

AJR INFORMATION

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Werner Rosenstock

DOWN MEMORY LANE

An Evocative Exhibition in Berlin

During recent months several Berlin boroughs have arranged exhibitions to keep alive in their districts the memory of events under the Nazi regime. In January, such an exhibition was opened under the auspices of the Borough of Tiergarten.

It is of particular importance for the history of Berlin Jews under the Nazis, because one section of the borough, the Hansaviertel, had a comparatively high proportion of Jewish residents.

The other part of the borough, Moabit, was mainly inhabited by lower middle class and working class families, quite a few of whom were active in the fight against Nazism before 1933 and, as far as was then possible, under the Nazi regime. Needless to say, the Hansaviertel district also had among its residents personalities, especially politicians and authors, who fought against the National Socialist ideology and its brutal activities.

Those who contributed material based on their own experiences to the exhibition included emigrated Jews. Seven of them from England and one from the United States were invited as guests of the Berlin Senate. Also invited was Mr. Carter, who was in charge of the Quaker Office in Berlin between the November pogroms and the outbreak of war.

The building in which the guests were accommodated was situated in the Kurfuerstenstrasse 114-116. This site has a curious history. Built as the "Bruedervereinhaus" for comfortably off members of the Jewish middle class, it became, after the confiscation of the B'nai B'rith House in the Kleiststrasse, the only place, in Berlin with a hall available for Jewish public meetings (of course under the supervision of the Gestapo).

After the November pogroms, Eichmann took over the building and the assembly hall became the emigration office where applicants obtained their passports after having gone through a humiliating procedure. Among other things they had to submit lists of the belongings they wanted to take with them and which had to include every handkerchief



The entrance to the new Jewish Community Centre in Fasanenstrasse in West Berlin. It incorporates the original portico arch of the old Fasanen Street synagogue.

and every teaspoon. When we left that building we could hardly imagine that 46 years later we would be given the hospitality of the City of Berlin in the Hotel ("Sylter Hof") which has since been erected on the site.

The exhibition, which was held in the Tiergarten Town Hall, Turmstrasse, was opened with a public gathering on January 7. The visitors were welcomed by the Borough Mayor, Martin Quell, who stressed the importance of the enterprise, especially for the younger generation. The work of

the Quakers under the Nazis was described by Mr. Carter. It was mainly carried out for "dissident" people of "non-Aryan" descent who did not qualify for help by the Jewish community or the Protestant and Catholic relief offices.

Examples of the Jewish position were given by the present writer. He recalled his experience in the Ulap S. A. station and the Moabit prison as well as the work of the Jewish organisations in which he participated until his emigration a few weeks before the outbreak of war. Born and bred in the Hansaviertel, he gave illustrations of the atmosphere of the district, which was a self-contained unit in which the individual did not submerge anonymously.

Well-known personalities

There lived in the district many well known personalities. The speaker singled out the co-discoverer of penicillin, Ernst (later Sir Ernst) Chain. In 1933 he emigrated to England and in 1945 he was awarded the Nobel Prize. He was one of the eight Nobel Prize winners who, had they not been forced to emigrate, would have increased the number of German and Austrian laureates. The speaker also mentioned the outstanding teacher of law, Dr. Siegbert Springer, in the Spenerstrasse and reported that efforts were now being made to commemorate him tangibly.

Turning to the attitude of the emigrated Jews to Germany, he said that none of them could ever forget the events which led to the loss of their nearest ones. Therefore, for many, Germany was a closed chapter. There were, however, others who, in spite of everything, had preserved a feeling for their former homeland.

In the face of the neo-Nazi manifestations this was not always made easy for them. Yet there was reason to hope that the idea of constitutional law

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EVOCATIVE VISIT TO BERLIN

and democracy was sufficiently rooted in the Federal Republic. This was borne out, the speaker concluded, by an enterprise like this exhibition.

The exhibition itself was prepared in the first place by a young political scientist and publicist, Heiko Roskamp. He had made a thorough study of the history of the district and had interviewed a very great number of persecutees and other eye-witnesses. This was reflected in the numerous tableaux, displaying personal stories and buildings such as the Levetzowstrasse Synagogue (now demolished) which served as an assembly centre for Jews who were deported from the Putlitzstrasse railway station.

To enlarge on the terrible subject, a gathering took place on the following evening in which Berliners and emigrated victims reported on their personal experiences. The special fate of Jews who, with the help of courageous non-Jews, had gone underground and of so-called "Mischlinge" was also the subject of informal conversations.

Unfortunately, the "Bezirksamt" had failed to invite the press to the opening meeting. To make up for this, a press conference was arranged a few days later, at which emigrated victims told their stories. Quotations (not always the most important ones) were published in three newspapers, and there were also TV and radio broadcasts. There is now a steady flow of visitors, and group visits by schools under expert guidance have been organised.

A bus tour through West Berlin was arranged by the Berlin Information Centre. It was particularly gratifying that the explanations were given by a man with deep background knowledge, Harold Lohl, who is a passionate fighter against the numerous denials or belittling of the Holocaust.

Streets in which old undamaged or repaired houses prevail are in the minority. Most buildings are new, and in some regions, e.g. the Hansaviertel and the area south of the Kurfuerstendamm, the topography of the streets is completely changed. All passengers came out with their reminiscences when the bus passed through streets in which they had lived.

One of the most upsetting stations of the tour

was the memorial in Ploetzensee, where resistance fighters were executed, among them the participants in the miscarried plot of July 20, 1944, who were strangled on meat hooks. The displays included the invoice of an executioner, who added a charge for "overtime".

The central area is still wasteland, presumably in the hope of an ultimate union between West and East Berlin which would make it possible to build an organic new centre for the now divided city.

The official conclusion of the stay was a lunch given by the Berlin Senate. The guests could also choose two performances, for which they were provided with complimentary tickets. A theatrical version of Alfred Doebelin's novel "Berlin Alexanderplatz" was not to everybody's taste; the Cabaret "Die Stachelschweine" was, as always, a satirical and witty reflection of the political climate. What a pity that the London TV series "That Was The Week That Was" was so shortlived!

Enjoyable experience

In a private capacity we visited the "Zentrum fuer Antisemitismusforschung" in the Technische Universitaet, Ernst Reuter Platz (formerly "Knie"). Its director is our friend Professor Herbert Strauss, who took leave of absence as director of the "American Federation of Jews from Central Europe". He was abroad when we came to see the Institute, but his assistants and staff members gave us valuable information about their research projects and showed us their library and exhibition room.

The Berlin stay was also a most enjoyable personal experience. Most of the visitors knew each other already in London or even from their pre-emigration years in Berlin. At the same time, a close personal relationship developed between them and their hosts, especially Heiko Roskamp, to whom the success of the exhibition is due, and Brigitte Röper of the Department for the care of visiting former Berliners, who gained our friendship by her efficient helpfulness and human warmth.

OESTERREICHISCHE SOZIALVERSICHERUNG

Eingehende Studien des Ministeriums fuer soziale Fuersorge haben ergeben, dass die generoesen Bestimmungen der oesterreichischen Sozialversicherung, verbunden mit der fuer Oesterreich ungewohnt hohen Ziffer der Arbeitslosigkeit von 5% (in anderen Laendern wuerde dieser Prozentsatz als unerreichbar niedrig betrachtet werden), im Jahre 1990 in der Pensionsversicherung zu einem finanziell untragbaren Defizit von 84 Milliarden Schilling per Jahr fuehren wuerde.

Es ergab sich daraus die Notwendigkeit die alljaehrliche Steigerung der Pensionen zu—wie es in der Regierungsvorlage heisst—"daempfen". Dies hat zur Erlassung, am 7. Dezember 1984, der 40ten Novelle zum Allgemeinen Sozialversicherungsgesetz gefuehrt, die ausserordentlich kompliziert und fuer das Inland in vielen Beziehungen geradezu umwaelzend ist.

(1) Wir gehen bewusst nicht auf die Einzelheiten der sehr komplizierten Bestimmungen ein, die alljaehrliche Neurechnung der "Richtzahl"—nunmehr viel zutreffender "Aufwertungszahl" genannt—regeln. Auf eine leicht verstaendliche Forma reduziert, bedeutet die Neuregelung, dass die inflationaere Kostensteigerung des einem neuen Jahr vorhergehenden Jahres nicht in Betracht gezogen wird. Fuer die Errechnung der Steigerung wird von nun an die Steigerung des zweitvorhergegangenen Kalenderjahrs (als Ausgangsjahr) gegenueber dem drittvorangehenden Jahr (als Vergleichsjahr) herangezogen werden. Es werden also z.B. im Jahre 1986 die Kostensteigerungen des Jahres 1985 nicht beruecksichtigt werden. Sie werden ihre Beruecksichtigung erst im Jahre 1987 finden.

(2) Die neugefassten Ruhensbestimmungen bei

Vorliegen eines Nebenerwerbs nach Pensionierung besagen, dass die Pension mit dem Betrag ruht, um den das im Monat erzielte Erwerbseinkommen S 3200 uebersteigt, hoechstens jedoch mit dem Betrag um den die Summe der Pension (inkl. Hilflosenzuschuss) und Erwerbseinkommen den Betrag von S 7000 uebersteigt. Diese Ziffern werden alljaehrlich gemaess der Aufwertungszahl neu bestimmt werden.

Eine Uebergangsbestimmung verfuegt aber, dass wenn es fuer den Pensionsversicherten guenstiger ist, so sind die bisherigen Bestimmungen weiterhin anzuwenden, wenn das im Dezember 1984 zu einem Ruhen der Pension fuehrende Erwerbseinkommen auf Grund *ein und derselben* Erwerbstaetigkeit weiterhin erzielt wird.

Der Anspruch auf eine Pension ist an die Voraussetzung geknuepft, dass die Wartezeit durch erworbene Versicherungsmonate erfuellt ist. Die Bestimmungen des § 236, Absatze (1) bis (3) ueber die Mindestzahl der Versicherungsmonate sind recht kompliziert und fuer die Betroffenen kostspielig. Der Absatz (4) des § 236 lautet aber:

(4) die Wartezeit ist auch erfuellt, wenn bis zum Stichtag mindestens 180 Beitragsmonate erworben sind.

(Als Stichtag gilt bekanntlich entweder die Erreichung des pensionsfaehigen Alters oder der Tod.)

Der Verfasser dieser Notiz ist der Meinung, dass im Sinne obiger Bestimmung alle, denen die Emigrationszeit bis 1.4.1959 angerechnet worden ist, das Erfordernis der Wartezeit erfuellt haben. In der Regel sind zwischen 230-240 Monate als Emigrationszeit angerechnet worden.

Wir nehmen an, dass unsere Leser sich darueber im Klaren sind, dass je mehr Beitragsmonate erworben wurden, desto hoeher die zu erwartende Pension ist.

C.I.K.

GIFTS TO WIENER LIBRARY

As a British Army officer stationed in Charlottenburg in 1945, Dr. Peter Perry visited the Chancellery in Berlin shortly after Russian troops had ransacked it. "The floor was inches deep in paper," he says, "I just picked up handfuls". Among his finds were documents signed by Wilhelm Frick and Heinrich Himmler, Hitler's personal notepaper and his book plates. Dr. Perry took many photographs during his time in Berlin and also possesses a photo of the first Seder in the city after the Nazi collapse. Another interesting document is a circular issued by the Revd. Isaac Levy, explaining that chaplains had had to concentrate on the needs of Belsen survivors. He appealed to Jewish soldiers to donate rations to the victims and to try to discover the identities of any survivors they came across, so that they might be reunited with their families.

Copies of the Perry Collection and documents from it have recently been donated to the Wiener Library in London.

GAS EXPLOSION VICTIM

Among the victims of the gas explosion in Putney during the severe weather was Mrs. Elsie (Ilse) Kellerman, aged 65. A refugee from Germany in 1939, she escaped to Holland with a children's group and thence came to England, where she was almost immediately interned. For some years, Mrs. Kellerman was a voluntary social worker in the Putney area.

HOME NEWS

H. OSCAR JOSEPH & ALLOCATIONS

Mr. H. Oscar Joseph OBE, President of the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief, has resigned as Chairman of the Allocations (JTC Funds) Committee of the organisation, a position he had held since 1977. Mr. Joseph was 84 in January, and our community sends him warm congratulations together with its feelings of gratitude for a lifetime of work devoted to helping Jewish refugees and particularly refugees from Nazi oppression. His commitment goes back to 1938, when Otto Schiff asked him to share his burden, and found he had enlisted a man of exceptional ability and character. A merchant banker with wide experience, he headed the Refugees Committee's Business Department, helping many refugees to start new business ventures in Britain, and in 1945 joined the Council of the Central British Fund, becoming Joint Treasurer in 1947 and Chairman from 1957-71. His involvement in Jewish, and above all refugee affairs has been never-ending.

The Allocations Committee of the CBF is responsible for administration of funds received from the Jewish Trust Corporation, a great proportion of which was used for the setting up of residential care facilities for the elderly, now administered by the CBF Residential Care and Housing Association.

Mr. Ludwig Spiro has been appointed Chairman of the Allocations Committee, with effect from 1 January 1985. Mr. Maurice Ross will be Secretary of the Committee.

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

The 1985 Jewish Book Week will again be held in various venues and cities. In London it will be at Woburn House, from 25 February to 4 March. The subjects will range from Maimonides Today, a talk given by the Chief Rabbi, Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, to a discussion of whether Ideology is Dead in Israeli Society and Literature, with the Israeli novelist Yitzchak Ben-Ner present to read from his works, a panel discussion of Jewish Writing by Dannie Abse, Chaim Bermant, Bernice Rubens and Clive Sinclair, Mapping the Jewish World by Nicholas de Lange, to Illuminated Haggadot, a talk by Rabbi Dr. David Goldstein, and the Rights and Wrongs of the Warnock Report, a dialogue between Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks and Mr. Robert Winston.

In Essex the venue is the Chigwell & Hainault Synagogue from 25-27 February, Limes Avenue, Chigwell. In Manchester, the dates are 2-4 March in the Yeshurun Hebrew congregation, Coniston Road, Gatley. In Cambridge, it is at the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, from 10-12 March.

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WALLENBERG CASE "WILL BE RAISED"

January 17 marked the fortieth anniversary of the disappearance into Soviet custody of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved so many Hungarian Jews. A memorial tree was planted in the Hyde Park Holocaust Garden by the British Raoul Wallenberg Committee, who also held a public meeting at the House of Commons attended by the diplomat's half-brother, Guy von Dardel. Malcolm Rifkind of the Foreign Office met the Committee and promised that the case would be raised "whenever he could" with the Soviet authorities. Mr. Greville Janner, MP, has said that the subject was taken up with Mikhail Gorbachov when he visited the UK in December last. The Committee has also asked British Jews to contribute towards the Wallenberg Forest near Nazareth.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center of 9760 W Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA90035, is attempting to list all the Jews who were saved by Wallenberg in Budapest, 1944. Information will be greatly appreciated by the Associate Dean, Rabbi A. Cooper, at the address mentioned.

RABBI TAKES THIRD PLACE

The "Man of the Year" listeners' poll organised by the Today programme on Radio 4 was dominated by the contrast of Mrs. Thatcher as Woman and Mr. Scargill as Man of 1984. Few noticed that among the most popular figures voted for by listeners was Rabbi Lionel Blue, who came third (after Mr. Scargill and Mr. Tebbit) in the votes cast for men. Rabbi Blue is frequently heard in the short morning reflection "Thought for Today".

CLUB 1943

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1985

- 4 Mar. Hans Seelig M.A.: "More About Swiss Writers After Recent Personal Contact".
- 11 Mar. Amanda Golby LL.B.: "The History of the Jews in England".
- 18 Mar. Meirah Yudkin M.A.: "Martin Buber: Ideas of Communication".
- 25 Mar. Dr. Michael Seyfert: "Ein Deutscher Liberaler der besten Art: Zum 100-jährigen Geburtstag von Rudolf Olden".
- 1 Apr. Ulrich Huppenbauer (Student at Leo Baeck College): "The Conflict between Jews and Christians in the First and Second Centuries and its Historical Treatment".
- 8 Apr. No Meeting.
- 15 Apr. Walter Lewis: "The Life and Work of Arthur Koestler".
- 22 Apr. Dr. Lothar Kettenacker: "Preussen-Deutschland als Britisches Feindbild im zweiten Weltkrieg".
- 29 Apr. Dr. Dietlind Bland: "German Expressionism in Art and Literature" (with slides).

WOBURN HOUSE DILEMMA

Woburn House faces an uncertain future. Owned by the United Synagogue, which has its headquarters there, and occupied by a number of communal organisations, the building has become outmoded and inadequate for its present occupants, who include the Board of Deputies, the Chief Rabbi's Office and the Jewish Museum. Modernisation could cost over £1m and lead to heavy rent increases. Partial letting on a commercial basis is not considered practicable. The United Synagogue is carrying out a complete review of the situation and there is even a possibility that the building could be offered for sale. No decision is likely, however, for the next two or three years.

A GENUINE CASE?

Doubt surrounds a recent purchase by the Imperial War Museum—a pen alleged to be that used by Hitler to sign the French armistice in 1940. The Museum's director Alan Borg admits that he took a risk: the backing of the presentation case looks rather modern and the seals are "a bit like those on the Hitler Diaries". Forensic scientists are to inspect the accompanying certificate of authentication, apparently signed by leading Nazis. But Mr. Borg remains cheerful about his £200 purchase: if it is a fake it might form the basis of a collection of forgeries.

FUNDS BUT NO RESEARCHER

An almost unique problem faces the Dysautonomia Society of Great Britain: they have adequate resources to fund research into the disease, but no scientist in the UK is currently studying it. Dysautonomia, a malfunction of the nervous system, almost exclusively affects Ashkenazi Jews, of whom about one person in 60 is a carrier. At present there are no tests for carriers and the Society is hoping to find a geneticist, microbiologist or neurologist who will widen our knowledge of the disease. It is unwilling to send its considerable funds overseas, although some research is being carried out in the United States.

HANUKKA EXPLAINED TO GENTILES

Hanukka is gradually becoming a familiar festival to non-Jews throughout Britain. In 1984, giant menorahs displayed their candles in Birmingham, Leeds and London. A special gathering was held in Edinburgh to explain the significance of the occasion to non-Jewish audiences. Vandals at Bury, Lancs, attempted to prevent a Hanukka concert by sealing the primary school gates with superglue and daubing antisemitic slogans. However, staff managed to open the gates and the walls were cleaned before the concert began.

MOROCCO'S UNIQUE MP

Recent Moroccan elections produced one surprise—for the first time since the country's independence a Jew has been elected to its Parliament. The new member, Jo Ohanna, belongs to the liberal Constitutional Union. He was a close associate of Ben Barka, murdered in France in 1965.

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AJR Interview

FATHERS AND SONS

A Conversation with Hans Hirsch

On his way back from the presentation ceremony of the Otto Hirsch Medallion in Stuttgart on the 100th anniversary of his father's birth, Hans George Hirsch stopped over in London before going on to his home near Washington. Mr. Hirsch retired recently from his position as an agricultural economist specialising in international trade.

AJR: How did the presentation go?

H.G.H.: It turned out to be a rather moving occasion. Though it lasted rather long, for a reason I shall tell you about in a moment, the large audience was raptly attentive. Obviously, people had come who were interested, but they must have been keen to hear about all the various aspects of my father's career and achievements. The longest talk was given by the city archivist, Dr. Paul Sauer, an impressive man who has made a thorough historical study of Württemberg Jewry and published a book on the subject in 1966. He had certainly assembled a great deal of information about my father's life and career. This will be published soon by the Bleicher Verlag of Gerlingen, near Stuttgart. I'll try to get it published in English too. By the way, your readers may be interested to know that there are archives and records of individuals of the Israelitische Religionsgemeinschaft going back to 1820 until the registry offices (Standesämter) took over in 1875, and some beyond 1875 too.

AJR: Did the local Jewish community participate too?

H.G.H.: I'm sorry to have to say no, and it strikes me as strange too. They are mostly of Polish origin now, and don't seem to care to establish any sort of continuity with the past of the historic Jewish community, the remnants of which are of course scattered all over the world. The rabbi, a Hungarian trained in Budapest, was out of town on this occasion. Sad, but there you are.

AJR: Are you pleased about the award to Dr. Otto Küster?

H.G.H.: Yes, he was very suitable. He was dismissed from his post as a judge in 1933 for his pro-Jewish views ('Judenfreundlichkeit') and anti-Nazi sentiments. He survived by taking an obscure legal position in the army, out of the limelight. After the war he did a very good job of setting up the legal basis of restitution.

AJR: Was it your father's original ambition to get a law degree?

H.G.H.: No, not at all. He wanted to read classics and then teach the subject. But he was told that that would only be possible if he were baptised, so he switched to law.

AJR: Were there other similar incidents early in his career?

H.G.H.: Oh yes indeed. There was a famous incident when he applied to join the Stuttgart city administration. They had ended up with a shortlist of two young applicants, and my father was in every respect, formal and otherwise, the obvious man for the job. Nevertheless, the other candidate was chosen. However, when the city council as-

sembled for the announcement, an SPD councillor rose and said that never before had anything but straight ability and qualifications, not religion, determined the choice of a candidate for a civil service position in Stuttgart, and Otto Hirsch was



After the presentation of the Otto Hirsch Medallion in Stuttgart on 9 January, the 100th anniversary of the German Jewish leader's birth. On the left and right are Otto Hirsch's son Hans and daughter Ursula (Hirsch) Joachim. The couple in the middle are Mrs. and Dr. Otto Küster, recipient of the medallion, awarded by the City of Stuttgart and Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation. Dr. Küster, dismissed from his judgeship in 1933 for his pro-Jewish views, was responsible after the war for setting up the legal framework of restitution.

unquestionably the man for the job. The decision was reversed and my father was chosen.

AJR: I don't think they had reason to regret their choice! But it does give one an idea of the obstacles facing even the most able and gifted German Jews at that time if they chose a career in the civil service. It was of course his outstanding qualities of leadership that made the Nazis mark your father out as a special target.

H.G.H.: Yes, it was Eichmann himself who gave the order, and even when my mother had her passport and exit permit ready to leave (though reluctantly leaving my father behind), it was Eichmann who impounded the passport, stopped her emigration and ordered her deportation. The policy of destroying the Jewish leadership was laced with personal vindictiveness.

AJR: Your sisters came to Britain, though they eventually settled in America. How did you happen to go there, rather than come here?

H.G.H.: Well, one went where one could at that time. Actually, we had had American relations

from as early as 1854, and had maintained contact with them, and there I went in 1938, already 22 years old. My sisters left later, in January 1939. My mother had been to school in England in 1908, and it was former schoolfriends of hers from Malvern School, who provided the guarantees for my sisters, and two of your members, Mrs. Elizabeth Goldschmidt and Mrs. Lola Hahn-Warburg, were guardians.

AJR: Like so many of our members, you have been researching the background of your family and ancestors. Have you also learned more about your father's last days?

H.G.H.: Yes. In the spring of 1941 there were several transports of Dutch Jews to Mauthausen,

followed by many killings at that time, when he was murdered too, on 19 June. It is not generally known that the *Totenbuch* of Mauthausen is in the U.S. Government Archives and available for inspection, at least on microfilm.

AJR: From what you have said, it seems that Paul Sauer has written an excellent monograph on your father. But don't you think his life would make a fascinating full-length biography? The rise of a brilliant administrator in the German civil service despite the obstacles, the planning of the Neckar Canal Project, the crisis of 1933 and turning his talents to saving German Jewry, thus enabling three-fifths of the half million German Jews to emigrate and survive, yet staying on at his post until he lost his own life—it is an amazing, tragic story.

H.G.H.: It is indeed, and should be told while there are still friends and witnesses alive.

AJR: It should be written in English, by someone who can recreate the man and the period for a wide audience.



The bronze memorial tablet set near the Otto Hirsch Bridge in Stuttgart, concisely summarising his achievements. The bridge was named for him in 1958, but the tablet was set up now.

NEW USES FOR SALT WATER

Researchers who may help the hungry in many lands have examined the use of salt or brackish water for agriculture. A conference at Ben Gurion University heard that wheat and other useful plants grow well with low-salt irrigation and cotton plants may even increase their output.

Another important possibility for coastal deserts has been demonstrated by the Israeli firm of Koor, which has just shipped an initial load of Spirulina algae to the USA. The algae are grown in special lagoons near Eilat and used as fodder. Ultimately it is hoped to derive chemicals from these organisms, which grow happily under the hot sun in brackish water. Research for this project, too, was carried out at Ben Gurion University.

FIRST JAMES PARKES AWARD

The first James Parkes Memorial Prize has been awarded to Professor Ron Nettle of the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, at the Hebrew University. The prize, named in honour of the British theologian who strove for Christian-Jewish understanding, will be given annually.

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THE JEWS OF TRIER

The first part of Jacques Jacobs' little book (*Existenz und Untergang der alten Judengemeinde in Trier. Spee-Verlag, Trier, 160 pages, DM 15.80.*) deals with the religious life and social position of the Jewish inhabitants of Trier and the surrounding countryside in the period from 1815, when they became Prussian citizens, to the fall of the Weimar Republic.

In the early years of this period the Jewish population of the Trier district consisted largely of small-time cattle-dealers and hawkers; in the succeeding generations it developed steadily into a prosperous, cultured and respected Jewish community. More than a few of its members were people of considerable distinction.

Needless to say, some pockets of prejudice and social discrimination remained. The synagogue served, beyond its main function as a place of religious worship and education, as a social centre, in addition to the local B'nai B'rith lodge and other Jewish institutions. On the whole, Jewish families were on amiable terms with their Gentile neighbours, but close friendships were comparatively rare.

The second part of the book describes the acts of disfranchisement and persecution committed by the Nazi regime, from the boycott of 1 April 1933 to the final annihilation of what was left of the Jewish Community. Attached to this part is an official list of those Jews who, having failed to emigrate in time, were transported from Trier to the extermination camps.

By combining scholarly research into the documentary sources still extant with his personal memories, the author presents to the German readership he seems to have principally in mind, an account which is also of great interest to the refugees from Trier who have found a new life in other countries.

FEODORE KAHN

A MUCH-TRAVELLED EDITOR

The new editor of the "Leicester Jewish Bulletin", Mrs. Trudie Oakfield can look back on many miles of world travel. Born in Austria, she came to Britain in 1939, but from there moved to Bolivia. After the war, she became a hotel executive and this work took her to Abadan, Beirut, Portugal, Taiwan, Thailand and elsewhere. She has also lived in Boston, Mass., and Switzerland.

In 1972, Trudie met her husband Bill through an advertisement in *AJR Information* and settled down in Leicester. As well as her editorial responsibilities, Mrs Oakfield is honorary secretary of Leicester Women Zionists, while Mr. Oakfield presides at the local B'nai B'rith Lodge.

A JAPANESE DIPLOMAT RESCUER

Japanese during the Second World War are often seen as unspeakably cruel. But many Japanese diplomats in the thirties were civilised men and appalled by the barbarities of Nazi Germany. Some of them used their position to rescue the victims and one of these men, Seno Sugihara, has just become the first Oriental to receive Yad Vashem's Medal of the Righteous Gentile.

In 1940, Mr. Sugihara was Japanese consul in Kaunas, Lithuania. At that time, hundreds of Jews had escaped from Poland into Lithuania and were desperately seeking a way out of Europe. Only Dutch Curaçao required no visa and a young Dutch Jew approached the Japanese Consul for a transit visa. It was freely given: next day several Jews came for similar visas and then they came in hundreds: finally Mr. Sugihara gave out over 4,000 visas—some people think the number is nearer 6,000. All this was done in 16 days. Sometimes visas were simply photographed and facsimiles handed to all comers. Alex Triguboff a Jew in Japan who met the escaped Jews and translated for the immigration officers, says that he saw the same name and date again and again on the visas that were presented.

Not rejected

Mr. Sugihara tried to get permission from the Japanese Foreign Office for his wholesale issue of life-saving visas. This was not forthcoming, however, and he was eventually obliged to resign. Nevertheless, Japan did not reject those he had helped. Of the estimated 10,000 Jews saved by Seno Sugihara, many settled successfully in Japan, while others made their way to Israel, one of them becoming Minister of Religious Affairs and another Speaker of the Knesset.

Because of heart trouble, the former diplomat was unable to attend the award ceremony at the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo and the medal was presented to his wife Yukiko.

Secret plan

Japan had its own secret plan for resettlement of the Jews, intending to set up a Manchurian buffer state against the Soviet Union, to be financed and peopled by Jews. It was called the "Fugu Plan" after a fish which is highly poisonous if wrongly prepared. Proponents declared that if Japan were ever-alert to "the sly nature of the Jews" the plan would resemble "the most tasty and nutritious dish", but any mistake would bring about fearful destruction. The "Fugu Plan" was never put into practice.

Lux Lux

LINGERIE + UNDERWEAR

FACTORIES: GLOSSOP, DERBYS — LEEK, STAFFS — RUNCORN, CHESH.

A CHAPTER OF *THE TIMES*

The Times this year celebrates its 200th anniversary and whatever might be thought of a bicentennial, the sheer stamina that has assured survival so long must command respect. A paper that reported the French Revolution, the American Civil War and England's progress from a world-encircling empire to an off-shore island in Europe, is in itself a monument of history, and it must be worth considering how it has stood the test of time.

Inasmuch as the paper became an English institution, it has never failed to take its own measure by arranging for its story to be recorded, and its pronouncements day by day came occasionally to be regarded as "the lay Bible of all cultured Englishmen". It was of course not infallible and when the (so far) last volume of its history appeared in 1952, covering the years 1912-1948, it was claimed, not without justice, that "examples of misjudgement as to foreign affairs are acknowledged with fidelity".

The Times backed the American South against the North, and too much of its money was put on the Arabs against Israel. But perhaps the most disastrous error was in its judgement on Hitler.

This was not due to any indifference to anti-semitism. The Times frequently supported the cause of the Jews—during the struggle for civil emancipation, at the time of the Damascus Affair, in its protests against Tsarist persecution, and it was the Times man in Constantinople who exposed the fraud of the "Protocols of Zion".

The correspondents in Germany also faithfully reported the essential facts of Nazism. As early as January 1923, a dispatch from Munich quoted a certain rabble-rouser Adolf Hitler as saying that his National Socialists were organising and recruiting an army of revenge which would restore Germany to her former greatness, and in 1930 it was noted that "unscrupulous leaders" were "deliberately advocating irresponsible policies".

Abnormal behaviour

After these leaders had been installed in power, their supporters were found to be "behaving in a way that could hardly be called normal", and a notable forecast was ventured of "something like revolver rule and jungle justice". Six weeks after the Nuremberg Laws (1935), a well documented article made it plain beyond reasonable doubt that "like so many Nazi catchwords, 'Juda verreckel!'—'May Jewry perish!'—was meant literally and will be literally brought to pass if the fanatics have their way".

That the fanatics were indeed having their way, was the considered opinion of the Berlin Correspondent who, in a private letter, in March 1936, warned the Editor: "The people at the head of this show are pure gamblers... I do not believe for one moment that their ambitions will be satisfied by the settlement which may come out of the present negotiations... The most disconcerting thing of all is their utter refusal to admit that any legal or moral objection can stand in their way if once they have made up their minds that national interests demand some new gain".

But these warnings went unheeded. In fact, says the Times historian, "messages were cut or

omitted from time to time in accordance with what was accepted by the Editor as the requirements of diplomacy". The Editor himself, Geoffrey Dawson, admitted that he "did his utmost, night after night, to keep out of the paper anything that might hurt (the Germans') susceptibilities".

The explanation was twofold. In the first place, neither the Editor nor his Assistant, Barrington-Ward ("B.-W."), were authorities on foreign policy. Dawson's interest was almost exclusively in the Commonwealth; of Europe he knew little, he had not met any of its leaders, spoke none of its languages and had never read its recent political history.

"B.-W." again, who took more interest in foreign affairs, set foot in the snare in which (says the Times historian) "the Nationalists, and above all the Nazis, had succeeded in entangling their neighbours". He swallowed the German lie that the source of all evil was—the Treaty of Versailles. He scourged his mind with the hallucination that Hitler's lawlessness could be "too often extenuated, if not excused, by the failure and even the refusal of Governments to find among themselves the more rational means of adjustment".

Cornerstone of appeasement

"B.-W." had been beset by this view even before 1933, but such was his understanding of the world that he could see no reason why an action that might have been justified in dealing with a civilised Government should be unwarranted in dealing with Hitler, and thus "policy of making not merely as many concessions to Nazi Germany as to Weimar Germany but even more, was adopted."

Such was the cornerstone of appeasement, and this obsession was immune to rational argument. In 1935, for example, little notice was taken of the irrefutable information on German air rearmament. The facts had been made known by Churchill, but Churchill was counted by the Times among those "viewy" people who were considered "bores". The Times has been found by its historian to have "had no perception of the intentions that lay below the surface in Germany".

Tunnel vision

It was not seen that "German claims did not repose upon a sound ethical basis", and "it was not perceived that Germany, whether Nazi or democratic, would not only work for the return of her provinces, her army, her navy and her air force, but ultimately turn the tables and impose a Versailles or Brest-Litovsk upon the West". The Editor was smitten with an "invincible disposition" to "acquiesce in German professions". It was considered "only common sense" to accept Hitler's lies.

Constant appeals to these "moral factors" were to create an atmosphere favourable to the negotiation of an agreed settlement. Having failed to realise that in 1933 a more than temporary disturbance of the political order had occurred and that Germany was determined to dominate Europe and defy Britain, the Editor could of course not understand how absurd such a pro-

cedure must have appeared in Berlin where it merely confirmed the belief in "democratic degeneracy".

The very treatment of the Jews should have aroused suspicion. As early as 1930 (the historian relates) "the Editor's attention was distracted by the moral nausea felt by everybody outside Germany at recent attacks, surpassing all previous brutalities, upon the Jews". But this nausea apparently was little more than a fleeting sensation. In the end (says the book) "even the excesses of the Nazis against racial and political minorities did not destroy the conception of the Germans as a fundamentally reasonable race of men who, treated reasonably, were not unlike the English". The historian finds that the Times "led the British people to believe in a Germany that never existed".

Naive and confident

How did this come about? The historian explains: "The ruling powers of Britain from 1923 to 1938 were naive and blindly confident", and the Socialist Opposition by no means opposed them. It is suggested that "years of difficulty with France had increased sympathy for Germany, and the romantic appeal of almost everything German to so many English minds... made the Times so pro-German after 1922 that the paper could not, in 1936, even consider the necessity to modify its policy".

According to Leopold Amery, one of Britain's ablest elder statesmen then, "Appeasement responded to the instincts and outlook of the majority of the people at the time". In the Times office, the policy was reinforced by the impact of three undoubted facts which were accepted as apparently beyond mitigation: (1) an industrial depression; (2) widespread British pacifism, and (3) an Imperial isolation which led Dawson to declare that war with Germany in 1938 would have been "misunderstood and resented from end to end of the Empire".

But there was yet another consideration which has only just begun to be appreciated. Surely the ruling powers of Britain were not quite as naive as is sometimes supposed. They had shown themselves shrewd and sophisticated in many ways, but they were also only human. One of the Foreign Secretaries at the time, Sir Samuel Hoare, confessed what only self-righteousness will summarily dismiss; "We could not believe that the rantings of 'Mein Kampf' were a practical manual of daily conduct from which Hitler would never deviate".

The biographer of Lord Halifax, Neville Chamberlain's Foreign Minister, writes: "They were all English country gentlemen... None of them could have the slightest conception of the enormity of Hitler. Their whole upbringing had conspired against understanding that such people could exist and that the Nazi State was a lunatic state".

This consideration to which the Editor of the Times may also, in fairness, lay claim, should not be entirely lost in a hindsight that has gained perspective and perhaps acquired compassion. The Times, the British, were not the only ones who failed to grasp the challenge forced upon them. We now know that others, even Jewish leaders, likewise fell short. The truth was such that it could hardly be comprehended and certainly, in the last resort, defied belief. C. C. ARONSFELD

OBITUARIES

SIR ROBERT MAYER

Sir Robert Mayer, who died recently at the age of 105, will long be remembered for his Children's Concerts, the first given in 1923. Born in Mannheim, the son of a brewer, he early displayed a passion for music, entering the local Conservatoire at the age of 6. But his family wished him to be a businessman and he was sent to Britain, becoming naturalised in 1902.

In the First World War, Robert Mayer served in the British Army. Later his first wife, the soprano Dorothy Moulton, was impressed by the children's concerts given by Walter Damrosch in America and encouraged her husband in what was to prove his greatest contribution to British musical life. Sir Robert, knighted in 1939, interested himself in delinquent children and many other good causes, but most of all he wished to bring all children and young people to a love of music with his Children's Concerts, Youth and Music, Children's Opera and the encouragement of young players.

In the wider field, he was an active member of the Council of Christians and Jews, World Brotherhood, Save the Children Fund, and the Elizabeth Fry Fund among very many others. Sir Robert Mayer's honours and the institutions he inaugurated or supported are too numerous to mention here and his long life was filled and overflowing with his interests—but always with music taking pride of place.

FREDERICK LECHNER

The death has been announced in New York of Frederick (Fritz) Lechner, the baritone singer noted for his concert and operatic performances.

Mr. Lechner, who was 80, was also a well-known cantor. Born in Stettin and trained in Berlin, he often appeared on the German opera stage and on radio until his emigration to the USA in 1936.

DR. MAURICE PERLZWEIG

The death has been announced of Dr. Maurice Perlzweig, permanent representative of the World Jewish Congress at the United Nations. He was 89. Born in Poland and educated in England, Dr. Perlzweig was active at University in Labour politics, but declined offers of parliamentary candidacies. From his early days, he devoted much effort to the cause of Zionism and became editor of the "Zionist Review". In 1936, he was a founder-member of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of its British section until 1942.

Entering the Liberal ministry in 1921, Dr. Perlzweig held posts at several synagogues in North London, but in 1942, at the invitation of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, he went to the USA as head of the WJC political department in New York. For the rest of the war, he sought to help the European Jewish victims. It was Dr. Perlzweig who drafted President Roosevelt's statement of American determination to punish war criminals, and other important declarations submitted to the UN were from his pen.

As head of the international affairs department of the WJC, Dr. Perlzweig always endeavoured and was often able, to bring help to the oppressed Jews of many lands.

ETHEL SOLOMON

Ethel Solomon, who has died at the age of 96, was for 18 years chairman of the Federation of Women Zionists. Ever-active in communal affairs, she and her husband Robert were instrumental in setting up the Whittinghame Farm School, where young

German and Austrian refugees received education and training in the 30s. Following 1945, Mrs. Solomon was chairman of the Ben Uri Art Society for 20 years and furthered the career of many artists and musicians.

RONALD WHEATLEY

Ronald Wheatley, head of the Historical Branch at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, died recently aged 61. As author of "Operation Sealion" (a standard work on Nazi plans to invade Britain) and as editor of "Documents on German Foreign Policy, 1918 to 1945", he had an almost unequalled knowledge of 20th-century German history.

GIFT TO YAD VASHEM

A literary treasure has been presented to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial by impresario Victor Hochhauser and his wife Lilian. It consists of a copy of the poem "Babi Yar" handwritten by its author Yevgeny Yevtushenko. Some 20 years ago, the Hochhausers met the poet at the Moscow home of composer Dmitri Shostakovich, whose Thirteenth Symphony uses Yevtushenko's poem on the massacre of Jews by the Nazis at Babi Yar. Both artists promised to give their original manuscripts to the British couple.

While in London some years later, Yevtushenko was reminded of this promise and had to confess he had now lost his own manuscript. But he then and there sat down and wrote a new copy in his own hand, the document which has now been given to Yad Vashem by Mr. and Mrs. Hochhauser. They also intend to present the Shostakovich manuscript to the Jerusalem memorial.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ethiopian Jews

Sir,—Can one possibly visualise the sudden influx of 100,000 black, hungry and penniless souls into London? Yet this is proportionately equivalent to the 1,000 bewildered Ethiopian Jews who recently arrived in a small seaside town in Israel.

Some are very old, others are sick and there are many young children. They have no common language with their hosts and they have to be restored to good health, clothed, educated and taught how to emerge from an ancient tribal existence into the 20th century. They are in a daze and suffer a culture shock being suddenly exposed to so many modern things we take for granted.

The grim sight via the mass media of emaciated refugees in the camps of Africa touched the hearts of many throughout the Western World but apart from financial contributions and the despatch of some food and supplies, little else could be done.

Except in Israel. Here, despite a very grave economic situation, these proud, good looking, gentle people have been rescued, welcomed and are being rehabilitated. Within a week they have been suitably clothed for a different climate and several hotels have been requisitioned as temporary homes during the winter months, whilst social workers and volunteers cope with a multitude of daily problems.

Synagogue halls are turned into vast collecting centres for sorting and fitting-out the new immigrants with generously donated clothes. Volunteers drive families to search for and to visit relatives in hospital, assist in delivering meals and comfort those mourning the loss of dear ones.

It seems incredible that the smiling Ethiopians and their small children happily playing with



AJR member Mrs. Rena Gamsa holding a Falasha child in Natania.

Israeli youngsters were so recently starving in an African desert.

Many of us recall our own escape half a century ago to freedom from Nazi terror.

That is why it is a privilege to be able to participate in the integration (without the loss of their dignity) of the Ethiopian Jews into a pluralistic society, feeling confident that in years to come they will amply reward these efforts by a valuable contribution to the culture and Jewish ethics of Israel.

Natania, RENNA and LEON GAMSA
Israel CHAVA and GEORGE GODDARD

Music Teacher

Sir,—In your December 1984 issue, which my cousin sent to me, I read with great interest that Mr. Hans Freyhan has celebrated his 75th birthday.

If Mr. Freyhan was a music teacher in Berlin in the years 1937–38 at the Jüdische Volksschule in Klopstockstrasse he must also have been my teacher. In that case I would like to join the well-wishers, and wish Mr. Freyhan all the best till 120! Massuot Yitzchak, AVIGDOR BEN-TAL
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The identification is correct.—Ed.

NEW BOOK ON ALLEGED FORGER

A century ago, Moses Wilhelm Schapira took his own life in a Rotterdam hotel room and left to the world a continuing puzzle: was the scroll bearing the Ten Commandments, which he alleged had been found in a Transjordan cave, a genuine discovery or a fake? And who was this Schapira? A true collector, a scholar, a confidence trickster or a forger of genius? Why had he been baptised and yet still worked for Erez Israel and the Jewish cause? At the time there was no question in anyone's mind that the Schapira scroll was a forgery, yet the later discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls shook the confidence of those who had rejected it. In Israel, Shulamit Lapid has recently published a book on Schapira's life, entitled "Like a Broken Shard", a historical-biographical detective story, which also gives a picture of Jerusalem in the latter part of the 19th century.

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CHAGALL AND OTHERS

The Chagall exhibition at the Royal Academy (until 31 March) has already been mentioned in this column as an outstanding event. The glorious colours, fantasy and intensity of expression make a second visit almost imperative.

However, one of the most interesting features of this exhibition is the folder of background material for secondary schoolteachers issued by the Royal Academy and, especially, the essay in that folder on Chagall's Russian-Jewish background. "Judaism is more than a religion," it states, "to feel Jewish entails a strong sense of racial loyalty, collective identity and culture held in common." Not a bad definition by any account!

And then the essayist proceeds to describe Hasidic Judaism in Vitebsk where Chagall spent the first twenty formative years of his life. "A loving heart is more important than learning," is only one of the Hasidic sayings quoted.

And this is then related to Chagall's own words "that clamorous love that I have, in general, for mankind." Chagall's paintings are wondrous, but it is no less wondrous that the general public, through this educational programme, are being made aware of the deep Jewish roots of the artist's consciousness and expression.

The recent exhibition of works by Leo Prochownik (1875-1936) at the Alpine Gallery is a further reminder of the fact that so many artists of fame and promise were, as it were, "obliterated" by the Nazis. Some have had the good fortune to be rediscovered and their work re-assessed in a more favourable climate, but by no means all. There must still be many artists—and their works—who have simply disappeared.

Prochownik was a competent artist, equally at home in the fields of landscape and portraiture. His Berlin views must have brought back many memories and his portraits, especially those of Youth Aliyah members and other contemporaries, form a valuable personal record of a departed age.

On 17 January the National Portrait Gallery's new portrait of three former Trade Union leaders, Lord Gormley, Sid Weighell and Tom Jackson, was unveiled by the former Prime Minister, Lord Wilson.



Marc Chagall

The portrait is by Hans Schwarz who, together with his son, will be exhibiting at the Ben Uri Art Gallery (26 February-26 March). Hans Schwarz was born in Vienna in 1922, came to England in 1939 and trained as a graphic artist at the Birmingham School of Art. In recent years he has started painting water-colours.



Chagall: Solitude (1933)

At the Ben Uri he is showing portraits of Jewish actors and actresses as well as a selection of his water-colours. His son Julian is a sculptor specialising in wood carving. His work will also be on display. An interesting innovation is that both father and son will be demonstrating their skills in the gallery during the course of the exhibition.

ALICE SCHWAB

US FILM OF SCROLLS' HISTORY

With the object of recording "a vanished race", the Nazis collected 1,564 Torah Scrolls which were to be exhibited in their Prague Jewish Museum. But the scrolls fell into Allied hands and in 1964 were bought by the late Ralph Yabon and housed in Westminster Synagogue. About half of them have now been distributed to archives throughout the world, one of them being kept in Lambeth Palace. Recently the US National Broadcasting Company came to Westminster in order to screen the history of the scrolls. It is hoped that the NBC film will eventually be seen on British television.

CHAGALL WINDOWS IN KENT VILLAGE

In Britain it is not uncommon to find great and rare treasures in some out-of-the-way spot. Who, for example, would expect that the only full set of Chagall church windows in the UK will shortly be seen in the parish church of Tudely in Kent?

Some years ago, Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid asked Marc Chagall to create the church's main East window as a memorial to her daughter Sarah, drowned in 1963. The artist came to the dedication in 1967 and offered to make stained glass for all the windows in the church. Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid was delighted to commission the work and Chagall proceeded with them—indeed, they are to be seen (until 31 March) in the Royal Academy exhibition of his works.

But the commission was entered upon without church permission and the local parish council refused to displace the existing Victorian stained glass. However, it does appear that after nearly 20 years the matter will be settled and the Chagall windows will form part of a parish church in a tiny village, which will then rank with other possessors of Marc Chagall stained glass—the Cathedral in Metz, Jerusalem's Hadassah Synagogue, and Chichester Cathedral.

WILL SONGS BE HEARD?

Israeli soprano Tamar Rachum earned considerable praise for her performance in "The Magic Flute" at Covent Garden in January. Miss Rachum, who from the age of 5 was determined to make music her career, trained in singing after her army service, and then worked with Frankfurt Opera for 6 years before becoming a freelance. Although Mozart is her first love, she is greatly attracted to the work of Richard Strauss; at the same time she supports the ban in Israel on public performances of his music. Tamar's love for Strauss compositions is such that she asked Israel radio if she could record his "Four Last Songs". The broadcasting company agreed, but on condition that the recordings should not be played until the ban in Israel is lifted. So the tapes are stored away, not to be heard until some unforeseeable date.

GOLD LEAF

The Hebrew University reports a surprising discovery by Professor Yigal Shiloh's team in the City of David, consisting of pieces of gold leaf used to decorate vessels or statuettes of wood or metal. The purpose of the building where this rich find was made is not yet fully understood. In the spring, Professor Shiloh hopes to open an archaeological garden with walkways, benches and observation points. Visitors to the garden will acquire a historical perspective of the City of Jerusalem from the Canaanite period to the end of the Second Temple.

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FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 10th of the preceding month.

Birthdays

The AJR Club conveys its heartiest congratulations and best wishes to its dear members Mrs Emma Levi on her 90th birthday on 13 January, Dr. Mathilde Schneider on her 90th birthday on 15 March and Mrs Martha Levis on her 85th birthday on 19 March.

Woolf:—John Woolf, of 60 Deanscroft Avenue, NW9, celebrated his 80th birthday on 25 February. With love and good wishes from his wife and all the family.

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Deaths

Droller:—Paula Droller née H6chster, (formerly Munich), died 10 January peacefully in Haifa. Deeply mourned by her family in Haifa and London.

Kanter:—Franz Kanter, aged 83, passed away painlessly and very suddenly whilst still in excellent spirit on 22 January. He leaves an unfillable void in the hearts of his loving and devoted family and friends whom he loved, enjoyed and cared for. Our loved one will live on in our memories forever.

Passer:—Dr. Kurt Passer passed away suddenly on 26 January. He is deeply mourned by his wife Lottie, his relatives, friends and all who knew him.

Pollak:—Dr. jur. Paul Pollak, of 37 Cholmley Gardens, West Hampstead, NW6, passed away suddenly on 17 January. Mourned by his wife Hilda.

Ranzenhofer:—Amalia Ranzenhofer, née Singer, from Vienna, aged 84, died 12 January. Sadly missed by family and friends.

Reinach:—Frank Reinach (formerly of Kassel) died at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, on 29 January. Beloved husband of Mary, dear father of John and Elizabeth. Deeply mourned by his family, also by his relatives in USA, Mrs. Ruth Bacharach of New York, Dr. & Mrs. John Bacharach of New York, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Reinach of St. Louis, Mr. Frank Reinach of Schenectady, Mrs. Hella Reinach of Sherman Oaks, Cal.

Schmidt:—Irmgard Schmidt, born 31/12/1889 in Giessen, died 20/1/1985 at Mount Vernon Hospital, North Middlesex. Widow of Max Schmidt, formerly Frankfurt/Main, who died in London 3/2/1967 aged 69. She is deeply mourned by daughter Laura, son-in-law, granddaughter and sister-in-law and her many friends.

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Memorial Stone

Nomis:—The memorial stone in loving memory of Toni Nomis will be consecrated at Willesden Liberal Cemetery, Pound Lane, on Sunday 24 March, 1985, at 3 p.m.

CLASSIFIED

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

REGARDING Saul Hirsch (1782-1844) & Rahel (Lenschuetz) Hirsch (1797-1888); Hermann Hirsch (1822-1878) & Jeanette Muller (1871-1872); Israel Hirsch (c. 1829-1880) & Minna Gottlieb (c. 1830-1885); Henrietta Hirsch (1825-1903) & Lewis Lewin (1824-1906); Friederike Hirsch (1826-1901) & Joel Freiss (1811-1871); Louis Hirsch (1828-1882) & Bertha Hirschfeld (1837-1899); Isidore Hirsch (1832-1915) & Sara Herrmann Hirsch (1838-1927); Dr. Max Hirsch (1873-1935) & Daisy Herrmann (1879-1945); Julius Hirsch (1872-1940) & Ida Arnfeld (1875-1940); Meta Hirsch Salomon (1876-1946) & Gustav Salomon (1863-1935); Siegmund Hirsch (1869-1941) & Elise Oppel (1871-1939). Please contact Dr. Peter Stern Bucky, 5 Horizon Road, APT. 2002 Fort Lee, NJ 07024, USA.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Recognition. *Erich Leinsdorf*, the American conductor of Austrian origin who left Austria in 1938, who worked as a conductor at New York's "Met", who was, later on, Rudolf Bing's musical consultant and saw his dreams fulfilled when he was called upon to conduct "Meistersinger" at Bayreuth, was honoured with the Gold Medal of the city of Vienna.

Birthdays. *Lotte Lang*, the Austrian actress who has been a member of Vienna's "Josefstadt" ensemble for over 50 years, had her 85th birthday. *Grete Mosheim*, one of Max Reinhardt's "discoveries" who after her emigration (London and United States) had a sensational come-back success in her native Berlin and received the German critics prize in 1963, is 80 years old. Other recent birthday celebrations concern German actor-producer *Ernst Schroeder* (70) who was a member of the Berlin Schiller-theatre for 37 years, and *Maria Becker* (daughter of Reinhardt star Maria Fein) who lives in Zürich and heads the "Schauspieltruppe" which she founded herself.

Obituary. *Max Schoenherr*, Austrian composer, arranger and conductor, an all-round musician who at one time was chief conductor of the Vienna Rundfunk orchestra, has died at the age of 81. *Anton Karas*, the Viennese zither specialist who became internationally known as composer of the Harry Lime theme for the postwar film "The Third Man", and who entertained "Heurigen" audiences for more than three decades, has died aged 78. Highlights of his career included appearances in London and taking part in a Vienna New Year's concert when he played the introduction of the waltz "Tales from the Vienna Woods." Karas

liked to call himself "not a great, but a good musician." Fans of the German-speaking film scene will be saddened to hear that *Luise Ullrich*, star of innumerable films and an actress of repute, has died. She was in her late seventies, and had been active to the very end.

A very special cabaret artist. In a careful selection of texts, the Löcker Verlag, (Vienna-Munich) has issued the witty poetry of Fritz Gruenbaum, undisputedly one of the specialists in his field. Gruenbaum, born in Brno in 1880, perished in Buchenwald in 1940. His collaboration with Karl Farkas in the Twenties and Thirties provided the peak of Austrian cabaret at a time when intellectual wit and sardonic observations in an economically depressed country fell on particularly fertile ground. Gruenbaum's name lives on: called "Die Schöpfung und andere Kabarettstücke", the book makes the reader heave a sigh and use the old platitude: "Those were the days."

S.B.

GLEIWITZ COMMUNAL LEADER REMEMBERED

A plaque in memory of a leading personality in Gleiwitz, the lawyer Dr. Ernst Kohn and his wife Berta, who both perished in Auschwitz, was unveiled in the Memorial Room of the Wiener Library. Many former citizens of Gleiwitz and other friends of the family were present at the informal and impressive ceremony, to which they had been invited by Hilde and Max Kochmann, the daughter and son-in-law of the late couple. In a beautifully worded and touching poem, Hilde

Kochmann paid tribute to the loving care she had received in her parents' home, and several guests recalled the cordiality and high intellectual level which determined the atmosphere of their house. Dr. Kohn was severely wounded in the First World War and paralysed in one of his legs. He played a leading part in the work of the Gleiwitz community and of the local groups of the Central-Verein and the Reichsbund juedischer Frontsoldaten.

It was a memorable gathering and beyond its special occasion reflected anew the cultural and human values of destroyed German Jewry.

WIENER OPEN EVENING

In the first of a series of open evenings to familiarise people with its work and the importance of its various functions, the Wiener Library showed some thirty invited guests the Library, its collections, and the microfilm viewers' room. The guests were addressed by Alan Montefiore, the Balliol philosophy don who is Deputy Chairman of the Wiener Library Executive Committee and Chairman of its Endowment Appeal, and who invited them to view the current display as well as the other holdings. Among the items which attracted much attention were a Nazi board game for children in which the object was to get all the Jews out of Germany, and on a large-screen microfilm viewer, the famous list of people in Britain who were to be seized immediately when the Nazis invaded the country. The evening was organised by Joan Stiebel, the Appeal Co-ordinator, and Gillian Burr. Persons interested in getting to know the Library and its work should write to Mrs. Joan Stiebel, The Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London, W.1.

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