Jewish affairs was established by the Vichy Government at the order of the German authorities, and a few months later, a "General Representation of the Israelites in France" was brought into being. The two foundations were in charge both of the alien and of the French Jews and operated in Vichy France as well as in the occupied zone.

A special task of the relief organisations, in particular of OSE, was the care for Jewish children. Some were liberated from the camps and accommodated in homes or with private families. Their fate was bound to result in psychological difficulties which still have their after-effects. When the deportations set in, the children were in particular danger, because Laval wanted to have as many children as possible "at his disposal" in order to fulfil the quotas of deportees demanded by the Germans. In this connection, the authors mention that Laval only got a bad conscience when the fate of the French-born Jews was at stake, and even then only "to a limited extent".

In the unoccupied Zone, a "Judenreferat" was established immediately after the armistice as a sub-department of the "Reichs-

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* Ruth Fabian/Corinna Coulmas: Die deutsche Emigration in Frankreich nach 1933. K. G. Saur, Muenchen, 1978. DM 20.

German Jews in France

Continued from page 1

sicherheits-Hauptamt" in Berlin. It took its measures in several stages: first the registration of all Jews, then their elimination from the economic life and, on June 1, 1942, the introduction of the "Judenstern".

Things came to a head when Vichy France was also occupied and massacres and deportations to the East were carried out in both parts of France. It is estimated that about one third of the 350,000 Jews in pre-war France perished in the deportation camps. The proportion of foreign Jews among the victims was higher than that of the French Jews. While the authors repeatedly refer to the willing collaboration of French authorities with the Germans, they also stress that the total number of victims would have been considerably higher, had there not been thousands of French people who, at risk to their own lives, kept Jews in hiding.

When France was liberated in 1944, the victory had a very sad side-effect for quite a few Jewish survivors. Their flats had been taken over by Frenchmen, who refused to move out. Thus, many Jews were homeless and their position was aggravated by widespread anti-semitism in the country. Among the organisations, which helped to ease the situation, was the Committee of Jewish Refugees of German Origin, which was founded in 1946 and mainly concentrated on questions of the refugees' legal status. The Committee was dissolved in 1952 and succeeded by "Solidarité of Jewish Refugees", which was and still is mainly active in the social sphere and which is also affiliated to the Council of Jews from Germany.

The authors have done spadework in recording the fate of a twice-persecuted community of Jews from Germany. They have produced a documentary about the main measures which determined the destiny of the victims. Unfortunately, as they stress in the introduction, they had to rely on second-hand literature, because numerous archives were destroyed by the Germans and the Vichy Government shortly before the breakdown of the Nazi régime; furthermore, after the war, the new French régime ordered the destruction of all documents which "reflect a policy of racial discrimination".

Notwithstanding these limitations which are not of their making, the authors have provided a reliable survey of one chapter of our history, which resulted in innumerable human tragedies.

BARON ROTHSCHILD UNDER FIRE

Members of the French Jewish community and of French Immigrants in Israel have violently attacked Baron Guy de Rothschild for a recent interview in the French monthly "Lui". He was quoted as saying that when he visited Israel, he felt like a stranger, and French, British and German Jews had very little to say to each other. "They only meet to make donations". Representatives of the French Jewish Students and Aliyah Movement said, the Rothschilds had always led the Jewish community, but with the aid of the establishment which they helped to create, and they encouraged a tendency to assimilation. A news conference in Israel demanded the Baron's resignation as head of the Keren Hayesod Appeal and from all duties connected with French Jewish communal organisations. They also asked for all ties of the Jewish Agency with the fund-raising appeal in France to be suspended until the Baron was replaced.

"HOLOCAUST" AND AFTER

IMPACT ON TV

In Germany, the discussions started by the showing of the "Holocaust" films continue. A collection of documentary material, published by the North Rhine Westfalia Office for Political Education, has been snapped up. (235,000 copies were distributed). The Federal Centre of the PEN Club and the Federation of German Authors have appealed for a second showing of the programme at a time more convenient for general viewing and by one of the major TV stations. Two large scale questionnaires were sent out by the Federal Government to establish the reactions of the general population, subdivided according to age, religion, and profession. A third questionnaire will be sent out in April to establish long-term reactions to the programme. During a further TV programme "Report", three former Auschwitz guards, serving life terms for participation in Nazi crimes, reported on their own involvement. They will again appear in a programme "Lagerstrasse Auschwitz" in April. The First Federal TV Service ARD showed a film "From a German Life" by Theodor Kotulla, which describes the fate of Rudolf Höss, the Nazi commandant of Auschwitz, showing a frighteningly ordinary person executing any criminal act on orders from above, immune to any feelings of guilt. In Bonn, the Anti-Fascist Federation sponsored the premiere of a film "In the Name of the Führer", made by the Belgian director Lydia Chagoll with documentary material from German and Belgian sources which showed the crimes committed on Jewish and other persecuted children, contrasted with the raising of model "Germanic" children. The film has also been shown in many Belgian and French cinemas, but Mrs. Chagoll complained that it had not been accepted by the Berlin film festival and that German TV stations did not show any interest in it.

Belgium

In the meantime, "Holocaust" has also been shown to large audiences on French and Belgian TV. In Belgium, the Jewish national committee which is about to build a memorial to wartime Belgian Jewish resistance fighters, has drafted a pamphlet for distribution to teachers, after a TV inquiry showed that most young viewers between ten and fourteen years of age did not know the facts, but wanted to know more.

Holland

In Holland, the showing of the "Holocaust" film in May has been thoroughly prepared. The TV stations have issued vast amounts of documents to schools so that their teaching can prepare the pupils for the showing. Representatives of organisations of persecutees have offered to answer questions in special TV and radio programmes, and the editors of school newspapers were asked to attend a special information meeting in March.

France

In France "Holocaust" was watched by 75 per cent of viewers. Before the programme M. Beulac, Minister of Education, appealed to parents to explain the background to their children. After the showing of the fourth and last episode of the film, Mrs. Simone Veil, the French Health Minister, who is a survivor of Auschwitz and Birkenau death camps, took part with others in a televised debate.

THE AMERICAN DOCUMENT CENTER

The West Berlin Document Center with many hundreds of thousands of personal files of former Nazis will be handed over to the Germans by the Americans who set it up in the first place. They had wanted to do so for a long time, but the German Government has only recently declared its willingness to administer the Center.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

"Council" addresses Chancellor

The Council of Jews from Germany, of which the AJR is a constituent member, has submitted a Resolution to Federal Chancellor Schmidt strongly pleading for the abolition of the statute of limitations. The Jews from Germany, the Resolution states, were the first victims of Nazi persecution. Those who were able to save their lives by emigration are almost without exception survivors of exterminated families. The Council warns that, unless the statute of limitations is revoked, many criminals under the Nazi régime, against whom proceedings could not yet be started, would come into the open and take a leading part in neo-Nazi activities in Germany. Above all, it was the moral duty of the responsible legislative bodies to see to it that crimes of the magnitude as those committed under the Nazi régime should not go unpunished.

A resolution was also passed by the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, the Council's constituent in the U.S., calling upon the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to remove all impediments hindering the continued prosecution in the Federal Republic of persons accused of murder. "Ending the statute of limitations for murder", the Resolution concludes, "would make a further contribution towards the liquidation of the heritage of the 'Third Reich'."

Statement by Chief Prosecutor

Oberstaatsanwalt Dr. Adalbert Rueckerl, chief of the Central Office for the Prosecution of Nazi War Crimes told the Foreign Press Association in Bonn that during the "Holocaust" screening his office had received many calls giving the names of persons who may have been involved in war crimes. This information would be followed up. He said the Bundestag should abolish the statute of limitations on "moral principles rather than judicial grounds" even though "it would not have a very great practical effect". Most major war crimes, such as those involving guards at Nazi death camps like Auschwitz, had been cleared up. It was, however, conceivable that Soviet bloc countries withhold information on Nazi war crimes, with the intention of releasing the data in order to embarrass Bonn if the Bundestag fails to lift the statute of limitations. Whilst Poland had been most co-operative in helping West German courts by providing extensive documents and thousands of witnesses, East Germany had been the least co-operative, rendering help only in a few cases.

EAST GERMANY JAILS MASS KILLERS

At a two-week trial in Halle, two former Nazi policemen were given life sentences, whilst a third was sent to prison for fourteen years for having participated in the mass murder of Jews in the Soviet Union in 1941. According to state prosecutor Dr. Horst Busse, the three had been given special training in efficient murder methods at an SS school in Cracow and were involved in the murder of at least 5,000 Jews. Each day, they had fetched 15 Jews from the ghetto and killed them, getting marks and awards for efficiency. All three had volunteered for SS police service to avoid service at the front. After the war, they destroyed all papers and claimed to have been in the German Army, but they were eventually traced to their homes in East Germany and arrested in 1977.

A CRIMINAL ORGANISATION

Two leaders of the "NSDAP Frankfurt-Gau Hessen Nassau" were arrested for having set up a criminal association. One of them, chauffeur Henry Fritz Beier, 50, was publisher of the periodical "The Brown Battalion" which showed a swastika on its title-page and, in the opinion of the public prosecutor, is on the level of the "Stürmer". The paper asked people to demonstrate against the showing of the "Holocaust" film which "perpetuated the Auschwitz-Lie".

HOME NEWS

BOYCOTT REPERCUSSIONS

Sir Marcus Sieff said in a recent address to the newly formed Manchester branch of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce, the British Government's failure to stand up to the Arab boycott was "weak-kneed and lily-livered, concentrating on a fast buck to the detriment of our medium- and long-term interests". The United States, Germany, and other countries which traded successfully with Arab States, continued to develop an increasing export business with Israel and did not suffer for it.

The Saudi Arabian regional boycott office has just declared that Saudi tourists should not shop at Marks and Spencer, Selfridges and Great Universal Stores, because of these shops' "strong connections with Israel". However, the usual large number of Arab shoppers is seen at all three stores, and an official of the Marlborough Street magistrates court suggested the stores should display notices that they are on the blacklist and saying that the names of shoplifters would be sent to the boycott office.

An American publication states that many major US companies are expanding their operations in the Arab world despite their having been blacklisted for doing business with Israel. They include the Ford Motor Company, Coca Cola, IBM, TWA, Hertz Cars, Hilton Hotels, Sheraton Hotels, American Express, and many more. Many Arab nations pay no more than lip-service to the boycott.

In Holland, however, a parliamentary enquiry has shown that many firms are only too willing to undertake not to do business with Israel and that the Foreign Ministry and Dutch chambers of commerce were prepared to authenticate statements by firms that they had no links with Israel. The Netherlands Credit Insurance Company includes a clause in its contracts that it will not meet clauses for violation of the boycott.

Lloyds of London, one of the most representative city institutions, had a narrow escape from being involved in a boycott procedure. They were threatened by the Saudi Arabian regional boycott office with being included in the boycott, because—unbelievably—they had been confused with the Leeds matzo manufacturing firm of Lloyds Rakusen and Son. A general trading bureau in Saudi Arabia circulated its clients not to insure their export goods with Lloyds because they would not be cleared by Saudi Arabian customs officials. Lloyds took the threat seriously enough to send a long explanatory letter to the boycott office. In it, it was said that Lloyds was not a company, but an association of some 17,000 individual underwriting members, working in syndicates, and business was only transacted in London, not as the boycott office had assumed, inter alia at a branch office in Israel.

In a public statement, the British section of the Parliamentary Association for European-Arab Co-operation has declared that the only way to end the boycott was to remove its cause by persuading Israel to stop imposing her will on her Arab neighbours by force and to establish a genuine Palestine homeland.

EGYPT IGNORES BOYCOTT

Egyptian representatives have started negotiating with Cadbury-Schweppes in London despite the fact that the firm produces soft drinks in Israel under licence.

CITY RESPECTS YOM KIPPUR

The election of the next Lord Mayor of London has been put back a day in order to avoid a clash with Yom Kippur. According to the City's statutes, such a postponement is possible to avoid a clash "with a festival of major importance."

CALLAGHAN REMEMBERS GOLDA MEIR

At a memorial meeting for Golda Meir, held by the Labour Friends of Israel, Mr. Callaghan said that in 1974, shortly after the Yom Kippur War, President Sadat had asked him to tell Golda Meir that he desired a new start in Egyptian-Israeli relations. Mrs. Meir had reacted "in her simple direct way". She had shared the wish for a new beginning, but "argued Israel's case with clarity and determination".

DISAPPOINTED MP RETIRES

Mr. Paul Bernard Rose who has represented the Blackley division of Manchester since 1964, is the eighth Jewish MP to announce his retirement at the next general election. When he was first elected, he was, at 28, the youngest Jewish MP which he remained for ten years. He has stated that his decision was prompted by "increasing disenchantment with the actions and complacency of various government departments". As a member of the "Tribune" group, he infuriated other Left-wingers by his unswerving support for Israel. Mr. Rose is a barrister and a deputy circuit judge. The other seven MPs who will not stand for re-election, are Sir Myer Galpern, Mr. Maurice Orbach, Mr. Harry Selby, Mr. George Strauss, Mr. Raphael Tuck, Mr. David Weitzman, and Mr. Edmund Dell.

NO OIL FOR ISRAEL

The Department of Energy denied a report that it had instructed oil companies in the British sector of the North Sea not to sell crude oil to Israel, but added that for the time being, Britain had no spare oil supplies for new customers. Mr. Tony Benn, the Energy Secretary, stated that British crude oil could not be used to make up for the loss of Iranian supplies, because all available oil was already under contract.

ISRAEL BONDS FOR BRITAIN

After years of negotiation, the Bank of England and the Treasury have given their consent to the sale of Israel Bonds in Britain. They are an important way to invest in the Israeli economy and have for years been widely sold in the United States, in West Germany, and in other West European countries.

TRAVEL FACILITIES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

As readers know, senior citizens qualify for half-price rail travel in this country, if they purchase so-called Senior Citizen Railcards. According to a brochure issued by the "Schweizer Hotelier-Verein", reduced charges for accommodation in a number of hotels at certain periods of the year as well as reduced fares may also be obtained by senior citizens under special terms in Switzerland. Senior citizens who wish to spend their holidays in Switzerland or, for that purpose, in other Continental countries, are advised to ask their travel agencies about any advantageous facilities which might be available to them.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

David Steel in Belsize Square Synagogue

The Belsize Square Synagogue Committee invited David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, to talk to them on "Human Rights, the contemporary challenge." Mr. Steel said that Jews who in this country and in the States enjoyed full civil rights and considerable influence, should use this influence to support the oppressed coloured minorities. The late Lord Constantine, the famous cricketer who became High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago, had once told Hampstead Jews that they owed the coloured people a great debt of gratitude, because they now took the place of the Jews as victims of prejudice and oppression.

Lord Mayor at Jewish Service

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Ruth Dean and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Barbara Bricknell, attended the annual civic service of the Liverpool Jewish community at Childwall Synagogue in full state, complete with the horse drawn civic coach and mounted police. The Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff of the County of Merseyside also attended, as did the Recorder of Liverpool, the chief constable, five former Lord Mayors, Mayors of neighbouring boroughs, and other civic and ecclesiastical dignitaries.

A Jew speaks in Cathedral

Dr. B. Fisher, president of the Leicester Hebrew Congregation, spoke at the Innocents' Day Service in Leicester Cathedral to which he had been invited by the Bishop of Leicester. The service was held by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, and Dr. Fisher's subject was "The Sanctity of Life" underlined by quotations from the Bible in Hebrew and English.

Seder for Methodists

At a Methodist ministers' conference near Bath, Mr. Clive Lawton, of the Board of Deputies' Information Committee, presided at a model Seder arranged for thirty Christian ministers. The participants were impressed by the experience, and not only downed their four cups of wine with great gusto, but even spent several minutes searching for the afikomen.

Dearth of Jewish sportsmen

After a Sports Council Meeting at the House of Commons, it was decided to set up a working party to find ways to encourage young Jewish sportsmen and women to reach for the top. At the meeting, former Wimbledon star Angela Buxton said Jewish parents did not sufficiently encourage their children to do serious training. The working party will include Mr. Paul Yogi Mayer, the athletic coach, Mr. Ben Helfgott, a concentration camp survivor, and Miss Buxton.

Jewish revivalist meeting

Mrs. Esther Jungreis, the American founder president of the Orthodox revivalist movement Hineni addressed 250 people in the Florence Michaels Hall of the St. John's Wood Synagogue and formed a chapter of the movement in London. Later this year, she will hold a large-scale meeting at the Royal Albert Hall. In New York, 24,000 people attended her first "event" in Madison Square Gardens six years ago. Mrs. Jungreis was born in Hungary and comes from a long line of rabbis. She said that before the war, there had been 85 rabbis called Jungreis—today only her husband was left. She herself survived Bergen-Belsen and arrived in the States in 1947.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Memorial to Holocaust

The 34-member commission under the presidency of Elie Wiesel, himself a concentration camp survivor, which was set up by President Carter last year to recommend a plan for a national US memorial for Holocaust victims, suggested at its first meeting to establish a multi-functional centre in Washington. Congress has also decreed two "Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust" to be held on April 28 and 29, the anniversary of the American liberation of concentration camp survivors in Germany in 1945. The five Senators on the committee include Mr. Rudy Boschwitz who was born in Germany in 1930 and came to the U.S. as an unaccompanied child. Another committee member is Dr. Telford Taylor, a former prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials. President Carter sent Mr. Wiesel a series of aerial photographs of Auschwitz concentration camp taken by U.S. planes in 1944 and 1945 and recently released by the C.I.A. This has revived the question, often asked before, why the United States and Britain, knowing of the camp's existence, did not bomb the railway lines on which the victims were taken to the camp. The Americans have stated that the camp pictures were taken by accident, when the planes photographed the infamous IG Farben plant five miles away which was bombed some time later.

Libyans Rebuffed in California

When a 30-man Libyan good-will mission paid a five-day visit to California, they were faced with an unusually militant Jewish community, many cancelled invitations and hostile press conferences. In California's State Capital, Sacramento, Governor Brown and two-thirds of the city council declined to attend a private luncheon with the group. In San Francisco, only members of the local Arab community and a handful of businessmen seeking links with Libya, turned up at a reception. At a press conference in Los Angeles with the subject "Zionist control of the media", Mr. Bob Manning of the non-violent Conference of Jewish Activists, rushed to the podium and shouted: "Why do you support people who kill Munich athletes?"

Jewish Hospital Bankrupt

The Brooklyn Jewish hospital, one of New York's best-known private hospitals, has filed for bankruptcy, with a deficit of about £4 million. When it was opened 78 years ago with 600 beds, there were many fairly well-to-do Jews living in the district, but most of them have by now moved out.

CANADIAN JEWS WITHDRAW FROM EXHIBITION

Canadian B'nai B'rith has withdrawn from the Toronto International Caravan Exhibition, because they were not allowed to name their pavilion "Jerusalem Pavilion", as it had always been since the first exhibition in 1973. Several Arab groups are suspected of having objected against the name.

AUSTRALIA BUYS ISRAELI JET

The "Jet Charter Company" has bought a ten-seater Israeli-designed and manufactured "Whirlwind" jet for £1,740,000. It was ferried to New South Wales from Israel via Nairobi, the Seychelles Islands, Madras, and Singapore by an Israeli pilot who will stay to train Australians to fly and maintain the aircraft.

CAMPS

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DR. MENGELE'S MEMOIRS

Dr. Berhom, a Danish-Norwegian physician who has returned to Denmark after working with South American Indians for a number of years, has stated that Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz doctor known as the "angel of death" for his inhuman experiments on inmates, is writing his memoirs in his Paraguayan refuge. He lives in the borderland between Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina, known as the "Nazi Triangle" and is venerated by local people because he cured President Stroessner of cancer. He is protected by numerous guards who are reported to have shot several Israeli agents trying to capture him. Mengele is said to have told Dr. Berhom: "If I can live in peace here, I will repay mankind for what I have done to it".

MEXICAN PRESIDENT PRAISES ISRAEL

During the conference of the Friends of the Hebrew University in North America, Mexico and the Caribbean, which was held in Mexico City, Mr. Harman, president of the University, conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy on President Portillo who, in his address of thanks, hailed Israel's independence and achievements as "among the most extraordinary events in the history of mankind". Members of the Mexican government attended the ceremony, as did representatives of the United States and other countries.

JEWISH MAYOR FOR RIO DE JANEIRO

The first Jewish mayor in the 400-year history of Rio de Janeiro was appointed in the person of Dr. Israel Klabin, a 53-year-old millionaire industrialist whose grandfather came to Brazil from Lithuania 70 years ago. Another Jew, 43-year-old journalist Mr. Arnaldo Niskier, has been appointed State Secretary of Education.

SOUTH AFRICA

Coal for Israel

Israel and South Africa have signed a long-term coal supply contract according to which up to a million tons of coal for the Israel Electric Corporation's new coal-fired electricity generator at Hadera will be shipped during 1980.

National Front Leader barred

John Tyndall, the leader of the National Front in Britain, has been refused an entry visa to South Africa where National Front members from Britain, West Germany, Italy and other European countries have launched an anti-Jewish campaign under the guise of "anti-Zionism".

CAMDEN AUCTIONS

Next sale of Antiques to be held at

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At 3 p.m. on the same day there will be an extra sale of approx. 150 books on Judaica and allied subjects.

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EXODUS FROM RHODESIA

Since 1961, some 2,800 Jews have left Rhodesia. Many of them have settled in South Africa. Today, there are about 3,700 left in the country. One of them, Mr. Donald Goldin, MP, was killed in the Viscount airliner brought down by terrorists. Mr. Goldin was the owner of the Victoria Falls Casino Hotel, one of the most popular tourist hotels in Rhodesia.

THE JEWS OF IRAN

A top secret Israeli mission went to Iran a few days before the Ayatollah Khomeini's advent to power in order to help Iranian Jews to escape and settle in Israel. Its leader, Mr. Mordechai Ben Porat, a veteran in the rescue of Jews from Moslem countries, reported to the Knesset on its return that many Jews who had been reluctant to leave, were now eager to do so. but this was made impossible by the Government's regulation that no one with an Iranian passport should leave the country. During the past six months, 20,000 Iranian Jews had come to Israel, but there were still between 55,000 and 60,000 in the country.

It is said that the immigrants from Iran who managed to reach Israel, brought about 25,000 Persian rugs with them. The Iranian community was regarded as the second richest in the world, the richest being the US one.

ROME JEWS HELP VIETNAMESE

The first Vietnamese refugee family admitted to Italy has been provided with housing, maintenance and employment by the Rome Jewish community who declared they felt it their duty as Jews and as Italians to make this symbolic gesture.

BOYCOTT ON ZURICH ROTHSCHILD BANK

The Swiss Ministry of the Interior decided that it was not illegal to exclude the Rothschild Bank AG in Zurich from the syndicate which organised a £25½ million loan for Algeria. Two American banks resigned from the syndicate so as not to be caught by American anti-boycott legislation.

DEPORTATION MUSEUM VANDALISED

The Deportation Museum on the site of the Struthof concentration camp in Alsace, was broken into. A number of historic flags were stolen, the museum's Golden book was mutilated and a photographic display and other valuable records were destroyed.

Gun attack on Jewish Shop

The Chief Rabbi of Bordeaux, Rabbi Claude Maman joined the Roman Catholic Archbishop and the Protestant pastor of the city in condemning the machine-gunning of the shop of Mr. Leon Levy, president of the local branch of the Inter-National League against Anti-Semitism and Racism. On the outside of the shop a man with a pistol in his hand was depicted with a note: "We will kill you. The gas chambers are still in action". The incident happened after the showing of "Holocaust" on TV.

NEW RABBI FOR BERNE

Thirty-year-old Marcel Marcus, for three years rabbi of the Reform Synagogue in Newcastle-on-Tyne, was elected Rabbi of the Community of Berne. The son of German Jewish parents, he was born in Paris but was brought up in Berlin, where he went to school and later studied at the Free University. He was also trained at the Leo Baeck College in London.

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William Stern

THE "WUERZBURGER RAV"

Centenary of his Death

On the second day of the Festival of Sukkot (October 17th, 1978) it was 100 years to the day that the world-famous rabbinical authority, Rabbi Seligmann Baer Bamberger, District Rabbi in Wuerzburg, died during the Service in his synagogue. On the occasion of this 100th recurrence of his "Yahrzeit" the present leadership of the (post-war) Jewish community of Wuerzburg organised a most dignified "Day of Commemoration". This was on October 20th, 1978, i.e., as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Sukkot Festival. Members of the local community, Jewish lay and religious leaders from all over West Germany and civic authorities of the city were joined by numerous visitors from abroad, members of the Bamberger family and others, to honour in an appropriate manner a great Jew who had put his stamp on his contemporary scene and left a lasting impact on subsequent generations, even to this day.

Rabbi Seligmann Baer Bamberger (Jizchak Dov Halevi) was born on November 6th, 1807, in the little town of Wiesenbronn in Lower Franconia. He never went to university but studied at the great Jeshivah (Talmudical academy) in Fuerth where he obtained his rabbinical diploma at the early age of 20. Soon afterwards he married, and together with his wife he ran a small shop in Wiesenbronn. However, the business did not flourish because Rabbi Bamberger was far too much engaged in his further studies and in teaching pupils. He left it to his wife Kela to look after the shop, he himself being credited with saying early each morning: "I hope that today no customers will come, so that I may not be disturbed in my studies!"

He had no wish or intention of holding rabbinical office. Nonetheless, his fame spread quickly all over the rabbinical world, and when in 1837 the then Rabbi of Wuerzburg, Abraham

Bing, was in failing health, Bamberger was asked by him to attend to various rabbinical duties in his area of jurisdiction. In 1840 the Wuerzburg post fell vacant on Rabbi Bing's death, and much against his own inclination Bamberger allowed himself to be appointed. First, however, some considerable local objections had to be overcome, because Reform Judaism was by then a strong force in German Jewry and its adherents in Wuerzburg would have preferred a spiritual leader with an academic background and a Ph.D. to his name.

All the same, Rabbi Bamberger was able, during the 38 years of holding office, to exert his authority in his community, and also within the more than 20 other communities belonging to his district, and finally all over Orthodox Jewry in Germany and indeed in Central Europe. He wrote a number of learned books, mainly on Halacha (Jewish law). He founded a Jewish primary school and a secondary school, and in 1864 he established the Wuerzburg Jewish Teacher's Academy which carried on until November, 1938, and in the course of time supplied the (then) German Jewry with many hundreds of teachers, cantors and spiritual leaders.

In fact, Bamberger's fame spread so far that numerous rabbinical colleagues would come to visit and consult him, whilst dozens of others corresponded with him. He answered, in writing, countless questions on Jewish law, but he did not permit these "responsa" to be published. However, during the last decade a descendant, basing himself on the permission given by later rabbinic authorities, has published, in Jerusalem, a volume of Bamberger's "responsa" chosen out of a large collection of extant manuscripts.

Towards the end of his life, in 1877, Rabbi Bamberger became embroiled in a public controversy with his no less famous contem-

porary, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch in Frankfurt. The point at issue was whether Hirsch was right, and could be supported, in his idea of "segregation" from the main community (the so-called "Austritt"). Hirsch's own congregation, and then some others following his example, segregated from the main community in order to be able to adhere to their own strict orthodoxy without encountering any obstacles or difficulties. For this programme he wanted to gain Bamberger's endorsement, but this was not forthcoming. So, Hirsch published open letters challenging Bamberger, and the latter saw himself constrained, greatly against his wish, to answer a fellow rabbi in public.

Hirsch was anxious to obtain his famous colleague's support because Bamberger was by then a widely acknowledged rabbinical authority whose word carried considerable weight. However, Bamberger held the view—and shinningly put it into practice in his own area of jurisdiction—that you can have a unified community where orthodox religious influence remains strong and can confer much benefit in the widest possible field. This stand was, probably, his major contribution to the religious survival of what was then German Jewry; especially in Bavaria his noble spiritual bequest was greatly in evidence up to the time of the destruction of German Jewry.

His funeral on October 14th, 1878, was attended by large crowds. Many rabbis had travelled through the night, from all over Germany, to be present (though Hirsch was not one of them). No less than 100 carriages followed the hearse, apart from a multitude of pedestrians. Amongst the latter were the Roman Catholic Bishop of Wuerzburg and some members of his clergy. In all the streets through which the cortège passed, all the shops were closed, and their (non-Jewish) owners and staff lined the pavements.

The gravestones of Rabbi Bamberger and of his wife, in Hoechberg cemetery (on a steep hill two miles outside the city), are in good condition; altogether this cemetery is well looked after, and no stones were destroyed by the Nazis. The cemetery is being preserved by the municipality as an ancient monument ("Denkmalschutz"). The inscription on his gravestone includes the titles of all his books and writings. His descendants, spread all over the world, are numbered by hundreds; his pupils, adherents and spiritual heirs may be counted in their thousands.

THE TORTURE MYTH

According to a report published by the "Washington Post", several cables from the US Consulate in Jerusalem to the State Department last year alleged that there was "a possibility that the use of brutality in the interrogation of Arab prisoners" was a systematic practice. The cables were drafted by Miss Alexandra U. Johnson who had been briefly engaged to one of the Arabs involved. Miss Johnson's employment by the Consulate has since been terminated. Her allegations were not substantiated by the State Department annual report on the human rights record of more than 100 countries which states: "Israel is a fully-fledged democracy with extremely high standards of justice and human rights", and during a press briefing, President Carter said the newspaper report did not present an accurate picture of the situation. In the Knesset, Mr. Shmuel Tamir, the Israeli Minister of Justice, said the allegations were entirely without foundation. Israel rejected the torture of suspects to obtain information, because such a method was demeaning to the people who employ it—the investigators and their society. Torture was forbidden and illegal in Israel.

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F. Thorn

THE VANISHED NATION

There are some books which a conscientious reviewer approaches with some trepidation, because both the subject matter and the challenge facing the author seem beyond his—the reviewer's—"terms of reference". The learned treatise about a people of which hardly anything was known only a hundred years ago with the exception of vague mentions in the Bible, catching up with what must seem an irretrievable advance in all other fields, belongs to this category. Johannes Lehmann's book about the Hittites*, however, turns out to be a delightful story, written with sly humour and a dash of irony, directed partly at scholarly arrogance. This sort of treatment was by tradition a privilege of English historians, and the excellent translator J. Maxwell Brownjohn obviously enjoyed his meeting with a kindred spirit.

Archaeology—probably the noblest kind of (when-dunit) detection—was never so thrilling as in the case of this people, which miraculously appeared and disappeared literally before history began, and whose capital Catal Hüyük—excavated only 20 years ago—was the oldest city in the world. A wall-painting found there and showing giant vultures attacking headless humans is approximately 8,000 years old . . . The city was located in the southern part of Asia Minor on two hills north of the Taurus Mountains, and its people ruled over large parts of Asia Minor and were as powerful as the Egyptians and the Assyrians. The Hittites were the first nation in the world—

and, alas, it seems the last one—to tolerate the gods of other peoples and gave themselves the name of "the People of a Thousand Gods".

Only a century ago *Meyers Konversationslexikon* dedicated exactly seven lines to the Hittites. They read as follows: "Canaanite tribe encountered in Palestine by the Israelites, resident among and alongside the Amorites in the region of Bethel. They were pressed into service by Solomon. Still later, however, an independent and monarchically governed Hittite (German: *Hethiter*) existed nearer Syria". And even these few lines were false, simply untrue. Since then not less than 46 publications, books and essays, not counting learned articles, dealt with the "tribe". The major part of these works appeared in Germany, and the *Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatischen Gesellschaft* (1903) and *Cornelius Geschichte der Hethiter mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der geographischen Verhältnisse und der Rechtsgeschichte* (1973) have the faint smell of dusty studies, always ridiculed, and inhabited by secluded little men, bearded and grumpy. And it so happens that the most tremendous discoveries were made—among others—by just these people who resembled the caricature of the German *Privatgelehrten* to the point of complete identity.

The most remarkable of them was one Dr. Hugo Winckler, from Gräfenhainichen in Saxony into the bargain, an unpleasant neurotic, envious of more successful colleagues and a rabid antisemite, which did not prevent him from looking for financial support for his expeditions among wealthy Jews. But it was Dr. Winckler who, after an abortive search in southern Lebanon for texts in the Arzawan language (continuously in fear of and fighting against bed-bugs), was sent a cuneiform tablet in a language which turned out to be Hittite, and who in 1906 started digging near the village of Bogazköy on the central Anatolian Plateau. And after a series of events too complicated even for a modern spy thriller the newly gained experiences led to the exploration of Catal Hüyük and a re-assessment of our knowledge of the Stone Age . . .

Dr. Lehmann's book in eight painstakingly researched and documented chapters begins with so intriguing an item as "A surprise for King Suppiluliuma" in the preliminary "The Quest" section, and pursues "The Discovery", the "Surprise" and "A Round Trip to the Stone Age", followed by a meticulous study of the Hittite empire and culture up to the final oblivion under the melancholic and wistful heading of ". . . as if it never had been". It begins with this sad and beautiful sentence: "Although there are no records of how the Hittite empire perished, we probably know why. The end [of the Hittite empire] was a mirror image of its own beginnings. Then, it had been the Hittites who penetrated Asia Minor, rose to power over the centuries and ruled for 600 years. Now it was their turn to be supplanted by others".

In a sweeping summary we are made aware how tremendous were the changes that took place around 1200 BC: the destruction of the Minoan culture of Crete, Greece's "relapse into a dark age unilluminated by historical records", the conquest of the Promised Land by the Israelites and the westward trek of an Asian people into Italy to become the Etruscans . . . The epilogue of an immensely enjoyable book, *lehr-reich* in every sense of the word.

Again a word of admiration for the translator of a little masterpiece by one who earns his ordinary living by translating much lesser works.

* The Hittites, People of a Thousand Gods, by Johannes Lehmann, Collins, London, 316 pp. £5.75.

A FILM OF THE BIBLE

In a multi-million dollar venture, backed by American and British businessmen, a film "Project Genesis" has been planned which is to tell the whole story of the Bible in 300 separate 20-minute episodes in a subdued, credible and authentic manner. Its chief executor and producer is Mr. John Heymann, 45-year-old Leipzig-born Jew who came to Britain as a child and went from Oxford into TV and films. Another backer is Chaim Topol, the actor who will play Abraham in an early episode. The series will be shown on TV and used for religious instruction in schools, libraries, and similar cultural institutions.

"WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT"

Judith Kerr's Story on German TV

A German Television film, made after Judith Kerr's childhood memories, published in this country under the title "When Hitler stole Pink Rabbit", which was shown in Germany on Boxing Day, was not an unqualified success. The author, daughter of pre-Nazi Germany's foremost theatre critic Alfred Kerr, stated in a German paper that she would have nothing to do with it, because it completely distorted the story by over-sentimentalising it. The scenario was written by Nigel Kneale, Miss Kerr's husband.

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IN MEMORIAM

DR. JULIUS LOEB

The passing away of Dr. Julius Loeb on March 1, in his 85th year, was received with a feeling of deep loss by his friends, his brothers and sisters in B'nai B'rith and the many clients—victims of Nazi oppression—in whose interest he strove unceasingly and devotedly for many years.

Julius Loeb was a respected and successful solicitor in Hildesheim when Nazi persecution drove him and his wife to emigrate in 1939. He found refuge at first in the Kitchener Camp; friends in the B'nai B'rith Lodge in Hull made it possible for his wife to follow him to England. During the war Julius Loeb—after internment—did war work in Leeds, and after the war the Loeb's moved to Harrogate where Julius Loeb's strong sense of duty had led him being offered a responsible commercial position.

On the enactment of the German restitution and compensation legislation, there was a great demand by many of Julius Loeb's former clients and others for his professional assistance in pursuing their claims. He moved to London in the late 1950s to devote himself entirely to this work which he did with outstanding success and unsurpassed personal interest in his clients. He was involved in these legal activities until his very last days. A few months ago, on the 50th anniversary of his admission as a "Rechtsanwalt", he was highly honoured by the Minister of Justice of the Land Niedersachsen and the leading Law Authorities in that State.

Julius Loeb joined B'nai B'rith at an early age, and he became the last President of the Hull Lodge in Hildesheim. On his arrival in England, he joined the Hull Lodge of B'nai B'rith and, long before his move to London, the Leo Baeck Lodge in which he was a Council member for many years. His wise counsel was always sought and readily given.

In his personality he represented the best traditions of German Jewry and the ideals of B'nai B'rith "Benevolence, Brotherly Love and Harmony". He was a man of great erudition, and his interests ranged over the whole spectrum of general human knowledge and of Jewish life in particular. He also had great innate kindness, noblesse and integrity. He was greatly loved by his brothers and sisters.

Dr. Loeb joined the AJR and served on its Board for many years. He took a lively interest in the work of the AJR and his advice was always greatly valued. He was also a Board member of the Belsize Square Synagogue, of which he was an active member and worshipping. Julius Loeb was a devoted husband

to his wife Else who shared many of his interests in B'nai B'rith (she founded the "Schwesternvereinigung" in Hildesheim of which she was president for four years). We extend our warmest sympathy to Else Loeb. May the knowledge that the memory of Julius Loeb will live on in our hearts and minds give her some comfort in her grief. F.E.F.

DR. ADELHEID LEVY

Dr Adelheid Levy, former head of the AJR Social Services Department and vice-chairman of the AJR Club, died on March 11, a few days before her 82nd birthday. She came to this country shortly before the outbreak of war, after having held a responsible position with the Welfare Department of the Berlin Jewish community. When the AJR was founded in 1941, she became the first member of its staff. Though in those days legal and political questions stood in the foreground, the founder members also realised the need for looking after the manifold personal problems of the refugees. They therefore created a Social Services Department and put Adelheid Levy in charge of it. She held this position for 27 years, giving personal advice, visiting the sick and the lonely, knowing no limits of time and devotion. She continued her work also after her retirement, especially for the members of the AJR Club. Her unreserved care for her fellow men was based on a deeply rooted religiosity and an urge to practise the demands of Jewish teachings. A life designed to help others has come to an end. The memory of "Ada" Levy will be gratefully kept alive by all who knew her.

FREDDY FREEDMAN

Freddy Freedman, who studied law at the University of Berlin and was a prominent figure in the K.C. as well as in the Jewish youth and sports movement, died whilst on a trip to Trinidad. Before he came to this country, he was for several years sports editor of the C.V.-Zeitung and, during the last pre-war months, one of the organisers of children's transports to England. After his own immigration, he became a warden of a hostel for young refugees in London. He also did auxiliary fire service during the war. In 1943, he was appointed the first professional youth leader of Brady Club.

Later, he became a managing director of a leading paper pulp company, a position he held for more than 30 years. A man of strong community feelings, he was a member of the AJR almost from its inception.

DR. H. W. CASSIRER

Dr. H. W. Cassirer who has died, aged 75, was the eldest son of Ernst Cassirer, the eminent philosopher. After publishing a book on Aristotle in Germany in 1932, he came to Britain as a refugee and lectured in philosophy at Oxford and Glasgow. In the early 1950s, he left academic life and for 20 years undertook a comprehensive study of Bible texts. He produced English translations of the New Testament, and of Kant's "Critique of Practical Reason."

EDMUND SPIRO

Mr. Edmund Spiro, the journalist who wrote a number of books on intelligence and counter-intelligence services, has died in London, aged 75. He was born in Cesky Krumlov, Czechoslovakia, where his family owned extensive paper mills and engaged in newspaper work in Germany. In 1938, he was arrested by the Nazis in Berlin on a charge of spying for Britain and sent to Buchenwald and Dachau. On the intervention of the British Ambassador, Sir Neville Henderson, he was eventually released and allowed to leave for this country. He immediately volunteered for war service, but was refused because of physical handicap as a result of torture by the Nazis. During the war, he worked in the Ministry of Information.

MRS. SISSIE LASKI

Mrs. Sissie Laski who has died, aged 84, played a prominent part in the Anglo-Jewish community as a whole and in particular in the Sephardi congregation as the daughter of the unforgotten Haham Moses Gaster and the wife of Judge Neville Laski, one-time president of the Board of Deputies. She took a particular interest in the welfare of the elderly and helped to establish two Union of Jewish Women's old age homes, Frank House in Notting Hill Gate and the Harry Rubens House in Adamson Road, next door to Hannah Karminski House. Before and during the war, she worked for the Jewish Refugees Committee, and many refugees benefited from her untiring energy on their behalf. She and her husband offered friendship and hospitality to many refugees whom they met through their work in different fields.

SIR ISRAEL BRODIE

The Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie, who has died, aged 83, was buried at Willesden Cemetery next to the grave of his predecessor, Chief Rabbi Dr. J. H. Hertz. The present Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits, interrupted a lecture tour in America to give the funeral oration. Sir Israel was Chief Rabbi from 1948 to 1965. He had been a chaplain in the First World War, and later on served as head of the Beth Din in Victoria and minister of the Melbourne congregation for 14 years. In the Second World War, he was again an Army chaplain and was in the last party to leave France in the Dunkirk evacuation. In 1940, he became a squadron-leader and the first Jewish chaplain to the Air Force, and his duties took him to Egypt and other countries of the Middle East. In 1944, he became Senior Jewish Chaplain with the rank of a lieutenant-colonel.

PROFESSOR DENNIS GABOR

The 1971 Nobel Prize winner in physics, Professor Dennis Gabor, has died, aged 78. Born in Hungary, he worked for Siemens in Berlin, before coming to Britain as a refugee in 1933. In 1949, he joined London University's Imperial College where he lectured in applied electronic physics until his retirement in 1967. He received the Nobel Prize for his invention and development of holography, a system of three-dimensional photography with revolutionary potentials. He said the idea came to him in 1947, when, as a research engineer for British Thomson Houston Laboratories, Rugby, he was awaiting his turn to play tennis. In a number of books he warned of grave social problems following rapidly accelerating scientific advances. Increased mass leisure, he warned, would lead to boredom, anxiety, urban violence, and drug addiction.

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Margot Pottlitzer

TWO WOMEN FROM FRANKFURT

Goethe once said that Frankfurt, his native town, bristled with curiosities. If this applied to the city as a whole, it certainly applied to its Jewish community. Jews are known to have lived in Frankfurt since the twelfth century, and in 1933, they formed 4.7 per cent of the population (Berlin had 3.8 per cent). Frankfurt's long history as a free city, which only ended with its reluctant incorporation into Prussia in 1866, gave its Jews a much greater latitude than they enjoyed in other German cities. Long before the emancipation, there were close contacts between Jews and non-Jews in economic and even more in cultural activities. Goethe himself visited the Judengasse and attended a number of services, a wedding, a birth, and Hebrew classes. The Rothschilds not only played an important part in the economy of the city and the surrounding countryside, they became part of its folklore. Even after the last war, Carl Roessler's romantic comedy about them "Die Fünf Frankfurter" attracted a large non-Jewish audience who like Goethe found no difficulty in understanding the "Judendeutsch" which it contained. The writer Boerne and Paul Ehrlich, the discoverer of Salvarsan, were quoted with pride as outstanding citizens. All shades of religious opinions were to be found among the Frankfurt Jews; the city was the home both of an ultra-Orthodox and of an early reform movement, and the late Rabbi Salzberger was a witness to the intellectual traditions of the large liberal community.

Frankfurt's museums and its twentieth-century university as well as many scholarly in-

stitutions owed their excellence largely to the civic spirit and generosity of many Jewish citizens who in return, shared the many intellectual opportunities as equals. This very often meant that their ties with their Jewish background became rather tenuous, and that the 1933 catastrophe found them largely unprepared. Even then it took a long time for old connections to be severed, and it is significant that after the war, many old Frankfurters visiting their native city, found little difficulty in renewing such friendships.

Two Jewish women who grew up in Frankfurt at the turn of the century and who emigrated from there in the 'thirties have recently published their autobiographies which, in their very different ways, throw some light on their particular experiences. Both of them enjoyed to the full the educational opportunities progressive Frankfurt offered to women, both of them went to university—but otherwise they have very little in common.

Mathilde Maier abandoned her studies when in 1920 she married the lawyer Max Hermann Maier*, but even earlier she had found the central interest of her activities when she interrupted her studies at Munich to work in a market-garden as a kind of land-girl during the First World War. She took a passionate interest in all plant life. Her husband has described his professional life in Frankfurt and the couple's adventures farming successfully in Brazil in two fascinating little books, which hers complements in describing their joint involvement in everything that could be made to grow and produce flowers and fruit. Both of them had grown up as conscious Jews, though with no particular religious ties. As a young student, Mathilde joined the "Blau-Weiss" group of the Jewish youth movement and soon became one of its local leaders. At the time, it was less involved in Zionist ideals than in those of the general German Youth Movement: return to nature and social awareness, but it also concerned itself with the problem of German-Jewish relationships. She met her husband at a philosophical study circle which he ran and which counted Carl Zuckmayer among its members. He was a descendant of the Baal Shem of Michelstadt, and during their early married life, when they had no garden of their own, they used to go for long walks in the surrounding countryside and in the Odenwald. After the difficult years of the inflation, they moved into their first house with a garden, the first of many. In her memoirs, she describes them all, and she also describes the many bonds of friendship with other gardeners in similar walks of life, quite a few of which survived the Nazi days and were renewed after the war. His work—advising other Jews on the problems of emigration—kept her husband in Frankfurt until 1938. In that year they emigrated to Rolandia in Brazil, a settlement shared with many refugees, most of them former professional men and women like themselves. They took with them an orphaned niece who had received some horticultural training in a nursery near Lake Constance where many young people received a thorough grounding for a new and different life abroad. In Brazil, their first home

was a house originally built for young Jews who had been trained in Gross-Breesen in Silesia, but who had been denied immigration visas by the fascist government of President Vargas.

Mrs. Maier's book is a joy to read, and her inspired drawings give an idea of the many plants she grew and discovered. She and her husband found complete happiness and fulfilment in their new surroundings, where they did pioneering work in coffee planting and raising many new kinds of other plants without giving up the cultural background from which they themselves had grown: they brought with them a large library, from which she liberally quotes.

Mrs. Emmy Klieneberger-Nobel describes a pioneering life of an entirely different kind: during a long life she has contributed such a vast amount of firsts to the science of medical microbiology and thus to the early diagnosis and treatment of many infectious diseases that the German medical-pharmaceutical Study Society and the Pfizer works in Karlsruhe and Upsala have sponsored the publication of her autobiography**. She, too, enjoyed the educational facilities of her home town where she also spent the first successful period of her professional life, but her background was a very different one, though yet another facet of Jewish life in Frankfurt. Her father was a wine dealer from Austria who had settled in Frankfurt and married the daughter of a highly respected Hanau lawyer, Justizrat Hamburger. She was the youngest by a number of years of their four children. There was no Jewish background or awareness in the family. The Klieneberger parents considered themselves "freireligiös" (agnostics) and left the

Continued on page 9, column 1

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Two Women From Frankfurt

Continued from page 8

Jewish community. The two elder brothers who studied medicine, were baptised to facilitate their acceptance by duelling student fraternities. They also persuaded the elder sister to undergo baptism, and seven-year-old Emmy joined her without quite knowing what was happening. Of her schooldays, she says: "Frankfurt was a town of Jews at the time, and at the girls' high school which I attended, half the pupils were Jewish". She thinks that for this reason, she remained unaware of any antisemitic incidents throughout her schooldays, though with hindsight, she identifies some isolated incidents as antisemitic in origin. Her studies and her early professional career at the Frankfurt Institute of Hygiene, in the heady days of the Weimar Republic, equally progressed unhampered by any trace of antisemitism. When she became a lecturer at Frankfurt University, a great future in research seemed open to her. She, as well as her colleagues and immediate friends were so absorbed in their professional work, that they took hardly any interest in political developments. The Nazi seizure of power came therefore as a terrible shock. Professor Neisser, the director of the Institute of Hygiene who had guided her professional career, and who had become a personal friend, was immediately dismissed as a baptised Jew. She herself was dismissed a few months later and at once decided to continue her work in Britain.

She was 41, when she came to this country in September 1933. On the strength of her academic achievements, and with the help of the Academic Assistance Council, she found work at the Lister Institute in Chelsea where she remained until her retirement in 1962. In her early days, when it became impossible to get money out of Germany, she was awarded a residential scholarship in Crosby Hall, and another scholarship from the International Federation of University Women. At one time, she was offered a very well-paid position with the Glaxo works and consulted Dr. Ledingham, director of the Lister Institute whether to accept it. His answer was "If you want to make money—yes; otherwise you are not a problem". She did not apply for the job, and soon afterwards the Lister Institute awarded her the Jenner Memorial Scholarship. Her discoveries in the field of microbiology soon made her name well-known among the leading researchers of this country and abroad, and for many years she was asked to address specialist meetings all over Europe, in America, and in Australia. In 1976, at the age of 84, she was present at the foundation of the International Organisation for Microplasmology and was appointed its first honorary member.

Her happy life in Britain, where she made many personal and professional friends, was overshadowed by the fate of her family. Her mother and widowed sister, for whom she failed to secure admission to this country, committed suicide as did one of her brothers whose licence to practise had been taken away. She did manage to help her second brother to emigrate to La Paz and his wife and children to settle in England. He, too had stayed here for a short time on the strength of a guaranty given by the first Mrs. Bertrand Russell. Altogether she managed to bring five of her nephews and nieces to this country and to watch over them, until they had settled and set out on their own careers. She herself seemed to be able to find personal fulfilment late in life when she married a well-known

and highly gifted paediatrician from Austria, Dr. Nobel, but he unfortunately died after only two years of a happy married life.

Mrs. Klieneberger-Nobel's book is a very modestly told success story. The list of her publications fills nearly five pages, and there is hardly any important congress in her field which she has not attended and addressed. Yet, looking back, she feels that there are many more things she would have wanted to do. However, her scholarly achievements are not only of interest to fellow-scientists, they are often breathtaking scientific thrillers, and as a personality she cannot fail to impress. Whilst saddened by the tragedies she and her friends had to endure, she is not embittered, and she treasures the memory of scholars and scientists of her Frankfurt days who remained loyal to her and her family. And her attitude remains ambivalent. She admires Israel and its achievements, but on balance she would favour assimilation. She says: "I had a German Christian education and I regarded Germany as my fatherland until Hitler appeared. When the Nazis came to power, the Jews were driven out and annihilated. That does not prove, however, that the idea of assimilation was false. On the strength of my upbringing, I could not have become a Zionist or to have emigrated to Palestine. This is why I chose a European country of culture as my adopted home". Her youth in Frankfurt has certainly left its mark.

* Mathilde Maier, *Alle Gärten meines Lebens*. Verlag Josef Knecht, Frankfurt am Main. 1978.

** Emmy Klieneberger-Nobel, *Pionierleistungen für die Medizinische Mikrobiologie*. Gustav Fischer Verlag Stuttgart. New York. 1977. DM 24.

DR. ADOLF LESCHNITZER 80

Dr. Adolf Leschnitzer (New York) recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Born in Posen, he studied in Berlin, where he joined the K.J.V. fraternity, and later obtained his doctoral degree in Heidelberg. When he was dismissed as Studienrat in 1933, he was appointed head of the School Department of the "Reichsvertretung". In this capacity he not only coped with the difficult administrative problems under the Nazi régime but also rendered essential educational services, especially by editing "Juedische Lesehefte" for the guidance of Jewish teachers and pupils. In 1939, he emigrated to the United States, where he taught English for newcomers in the "American Institute of Modern Languages". After the war, he became Professor of German Literature, first at Brooklyn College and later at New York City College (now University). From 1952 onwards, he also was for many years a regular guest lecturer at the Free University in Berlin. His main subject was the history of the position of the Jews in Germany. His research in this field also resulted in his book "Saul und David—Die Problematik der deutsch - juedischen Lebensgemeinschaft" (1954). Professor Leschnitzer is a Board member of the New York Leo Baeck Institute. Now in retirement, he continues his constructive work in the fields of history and literature. We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to him.

E.G.L.

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MEMORIAL MEETING FOR MARTYRS

Sunday, April 29

This year's Commemoration Meeting for the Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Six Million Jewish Martyrs of Nazism will be held on Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m. At the time of going to press, the venue and the details of the programme were not yet known, but further information will be obtainable at the AJR office from the first April week onwards.

As readers know, the AJR is one of the sponsoring organisations, and members of the AJR and their friends are urgently requested to attend the function, which throughout the years has been a most appropriate and dignified way of paying tribute to our nearest ones. For reserved seats, orders (with stamped and addressed envelope) should be sent to: The Secretary, AJEX, 5A East Bank, London N16 5RT.

GERMAN NEWS

AXEL SPRINGER APOLOGISES

During a reception given for him by the Berlin Jewish Community, publisher Axel Springer presented the chairman, Mr. Galinski, with a Polish bronze menorah which he had bought at a London auction and said he was greatly upset that the "Propyläenverlag" which belonged to his publishing empire, had published a book "History of the Germans" by Hellmut Diwald which was insulting to Jews. He had therefore ordered it to be withdrawn. He apologised for not having read the book before it appeared, as he would then have seen to it that the offending passages were deleted. The Propyläenverlag had already published an apology, announcing a future revised version.

PROTEST AGAINST AGNES MIEGEL STAMP

The British Board of Deputies has strongly protested against the decision of the Federal Post Office to mark the 100th birthday of the poet Agnes Miegel with a commemorative stamp. During the years of the Weimar Republic, Koenigsberg-born Agnes Miegel was widely quoted in schoolbooks and anthologies as the author of mythical and historical ballads. After Hitler came to power, she was awarded the Frankfurt Goethe Prize and wrote many poems glorifying the régime. Hermann Goering wrote the foreword to a collection of her poems distributed in schools.

TEACHERS WHO HAVE LEARNT NOTHING

At the request of girl students, a handicraft teacher in Bad Berleburg was dismissed because after the showing of the "Holocaust" TV film she had told her charges that she approved of the killing of Jews. In Hanau, a mathematics teacher was similarly dismissed, because he had distributed a book "The Auschwitz Lie" to his pupils and shown them photographs which were supposed to disprove the existence of camps. In this case, too, the pupils complained.

The Lower Saxony Ministry of Education suspended Navy Head Teacher Harm Menkens from Grünendeich who had written to a State newspaper that the mass murder of Jews in the Third Reich was an atrocity story spread by enemy propaganda. The Jews had been interned in camps for reasons of national security.

THE PASSION PLAY CONTROVERSY

Cardinal Ratzinger, Archbishop of Munich and Freising, has stated that he is satisfied that the revised text of the Oberammergau passion play now conforms with the principles of the Second Vatican Council which cleared the Jews of "deicide", and is no longer anti-semitic. He therefore declared his willingness to open the 1980 performances with a religious service.

THE ISRAELI SCENE

ISRAELI DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CLUB

Dr. Cegla, President of the Israeli branch of Rotary International, was elected a member of the international directorate of the Rotarians. The Rotary movement which has 900,000 members in 152 countries, has flourished in Israel for over 50 years. Dr. Cegla, a member for 30 years, is a lawyer from Germany who as a member of the Rotary International Finance Committee has introduced new measures of financial politics of great benefit to the organisation. He is one of Israel's financial wizards, and a member of the board of the Israel Corporation, of the ZIM Line and other leading establishments, as well as a governor of Tel Aviv University.

RUDOLF KUESTERMEIER GROVE

A grove in the Keren Kayemet Forest near Modlin was recently dedicated to the memory of Rudolf Kuestermeier, who was the Israel correspondent to the German Press Agency from 1957 to 1967. He retained his residence in the country after his retirement and died in Tel Aviv in December, 1977. A staunch anti-Nazi, he was imprisoned in 1934 as a member of a resistance group and remained incarcerated until the end of the war. He was also, together with Erich Lueth, one of the initiators of the "Peace with Israel" movement and, in 1950, the first German to be given a visa to Israel, from where he wrote a series of articles on the new Jewish State for "Die Welt".

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

The AJR Club extends heartiest congratulations to its octogenarian members: Dr. Alfred Cook, Mrs. Engelberg, Miss Welt, Mrs. Wolff, and to Mrs. Wallace on her 70th birthday.

Weiler.—Mr. Ernest Weiler of 84 Forest Court, Edgware Road, London, W2, will celebrate his 80th birthday on April 14.

Deaths

The members of the AJR Club deeply mourn the death of their Vice-Chairman, Dr. Adelheid Levy, to whose initiative the Club owes its existence. Her selfless devotion and readiness to help whenever help was needed will be remembered gratefully by all who knew her.—Margaret Jacoby, Dora Segall.

Feuchtwanger.—On March 12, peacefully in a nursing home in Winchester, Erna Feuchtwanger widow of Ludwig and mother of Edgar Feuchtwanger in her 92nd year.

Fialla.—Margarethe Fialla, formerly Vienna, passed away peacefully on February 11, aged 92. She will be sadly missed and always remembered by her sons, Ernst and Walter, her two daughters-in-law, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and her friends.

ISRAELI FOOTBALLER IN LIVERPOOL

22-year-old Avi Cohen, Israel's international centre-back, completed a seven-day trial with European champions Liverpool, who are prepared to pay around £200,000 for him. Israel's Football Association will have to relax a rule that its players must be at least 28 or have 50 international caps before being permitted to sign for a foreign club. Cohen is the first Israeli player ever considered good enough to turn professional and succeed in the English league.

THE SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN INSTITUTE

The first patients are about to be admitted to the recently opened Sir Ludwig Guttman Institute for the treatment of spinal cord injuries at Tel Hashomer Hospital near Tel Aviv. Its intensive care unit is probably one of the most advanced in the world. Mr. and Mrs. Ronson of London, have given the Institute a closed-circuit television system in memory of their late daughter, Mavis Ronson, a distinguished photographer.

£1 MILLION BAIL FOR EX-MAYOR

Mr. Oved Ben-Ami, former Mayor of Netanya, was arrested on suspicion of having misappropriated some £300,000 (worth about £30,000 in 1973) from a public land development company linked with Netanya municipality. He was released on £1 million (about £26,300) bail.

NO HONORARY CITIZENSHIP FOR NAHUM GOLDMANN

For the last two years, the Mayor of Tel Aviv, Mr. Lahat, and the Liberals on the city council have nominated 83-year-old Dr. Nahum Goldmann, founder president of the World Jewish Congress, for honorary citizenship in recognition of his active support in creating the Museum of the Diaspora in the grounds of Tel Aviv University. However, members of the National Religious Party have so far blocked the nomination.

STOLEN DIAMONDS RECOVERED

Israeli police have recovered £24 million worth of stolen diamonds in their attempts to end a plague of thefts of polished diamonds from Ben-Gurion airport. Five members of the Ramat Gan diamond exchange, two merchants, and 15 airport porters have been arrested. Diamonds worth five times that amount are estimated to have disappeared during the past five years. Polished diamonds are Israel's largest single export commodity.

THE GOOD FENCE STILL WORKS

With the fighting between the PLO and the Christians in Lebanon abating, the Safed Rebecca Sieff hospital near the border is busier than ever. Many ordinary Arabs are daily walking across the "Good Fence" at Metullah in search of medical attention, particularly for eye complaints. Whilst nobody is turned back, the hospital's facilities are stretched and there is a shortage even of items like surgical scissors and forceps.

CLASSIFIED

The charge in these columns is 50p for five words plus 25p for advertisements under a Box No.

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WE WOULD WELCOME hearing from more ladies who would be willing to shop and cook for an elderly person in their neighbourhood on a temporary or permanent basis. Current rate of pay £1.40 per hour. Please ring Mrs. Matus 01-624 4449, AJR Employment, for appointment.

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Fisher.—Ralph Bernard Fisher, formerly of Berlin, passed away suddenly on January 30, aged 57. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his wife, sister, mother and two sons, Howard and Harold.

Freedman.—Freddie, of 15 Queens Mead, St. John's Wood Park, London, NW8, much loved husband, father and grandfather, died peacefully on February 11.

Herman.—Siegfried Frederick Herman (Siegie) of 33 Netherwood Road, Northenden, Manchester 22, died peacefully on Thursday, February 15, aged 74. He will always remain in the hearts of his adoring and devoted wife, Gretchen, his loving son, Danny, and daughter-in-law, Pat, and his devoted grandchildren, Linda, Karen, Keith and Julie, and his mechtanim, Fay and Sam Benster, and family, and his many friends and associates.

Kann.—Rudolph Francis Kann, at Wellington Hospital, New Zealand, in December, 1978. Dearly loved husband of Peggy, beloved father of Melanie and Gabrielle (Wellington), and loved brother of Antonia (London).

Perlhoefer.—Mrs. Helene Perlhoefer (formerly Breslau) passed away peacefully in her 96th year on February 21. Very dearly loved by all her family.—Margarete Schaefer, (London), Eva Pollard, (London), Werner Perlhoefer, (Buenos Aires), Renate Logan (Sidney) and their families.

In Memoriam

Sinai.—In cherished memory of a dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother, Rose who passed away on March 17 (Nissan 4), 1964. Never to be forgotten by her still grieving husband, children and grandchildren.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

Personal Enquiries

Singer.—I am looking for the address of two school friends. Hilde Singer, born 1910, pupil of the "Cecilien-Schule" in Breslau from 1916-1929, daughter of the Inspector of the Cosel cemetery, and Hamburger.—Miriam Hamburger, daughter of a Rabbi, same age group and school. Both apparently settled in this country. Any information to be sent to Mrs. Hilde Brass-Friedmann, 294 Mearns Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow.

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Letters to the Editor

HISTORY OF AUSTRIAN COMMUNITIES

Sir,—Under the auspices of "Yad Vashem", the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, with which I have been associated since 1955, I am in charge of the publication of a "Juedische Gemeindebuch Oesterreich". The volume is to comprise the 34 organised Jewish communities, which existed in Austria before the "Anschluss", from their beginnings up to their dissolution, and their post-war history as far as they were re-established. I would appreciate it, if any readers who might be able to let me have information or material about former Austrian provincial communities kindly get in touch with me.

(Dr.) HERBERT ROSENKRANZ

Yad Vashem,
Har Hazzikaron,
Jerusalem, Israel.

"REUNION"

Sir,—It may interest your readers that my book "Reunion" which was so beautifully reviewed by Margot Pottlitzer in your December, 1977 issue, has now been accepted in ten countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Italy, France, U.S.A., Israel and Brazil). Described as "a masterpiece" by Koestler, "a distinguished, rare piece of writing" in a four page article in the "New Yorker" by George Steiner, "a beautiful piece of writing" by Raymond Mortimer, it has been discussed on the French and Norwegian radio and on the Sueddeutsche Rundfunk, whose Editor-in-Chief came specially to London. It has won the American Library Award for the most notable book of 1977 and Gallimard, Paris, printed seven editions in six months. In Germany die Landesstelle fuer politische Bildung has distributed 6,000 copies to teachers, schools and universities.

In this country, "Reunion" has been published by Collins in hard back and in paperback by Fontana.

FRED UHLMAN

47 Downshire Hill,
London, N.W.3.

HISTORY OF GERMAN-JEWISH SPORT

Sir,—I should be grateful if readers assisted me with the preparation of a documentary to be published in the next volume of the Leo Baeck Institute Year Book. I am particularly interested in any eye witness reports, photographs, etc., relating to Jewish champions, regattas and tournaments in Germany.

PAUL YOGI MAYER

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LOLA HAHN-WARBURG HONOURED

47 members of Children and Youth Aliyah for Great Britain took part in the dedication of several British projects at Youth Aliyah schools and centres in Israel. At Moshav Beit Uziel, the foundation stone was laid for a new club house and classrooms named in honour of Mrs. Lola Hahn-Warburg, the honorary vice-president. It was the 45th anniversary tour of Youth Aliyah which began its work in 1934 with a transport of refugee children from Germany. A new community centre in Kiryat Gat was dedicated in memory of Mr. Anthony Elliott, the British Ambassador who was drowned in a swimming accident near Caesarea in 1976. Mr. James Callaghan, and British ambassadors in different parts of the world contributed to it, and their names were inscribed in a donors' book, presented to Mrs. Elliott, the ambassador's widow.

SIGNAL SERVICES IN THE PROVINCES

Birthday of Kate Freyhan (Bedford)

Kate Freyhan, who recently celebrated her 70th birthday, deserves tribute not only because of her personal achievements in the field of music. Her life is also remarkable because she belongs to those former refugees, who settled in towns in which there were very few, if any other refugees. Some former refugees in a similar position have remained isolated strangers in their new environment and others were so unreservedly absorbed by their contacts with English people that they lost their identity. Kate Freyhan and her husband Hans, a frequent contributor to this journal and a member of the AJR Board, have succeeded in keeping a balance between the two elements which shaped their lives. For 40 years, she has been a music teacher and organiser. She was Assistant Chorus Master of the Bedford Musical Society from 1948 to 1974 and, in recognition of her signal services, was appointed the Society's vice-president. Her other intense and widespread musical activities include weekly recorder classes in her home. As a conductor of choirs and of recorder players she became widely known in the county, and many charitable organisations, among them the "Save the Children" Fund, have benefited from her performances. When she gave up her position as Assistant Chorus Master, the members of the choir thanked her in a letter, which carries the following fitting words: "The number of children and adults alike you have given pleasure to are innumerable. Bedford is a better place for this very reason". The house of the Freyhans has become a centre of hospitality for numerous artists of world-wide fame who came to perform in Bedford.

We extend our cordial birthday greetings to Kate Freyhan. By her outstanding services she has, at the same time, added lustre to our community.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Berlin. An insight into the Berlin of the early 1930s was given when the "Theater des Westens" reopened with the American musical "Cabaret". It was presented in a rather realistic form; the younger ones of a rather bewildered audience were perhaps for the first time confronted with stage scenes depicting demonstrations, persecution of Jews, in short, glimpses of the beginning of the Nazi era. Horst Buchholz, the internationally known star, acted as dancing and singing compère, whilst the talented and effective Jutta Boll had the thankless task of following in the footsteps of Liza Minelli in the (now almost classical) part of Sally Bowles.

Austria—not "made in Vienna". During the recent years Bundeslaender theatres have advanced with rapid strides, and the level of their productions can no longer be regarded as "provincial". Significantly, these theatres seem to be catching up with presenting more sophisticated plays by modern and former "undesirable" authors, meeting interest and taste of a new generation of theatre goers. Kammerspiele Linz have just brought out Miller's "Death of a Salesman", whilst Ephraim Kishon's "Es war die Lerche" is included in the repertoire in Innsbruck, where, incidentally, Lincke's operetta "Frau Luna" still draws the crowds.

Munich — Daughters and Son. Familiar names to be found in present-day Munich theatre: Annemarie Wernicke (daughter of Otto) in Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler", Thomas Fritsch (son of Willy) in "Irma la Douce" (Kleine Komödie). Götz George (son of Heinrich) played the lead, a concentration camp commandant, in the much-discussed film "Aus einem deutschen Leben".

30 years ago, New York's Broadway greeted the Rodgers/Hammerstein musical "South Pacific" as one of the greatest of our time. Its run extended to 1,925 performances, a figure only beaten by "Oklahoma" and, in popular acclaim, exceeded merely twice by "My Fair Lady" and "Fiddler on the Roof".

Obituary. Luxemburg-born, German stage and screen actor René Deltgen has died in Cologne a few weeks before his 70th birthday. He was a well-liked character player whose classical roles included Franz Moor, Gessler, Petrucchio and Mephisto; for a long time there was hardly a major German film in which he did not take part. S.B.

THE 1979 BUBER-ROSENZWEIG MEDAL

The author Manes Sperber, a pupil of Alfred Adler and writer on subjects connected with "Individualpsychologie", who denounced the Nazis at an early date and has lived in Paris since 1934, received this year's Buber-Rosenzweig Medal. The laudatio at the opening of the German "week of brotherliness" in Hanover was given by Professor Dr. Friedrich Heer, Vienna, the first recipient of the medal.

LUBITSCH PRIZE FOR ELISABETH BERGNER

The Berlin Club of Cinema Journalists awarded the 1979 Ernst Lubitsch Prize to Elisabeth Bergner for the best performance in a German-language film comedy, the "Pflingstausflug" by Michael Günther. In it she plays an old age pensioner who escapes with her husband, played by Martin Held, from an old-age home, and the funny and sad experiences of the two during their escapade. The film will be shown on TV at a later date.

AN OPERA FROM THERESIENSTADT

BBC-2 showed the West German TV film "Der Kaiser von Atlantis". It is an opera, written and composed in 1943/44 by two inmates of Theresienstadt concentration camp, the Schoenberg pupil Viktor Ullmann and his librettist Peter Kien. First intended to be shown in the camp, the authorities later banned the production and sent the authors to Auschwitz where they perished. The manuscript, given up for lost by other survivors, was discovered in London 30 years later by conductor Kerry Woodward. It was first shown in Holland, and later by Westdeutscher Rundfunk which won the 1978 Prix Italia for the production, sung in German. It is an allegory of persecution and cruelty, but with a firm hope of redemption. The programme was introduced by H. G. Adler, a survivor of both Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, who described the function of Theresienstadt as a kind of cultural shop-window for the camps, but stressed that of the 150,000 people who passed through it only some 20,000 survived. He also revealed that the manuscript had been written on Gestapo Deportation forms.

LUDWIG MEIDNER EXHIBITION IN COLOGNE

The Cologne Ruchti Gallery has just launched an exhibition of the drawings of the great Jewish artist Ludwig Meidner who died thirteen years ago, but whose drawings have only just been released by his Darmstadt executors. The 80 drawings in the exhibition illustrate the artist's development from 1912-1947. They include works done during his stay in England as a refugee between 1939 and 1952, among them the harassing series "Life in Germany—now".

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