

## INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEW TASKS

## Meeting of AJR Board

More than 60 people, including representatives from the Provinces, attended the AJR Board Meeting, held on January 28, at Hannah Karminski House. They were welcomed by Mr. C. T. Marx, Chairman of the AJR, who was in the Chair and opened the proceedings by paying tribute to the memory of two deceased Board members, Dr. Arthur Kaufmann and Dr. Herbert Lawton.

Dr. W. Rosenstock, Director of the AJR, first dealt with the present situation of Jews in this country. Though the National Front primarily directed its attacks against the coloured population, its policy also endangered the position of the Jews. One of the organisations created to fight against the National Front was the Anti-Nazi League. The official attitude of the representative Jewish organisations to the League was not unanimous, because the League's Committee also included extreme Left-wing personalities who supported the PLO. A short while ago, a "Joint Committee against Racism" had been founded, which provided a common platform for the three political parties, the Christian and Jewish representative bodies as well as the organisations of new immigrants. Following the advice of the Board of Deputies, the AJR had associated itself with the "Joint Committee" as a member organisation.

Another problem which now stood in the foreground was the time limit for the prosecution of Nazi criminals, which would expire on December 31, 1979, unless it was abolished by German legislation. To see the matter in its right proportion it had to be kept in mind that Nazi criminals, who had gone into hiding but against whom legal proceedings had been started, would not benefit from the expiration. However, there might be many whose crimes had not yet become known, and there was a moral obligation to secure that crimes of this magnitude should never be left unpunished. The German Parliament would shortly consider legislation on the matter. The Federal German Ambassador in London, H. E. Hans Hellmuth Ruete, had told representatives of the Board of Deputies that he endorsed their request for abolition. Furthermore, under the auspices of the Board and the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, a campaign of sending individual postcards (available at the AJR) to the Federal Chancellor appealing for the abolition of the time limit had been launched.

The speaker then reported about a Meeting of the URO Board in Frankfurt which was attended by him and by our Executive member, Mr. O. E. Franklyn in succession to the late Dr. Arthur Kaufmann. Though the work of URO had passed its peak and the offices had been reduced accordingly, URO's advisory

activities were still required in a great number of claims, especially under the Lastenausgleichsgesetz and the Social Insurance Laws.

The negotiations between the Federal German authorities and Dr. Nahum Goldmann about a global payment to the Claims Conference for charitable and cultural purposes were still pending. The Council of Jews from Germany, of which the AJR is the British constituent, had put on record its claim for a share in this payment if it should materialise. Furthermore, the Council had continued its research work on the history of the former German Jews in their countries of resettlement.

The speaker had also been in touch with the Secretary of the British Academy, which administers the "Thank-You Britain" Fund. During the last years, the lectures were held not at annual but at biennial intervals and spread over three afternoons. The latest series, given by Sir Otto Kahn-Freund on Labour Relations, had been most topical and stimulating. On the other hand, only comparatively few contributors to the Fund were able to attend several lectures during one week. Therefore the possibility of resuming single lectures at annual intervals was under discussion.

Turning to AJR Information Dr. Rosenstock first paid tribute to the invaluable co-operation of Mrs. Margot Pottlitzer at all stages of the editorial process. Whilst both the editors and the printers strictly adhered to the timetable, there were unfortunately sometimes delays in the postal deliveries. As far as the contents were concerned, efforts were always made to keep a proper balance between articles and news, but as the news also included Personalalia and items affecting specifically our community, the editorial work was often hampered by lack of space. AJR Information was also increasingly used as source material, and this imposed an additional responsibility on the editors to try and secure the correctness of every item.

Mrs. S. R. Taussig, General Secretary of the AJR, stated that the AJR still had a membership of nearly 4,000 people. Last year, in spite of the fact that it lost 214 members—mostly unfortunately through death—it also welcomed 236 new members, making an overall gain of 22. This was quite an achievement for an ageing society. Whilst it might be difficult to make younger people join, it had to be kept in mind that the services of the AJR filled a great need and would do so for quite some time to come.

The Old Age Homes Department dealt with all applicants for the Homes which the AJR administers jointly with the Central British Fund. There were many problems to be attended to, e.g. health, finances, problems

with the applicant's own home which had to be dissolved, vacancy problems—the right Home for the right person. The waiting period for admission was now considerably shorter than in the past. Once the applicant, the doctor, the Local Authority (which has to approve) and the AJR and CBF concur, it would be a matter of weeks—which was usually quite enough for the resident who had a tremendous adjustment to make both mentally and physically. There were also facilities for the not quite so old in the Flatlet Block, Eleanor Rathbone House, jointly owned by the CBF and the AJR. Most people who had a flat there stayed for a long time and so vacancies were few and far between—a year or more.

Furthermore, there was *bedsitting accommodation* of a very high standard in the three properties of the AJR, Hannah Karminski House, Marie Baneth House and the newly opened Otto Hirsch House in Finchley, so called in order that the name should not be forgotten after the closure of the Home in Kew. There were a few vacancies at the moment and new applications could be considered.

As far as the facilities of the Old Age Homes were concerned, it had to be realised that we were pioneers in the 50s but lagged behind in the 70s. Nobody would think of building a Home where the rooms did not have private toilets. Nobody today would think of providing accommodation of more or less one type when what was needed was to cater for progression of degrees of ill health and disability. Efforts to provide activity and entertainment continued. There were also moves nationally towards residents' participation in the internal administration of the Homes and the work of the House Committees, and though an attempt in this direction at the previous Otto Hirsch House in Kew was not too successful, it might have to be tried anew. A year ago, Trade Union activities caused serious problems. These had, for the time being, been settled amicably at considerable, but in this case not unreasonable, cost.

But, however good the Homes and however well cared for—the residents eventually declined in health, and it was important that the facilities were available to care for them in the first place without removing them to other hands. There were many stages before this, and we should be able to cope with them within the Home which is familiar to the resident. The setting up of a "sick bay" within each Home with additional staff would be one way of solving the problem and relieving the pressure on Osmond House.

We could now care for some very frail people at Osmond House, because the Local Authority has approved a plan for creating a special frail unit within the Home. The details of implementing this plan were now under consideration. There were, however, already now more people in the Home who needed extra care than could be accommodated in this unit.

The speaker then reported about the

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## Meeting of AJR Board

Continued from page 1

*Meals-on-Wheels Service* which is run under the guidance of our Executive member, Mrs. Ruth Anderman. The Service sends out between 10,000 to 12,000 meals per year. The price of the meal was still 60p for soup, meat or fish and two vegetables, but it might become necessary to charge more in the future. Over the last few weeks, the weather conditions, petrol strike and shortage of raw materials had caused great difficulty but happily, except for one occasion, all our customers had their meals regularly. This was to a great extent due to the devotion of our drivers who saved their petrol and braved icy roads. Yet it would be a great help if *more volunteers* came forward, even if they could manage to drive only once a month or in emergency cases. They should contact the organiser of the delivery service, Mrs. S. Panke, at the AJR office. Thanks were due to all drivers and to the kitchen helps who prepared the meals at Hannah Karminski House.

The *Social Services Department*, now run by Mrs. S. Matus in succession to Mrs. M. Casson, was an information centre, adviser, and a prop for the lonely and insecure. There was a register of Home Helps—other jobs too but mainly in the domestic and clerical line, and there were SOS calls which were dealt with immediately—not all could be satisfied but a great many could.

The tasks of the office also included bookings for the Hall of Hannah Karminski House, questions about health, education, restitution, taxation, grants, wills, donations, general legislation and addresses of organisations in this country and overseas. In all instances, the office did its best to give comprehensive answers or to refer people to the right place for information.

Dr. F. E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, reported on developments in the field of *taxation*. He especially referred to the exemption from U.K. tax of those social insurance payments which were made under par. 100 (now 99) of the *Angestelltenversicherungs-Gesetz* or par. 1321 (now 1320) of *Reichsversicherungs-Ordnung* to recipients of pensions, whose contributions had been paid outside the territory of the German Federal Republic and Berlin (East and West). The Inland Revenue felt able to give this exemption because these pensions were granted by the German Federal Pension Office under an entirely discretionary power (a "Kann-Vorschrift") and did not represent Social Security payments. The exemption was first restricted to "expellees" ("Vertriebene") from territories annexed by the German Reich, but on intervention by the AJR extended to all pensions paid under par. 100 (now 99) AVG and par. 1321 (now 1320) RVO. Whilst originally this exemption was to become effective from the tax year 1977/8 onwards, the Inland Revenue later decided that any tax paid at any time by Nazi victims in respect of pensions for contributions outside the Federal Republic and Berlin was repayable. As a result of this revised treatment, very substantial tax repayments had been made in a number of cases, and more repayments were to come. However, an effort made by Dr. Falk on behalf of the AJR to have the full exemption extended to all German Social Insurance Pensions, irrespective of the former place of residence of the refugee, was not successful. The Inland Revenue considered itself bound by the Finance Act 1974, which granted the 50 per cent exemption to all German pensions which were not in the category of the

compensation annuities. A change of the Law was attempted once or twice since 1974 by Members of Parliament, but the Treasury set itself strongly against any such change.

In conclusion Dr. Falk stated that we had established quite close relations with the Board of Inland Revenue and that the Board was asking him for advice, where legal or other technical points arose which they did not understand. Furthermore, the Board was most helpful, where it was necessary to intercede with local Inspectors of Taxes who did not know or understand the instructions issued.

The AJR had repeatedly assisted and advised enquirers on general questions connected with payments from Germany and Austria, but it would, of course, not act as accountant to the individual. Generally it could be stated that in the sphere of taxation the efforts of the AJR, extending over more than 20 years, had been and still were of considerable benefit to the Nazi victims.

Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, Chairman of the *AJR Club*, reported that the Club now had 417 members. The functions during the year under review included a most successful Bring-and-Buy Sale, which yielded over £1,000, a particularly enjoyable party on the occasion of her birthday, a Seder given by Dr. Arnold Horwell, and an outing with 150 participants under the expert guidance of Mrs. Eva Woodman. There was a strong community feeling among the Club members. Those who could not get to Hannah Karminski House by public transport were in cases of need assisted to pay the taxi fares. In cases of illness members were visited. Mrs. Jacoby paid special tribute to Mrs. Dora Segall for her devoted co-operation and also to Mrs. Hertha Gelhar in helping to prepare the Bazaars as well as to Mrs. Margot Williams of the AJR head office for the most understanding way in which she advised Club members who might have to be accommodated in one of the Homes.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their reports. Before opening the discussion he informed the Board that there was an increasingly closer integration of Self Aid into the AJR; both organisations were working under the same General Secretary and shared the office premises at Fairfax Mansions. He also stressed the need for enlisting the membership and active co-operation of younger people.

The first speaker in the discussion, Dr. F. Heinz Kroch, CBE, reported about the Home for elderly refugees in *Manchester*, Morris Feinmann Home, of which he was the Committee Chairman. The Home had been founded several years before the Homes in London were established. There were a number of vacancies, and he would welcome any applications. A financial problem arose from the fact that the present building was now 17 years old and that expensive major repairs would become necessary.

In the course of the further discussion, a variety of points were raised. They referred to questions of propaganda and especially to the welfare of the Homes. Among other things it was mentioned that quite a few residents felt lonely and that their position could be alleviated if more helpers came forward to visit them. This applied particularly to male residents who would welcome the opportunity of exchanging their thoughts with other men.

The wealth of information given in the reports and the liveliness of the debate reaffirmed the importance of the services rendered by the AJR and the recognition of its efforts by members of our community.

## THE "HOLOCAUST" ON GERMAN TV

A lot of heart-searching preceded the showing of the American "Holocaust" television serial which was eventually done by the German equivalent of BBC-2, i.e. a programme normally only seen by a minority of viewers. Before the serial was sent, there were two documentary programmes, "The History of Antisemitism" and "The Final Solution" which provided viewers with documentary evidence from German archives and eye-witness reports from Jewish and non-Jewish survivors of concentration camps. Neo-Nazi circles tried to sabotage the showing by hostile propaganda and by bomb attacks on TV transmitters near Koblenz and Muenster. However, they could not prevent the film from impressing German viewers to an unheard-of extent. By the time the second instalment was shown, nearly 15 million Germans, representing some 41 per cent of viewers were watching. The TV stations involved, particularly West German TV in Cologne, had opened special telephone lines for enquiries, and more than 30,000 calls as well as letters and telegrams were received. Jewish organisations and individuals also received many communications, most of them expressing shock and disbelief.

A large number said that only now they understood what had happened and they would do everything in their power to prevent it from happening again. Only 20 per cent of the telephone calls were negative in that they regretted the opening up of old wounds, but only three per cent of them were openly anti-semitic. Professor Eugen Kogon, the author of "Der SS Staat", a non-Jewish concentration camp survivor, was on the panel discussing the programme and said that Nazi reality had been far worse than was depicted in the film, and there was no excuse for the passive attitude of the German people during the Nazi era.

Many young people asked for more information. Steps are being taken to satisfy that demand. The Berlin Evangelical Academy is arranging for a seminar to investigate facts which the film did not sufficiently explain. West German TV in Cologne has collected all the communications it has received and handed them to historians for scholarly study.

In the Federal Parliament Chancellor Helmut Schmidt welcomed the showing of the serial and said it forced people to re-examine their moral attitudes, in particular in connection with the problem of the abolition of the Statute of Limitation for Nazi murders. "Holocaust" has caused a major shift of West German opinion. According to a poll taken by the Wickert Institute, the proportion of people favouring abolition has jumped from 32 to 47 per cent, and those in favour of retaining the Statute dropped from 65 to 51 per cent.

In this country, too, a Holocaust Fellowship has been set up in Oxford. In 1979, Professor Gerd Korman of Cornell University, will give 14 lectures under the general title "Modernisers and the Holocaust".

## 50,000 NAZI CRIMINALS STILL AT LARGE

At a press conference in New York arranged by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, Mr. Tuvia Friedman (Haifa), who helped bring Adolf Eichmann to justice 20 years ago, said that about 50,000 Nazi war criminals were still at large and would escape justice if the statute of limitations was allowed to become effective after December 31, 1979. He added that Nazi war criminals were organised in South America. "The neo-Nazi movement will be given new life with the return of Nazi murderers to the beerhalls of Germany, unafraid and free of any possibility that they will be tried for their role in the extermination of Jews, gypsies and the millions of other victims of Nazi genocide".

The Council of Europe has appealed to its 21 member states to ratify a convention which would permit the prosecution of war criminals without any time limits. The convention was passed five years ago by the Council, but not a single country has ratified it as yet. J.T.A.



## HOME NEWS

### FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATION

An all-party delegation, led by Mr. Winston Churchill, called upon the West German Ambassador to express their "deep disquiet" at the possible end to the prosecution of war criminals if the Statute of Limitation is not revoked. They said that harm would be done to good relations between Britain and the Federal Republic if Nazi murderers who had successfully avoided detection would emerge from hiding and write their memoirs. Ambassador Mr. Hans Hellmuth Ruete undertook to convey the views of the delegation to his government.

In reply to a letter from the Anglo-Jewish Association, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt referred to a speech of his at the Cologne Synagogue in which he asked for advice as to how the morally and legally difficult question should be resolved.

In Anglo-Saxon countries, the Statute has never been applied to cases of murder.

### Postcards to Chancellor Schmidt

As already mentioned in the report, published on the front page of this issue, a campaign has been launched to send personal postcards to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, requesting the abolition of the Statute of Limitations for Nazi murderers. The postcards, which on the reverse, carry a photo of a German officer facing two hanged Jews, may be obtained from the AJR office, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, NW3 6JY (Tel: 624 9096).

### 300 NATIONAL FRONT CANDIDATES

Over 700 people attended the annual meeting of the National Front at Seymour Hall, London, which had been booked under the name of the British Association of Physical Chemistry. The chairman, John Tyndall, said this had been done because of the vast opposition to the Front. At the meeting 300 National Front candidates for the forthcoming General Election were introduced. Mr. Tyndall opposed an attempt to nominate members for the European Parliament in order to reach maximum publicity because the Front should not appear to support the idea of European unity.

### SALE OF HITLER BOOK STOPPED

Heinemann Books have suspended the sale of the German language textbook "Hitler's Era", written for school students by Mrs. M. E. Mountjoy, head of modern languages at a Dartford school. It is intended for 12-year-old pupils and 2,000 copies have been taken up by educational authorities before the suspension. The book deals with Hitler's rise to power and his treatment of Jews, and is written with some irony which may not always be evident to young readers.

### POPE RECEIVES LORD GRADE

During a recent visit to Rome, Lord Grade was received in audience by Pope John Paul II and made a Commander of the Order of St. Sylvester for his contribution to the Arts. Lady Grade was presented with a silver and pearl rosary.

### JERUSALEM SEEN BY CHILDREN

Some time ago, Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem, invited children all over the world to paint their own picture of Jerusalem as they saw it. This resulted in 150,000 entries from 43 countries. 200 of them were shown in January at the Embankment Gallery on the paddle steamer Tattersall Castle. A Swiss boy included a cable car in his sketch. Children were admitted free to the exhibition.

### "ARAB BLACKMAIL" AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE

In the House of Lords, Lord Byers (Lib) said in a debate that Britain was forced to take part in a form of international blackmail. He condemned the Foreign Office practice of authenticating certificates, stating that goods had not originated in Israel. 50,000 British firms had been asked to answer questions by Arab States on whether they had contracts with Israeli companies or employed Zionists. As a result, 1,000 British firms were blacklisted. Baroness Hornsby-Smith (Cons) said the boycott regulations amounted to blackmail and a denial of human rights. Lord Redcliffe-Maud urged the Government to encourage British companies to be "brave, ingenious and consistent". Information about ways round the boycott should be more widely publicised. Lord Selsdon (Cons) spoke of growing British trade with Arab countries and said anti-boycott action would be detrimental and would certainly not have any positive effect.

### CAMBRIDGE DEFEATS MAYHEW

A motion, proposed by pro-Arab Christopher Mayhew, M.P., that "Israeli intransigence is the main stumbling block in the Middle East", was defeated by 146 votes to 96 with 50 abstentions at a Cambridge Union Debate. It was opposed by Sir Michael Hadow, former British Ambassador to Israel. Cambridge is one of the few universities with a pro-Israel tradition.

### NEW ISRAELI AMBASSADOR EXPECTED

After only two years, popular Israeli Ambassador to Britain, Mr. Abraham Kidron, will be leaving London, probably to be replaced by Mr. Eliahu Lankin, who in 1944 was appointed Irgun commander in the diaspora by Menachem Begin.

### SIR HAROLD PLANNED TO SEND SHIPS

During an American fund-raising tour for the Haifa Technion, Sir Harold Wilson revealed that during the 1967 Six-Day War, he and President Lyndon Johnson had decided to send warships to keep open the Straits of Tiran, because it was a question of the freedom of the seas, but it had turned out not to be necessary. Both the United States and Britain had condemned Egypt's closure of the Straits which give Israel access to the Red Sea.

### AUSTRIAN AWARD

In recognition of his services to art and science, the octogenarian film-writer and lecturer, Mr John H. Kahan, was presented by the Austrian Ambassador in London with the Order of Merit, First Class. Mr Kahan is a pioneer of the German cinema; in the 1930s he wrote movies for Conrad Veidt and also published a book on "The Art of Film". He was born in Vienna, the son of a rabbi and talmudist.

## ANGLO-JUDAICA

### CBF Meeting on Soviet Jewry

At a meeting of World Jewish Relief (formerly Central British Fund) at the Hilton Hotel, Mr. Hugh Dykes, MP, vice-chairman of the All-Party Committee on Soviet Jewry, said that help to Soviet Jews was a "principal humanitarian cause". The whole of the non-Jewish world, he added, owed something to the Jewish world on account of centuries of persecution and suffering. Mr. Kenneth Rubens, chairman of WJR, drew special attention to the "very serious" situation of Iran's 80,000 Jews.

### Belsize Square Synagogue Concert

As readers will have seen from the advertisement published in this issue, the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of Belsize Square Synagogue will be opened by a recital of lieder and operatic arias given by the Synagogue's Cantor, the Rev. Louis Berkman, with Valda Plucknett at the piano, at St. John's Smith Square, on Tuesday, 20th March. Whilst Louis Berkman has throughout his musical career kept an association with Jewish liturgical music, his musical development was also formed in the field of opera and the concert repertoire. The programme will include lieder by Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann and Wolf as well as operatic arias by Verdi, Gounod and Offenbach and the scene "My Last Duchess" by Grace Williams.

### Legacy for AJR Charitable Trust

Miss Paula Edith Plocki, of Beckenham, Kent, who died last September, left most of her £77,000 estate to be shared equally by the AJR Charitable Trust, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the Jewish Blind Society.

### Cemetery dispute

The Whitley Bay Council recently permitted the Jewish community to have stone surrounds on their graves, a privilege not shared by non-Jews. Subsequently there has been a heated public debate on alleged preferential treatment for Jews. A small acreage of the town's cemetery has been set aside for Jewish grave spaces.

### Israeli Courses For British Teachers

In summer 1978, 40 teachers from Jewish and non-Jewish schools in Britain attended university courses in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. They had received scholarships to cover their trip and maintenance in Israel by the Jewish Educational Development Trust. At the moment, preparations are being made for this year's course for students completing their teachers' training course in England at the end of term.

### Stolen Candelabrum recovered

A silver candelabrum, worth £20,000, presented to Sir Moses and Lady Montefiore in 1859 by Said Pasha, the Viceroy of Egypt, was stolen from the Mocatta Library at University College. Soon afterwards, it turned up in New York where it was offered to an antique dealer, Mr. Maurice Freeman, for \$20,000 (£10,000). He did not buy it, because the vendors wanted to go to the bank immediately to cash his cheque. Soon afterwards he visited London and learned about the theft. His information led to the recovery of the candelabrum from a cellar in New York after Interpol had been contacted. An anonymous donor had offered £2,000 for its recovery.

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# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Swing in Opinion Polls

According to a Harris poll, Americans are for the first time more sympathetic to Egypt than to Israel on the issues separating the two countries. 37 per cent said Egypt was right in demanding a linkage between a peace treaty with Israel and self-rule for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 30 per cent sided with Israel, and another 33 per cent refused to give an opinion.

### Israel's strategic importance

When the new Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Ephraim Evron, presented his credentials to President Carter, the President said Israel was a strategic asset for the United States. This remark caused some controversy among the President's foreign policy advisers, and no reports about it appeared in the news media, but at a White House meeting with Jewish leaders, top officials denied that this had been intentional. A few weeks earlier, more than 170 retired admirals and generals had written to President Carter, urging him to recognise Israel's critical role in deterring Soviet aggression in the Middle East.

### Andrew Young and the PLO

In a newspaper article, Mr. Andrew Young, America's UN representative, said PLO officials at the UN were "skilled politicians and very intelligent, decent human beings". The PLO should be viewed realistically by the Americans, because it had "captured the imagination of the Palestinian people" and had become "a tremendous influence" in Arab countries. The conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations in America deplored these remarks as a "depressing commentary on the way he views the American position in world affairs". There were deep dangers in a policy that recognised terrorist groups as legitimate representatives of those in whose name they claim to speak.

### Growing intermarriage

According to a report published by the American Jewish Committee, intermarriage in the US has risen from under 10 per cent before 1960 to almost 32 per cent between 1966 and 1972. The author of the report, Dr. Egon Mayer, stated that in such marriages both Jewish and non-Jewish partners lacked a clear religious identity, but marriages where the non-Jewish partner converted to Judaism, "scored highest in every aspect of Jewish attitudes and behaviour, particularly with regard to affiliation with a synagogue, religious practice and Jewish education for the children". However, the Central Council of American rabbis opposes participation of its members in mixed marriage ceremonies. Nevertheless 457 of its 1,268 members have stated that they do perform such ceremonies.

## AUSTRALIAN JEWISH MEMORIAL DESECRATED

The National Jewish War Memorial Centre in Canberra was daubed with swastikas and anti-Jewish slogans in German, such as "Juden raus". Windows and doors of the Centre which serves as a synagogue and a hall to the small Canberra Jewish community were smashed.

## CAMPS

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## CANADA

### Early Settler Reburied

The remains of Moses David, the first Jewish settler in Windsor, Ontario, have been removed from an obscure grave and reburied in the town's Jewish cemetery. Rabbi Jonathan Plaut who discovered the existence of the 164-year-old grave, recited prayers at the reburial. Moses David was a fur trader who died in 1816 at the age of 46. He was the son-in-law of Aaron Hart, the first Jew to settle in Canada. As there were no other Jews in the Windsor area, his family buried him in their back yard rather than in a nearby Anglican cemetery.

### Toronto Jew's gratitude

Mr. Max Tanenbaum, a Toronto businessman, donated an art collection, worth about £800,000, to the National Gallery of Canada in gratitude for opportunities given to him and his family by the country.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Sport ties between Israel and South Africa

After suspending all sporting contacts with South Africa for 48 hours, the Israeli Olympic Committee restored them after protests from Mr. Zevulam Hammer, the Israeli Education Minister, who said the decision had political implications, as South Africa was a friendly country.

### Activities of the National Front

The South African Minister of Justice, Mr. Jimmy Kruger, has been asked to take action against the South African National Front for distributing pamphlets reminiscent of Nazi Germany which accuse "greedy Zionist landlords" of allowing Coloured and Indian families to live in flats in districts reserved for Whites only. They call for action to stop the "multi-racialism, because it is your country, not the Zionists".

## NETHERLANDS

### No more kosher meals

Amsterdam's only kosher restaurant "Ufaratsta" had to close down, as tourists did not use it sufficiently to keep it a going concern and the city's congregation had its own kashrut supervisor for its functions. There is still a snack bar and a shop where kosher meat sandwiches can be bought.

### Anne Frank stamp

To mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of Holland's liberation, the Dutch Communications Ministry will issue a stamp to commemorate Anne Frank next year. The Anne Frank Foundation had asked for such a stamp to be issued this year, when the Jewish girl from Frankfurt who was murdered by the Nazis, would have celebrated her fiftieth birthday.

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## GERMANY

### The Statute of Limitation Debate

Herbert Wehner, chairman of the social-democratic Parliamentary Party, has announced that his group will introduce a law to exempt murder from the Statute of Limitation. He said the question of abolishing the Statute for Nazi killings was one of conscience and not of party politics. Hans Korschnik, deputy chairman of the Party, said that attempts to terminate the prosecution of inhuman Nazi killers could only be seen as efforts to evade feelings of guilt. Karl Immer, head of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, said in a newspaper interview that deeds of murder under the Nazis must never be allowed to be exempt from punishment. "Our nation has been branded with the Mark of Cain for millionfold fratricide under the Nazis". To come to terms with this dark past, people must not be allowed to forget their guilt, and it was unthinkable that someone should be able to get up in 1981 and say: "Yes I was there and helped, but nobody can punish me any longer".

### Neo-Nazi Teachers Dismissed

Dr. Karl Heinz Kausch, 54, headmaster of a Hanover secondary school, and Heiner Luthardt, one of his teachers, were suspended from office by the Lower Saxony Minister of Culture. Disciplinary proceedings are being opened against both men who are charged with glorifying Nazism and propagating Nazi ideas among their pupils, and with publishing literature in praise of Nazism.

## OBITUARY

### DR. KAETE SILBER

Kaete Silber has died in Edinburgh at the age of 76. She was born in Posen. At Berlin University she soon fell under the spell of Professor Eduard Spranger; she became his secretary and under his guidance wrote her Ph.D. thesis on Pestalozzi. Spranger and Silber remained friends and often met on holidays after the war until his death in 1962.

In Scotland, Kaete Silber worked as a domestic servant until she found a teaching job at a school and then became a lecturer for German at Edinburgh University. As there was no comprehensive work on the Swiss educationist, she was commissioned to write one. Her work was an immediate success in the English speaking countries and was translated into many other languages including Japanese. She also spoke about Pestalozzi on Swiss Television on the occasion of a new edition of his works in which she had collaborated.

Dr. Silber was held in great esteem by generations of students, many of whom are now teachers of German at universities here and abroad.

BETTY KUTTNER.

### DEATH OF FAMOUS ART-DEALER

Mannheim-born Art-dealer, Daniel Henry Kahnweiler, who helped to establish the careers of Picasso, Braque, Juan Gris and many Cubists in his Paris gallery, has died, aged 94. During the First World War his gallery was closed down and 800 important works were sold. The same happened in the Second World War which Kahnweiler survived in hiding.

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# ALBERT EINSTEIN

## Centenary of Unique Man

Born in Ulm on March 14, 1879, Albert Einstein became famous in his lifetime, although his theories and the most startling conclusions to be drawn from them are, even now, comprehensible only to a limited circle of scientific thinkers. Even leading mathematicians, such as Professor A. N. Hashofer of Australia, acknowledge that it was only long study which enabled them to grasp the unified field theory. Oswald Spengler believed that Einstein's theory of relativity had invalidated Newton's hypotheses, and some scientists also take this view. Einstein himself, however, declared that his theory was no more than an expansion of Newton's work.

Nevertheless, the consensus of opinion is that the famous equation— $E=mc^2$  (energy = mass x velocity of light squared)—ushered in the atomic age. Introducing Einstein to an important scientific meeting in London, J.B.S. Haldane referred to him as "the Newton of the twentieth century, the man who has called forth a greater revolution of thought than Copernicus, Galileo or Newton himself". To Henri Poincaré, the eminent French mathematician, he was "one of the most original thinkers of our age", and his friend, the philosopher Bertrand Russell, called him "the leading intellect of our age".

This scientific genius was first recognised by one of the greatest of German physicists, Max Planck, the author of the quantum theory. It was on his recommendation that the Prussian Academy of Science elected Einstein to membership. In 1914, Einstein was appointed head of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut of Physics, Berlin, a post he held until 1933. Many scientists and mathematicians, German and foreign, praised his work, among them Ernst Mack, Walter Nernst, Max von Laue, Werner Heisenberg, Erwin Schrödinger,

Marie Curie, Niels Bohr, H. A. Lorentz, A. N. Whitehead and Robert Oppenheimer. In 1921, his reputation was further enhanced by the award of the Nobel Prize for Physics.

Einstein was an admirer of Kepler, the seventeenth-century astronomer; fittingly, he himself served as a model for the character of Kepler in Max Brod's "Tycho Brahe's Weg zu Gott".

Despite all this, Einstein felt himself to be a solitary man: "My passionate interest in social justice and in a sense of social responsibility always stood in strange contrast to my distinct lack of interest regarding my relations to men and women. . . ." His sense of remoteness and isolation never left him, and he was accordingly surprised at his popularity: "I really don't know why it is that having written a few papers that only a handful of people in the world understand, I have apparently acquired such fame".

There are, I believe, two explanations for Einstein's world-wide celebrity: firstly, many people, themselves unable to grasp such theories, are nevertheless ready to accept and respect a truly authoritative expert; secondly, as the late Professor Philipp Frank pointed out in his excellent biography, Einstein, unlike other scholars, especially in Germany, did not display self-complacency by withdrawing into the ivory tower of science. At the same time, he always steered clear of active politics, though using his influence in public life on the lines dictated by his sense of moral responsibility.

While in Berlin, Einstein became a close friend of Walther Rathenau. He was deeply impressed by Rathenau's belief that the unjust distribution of wealth and income caused much of the unhappiness among modern mankind. Yet in one respect at least, the scientist's

judgement was better than the politician's. When Rathenau was offered the post of the German Foreign Minister, Einstein advised him against the acceptance. Kurt Blumenfeld, in a dramatic chapter of his autobiography "Erlebte Judenfrage", tells how a few months after the appointment he and Einstein attempted to persuade Rathenau to give up his post. In vain: he refused to heed their warnings and was assassinated by German nationalists.

Another trusted friend was Gustav Stresemann, who led his country into the comity of nations: Einstein discussed with him the rebuilding of Germany on democratic lines.

It was Kurt Blumenfeld who succeeded in winning Einstein over to Zionism. Weizmann's project of a Hebrew University in Jerusalem was particularly interesting to the scientist and he was delighted by a visit to the Jewish settlements in Palestine. He felt himself honoured by the offer of the Presidency of Israel after Weizmann's death in 1952, but the claims of his scientific work prevented him from accepting this high office. Yet when friends feared his Zionist activities might interfere with his work, he retorted, "Can I do anything else? I have no choice. If I am in a position to help, I must help".

As the growth of unbridled nationalism and antisemitism began to threaten German Jews, Einstein showed himself ready for service in Zionist propaganda efforts and in furthering measures helpful to Jewish interests. In 1933, when Hitler took over, Einstein accepted an invitation from the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, N. J. There he continued his work while doing everything in his power to assist Jewish refugees.

Always ready to defend civil rights and freedom of speech, Einstein gave his support to humane endeavours for world peace. He warned against the misuse of the atom bomb and protested in the strongest terms against the wave of McCarthyite persecution.

Einstein was not a religious Jew in the Orthodox sense, but his moral principles conformed with the ethical concepts of Judaism. Like Plato, he believed in the divine order of the universe: "I cannot believe that God plays dice with the world". His conviction of the sanctity of life echoed Albert Schweitzer's credo, while his abhorrence of violence and war was expressed in his correspondence with Sigmund Freud, who shared his views.

A kind and gentle man, a lover of classical music, an accomplished violinist, Einstein was also extremely modest. When the Yeshiva University of New York proposed to give his name to its College of Medicine, he suggested that it should rather be called after Maimonides. The Yeshiva, however, insisted and he agreed to lend his name to the College. On April 18, 1955, he died in Princeton and was mourned all over the world.

To mark his centenary, the National Academy of Science, Washington D.C., is erecting a larger-than-life statue in its grounds in honour of a great scientist and a great man.

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# BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO GABRIELE TERGIT

Am 4. März begeht die angesehene Schriftstellerin Gabriele Tergit, mit ihrem bürgerlichen Namen Elise Reifenberg geb. Hirschmann, ihren 85. Geburtstag. Wohl kam ihr Vater aus Ansbach und die mütterliche Familie stammt aus Altenstadt im Allgäu, sie selbst aber ist in Berlin nicht nur geboren und aufgewachsen, sie repräsentiert auch das Wesen dieser Stadt, wie es sich in den letzten Jahrzehnten vor 1933 entfaltet und dort unter weltauftgeschlossenen Juden eine eigentümliche intellektuelle Elite von charakteristisch scharfsinniger Geistigkeit und mit einem kulturellen und sozialen Engagement einmaliger Art hervorgebracht hat. Von diesem seit 1933, dem Zweiten Weltkrieg und der Teilung der Stadt für immer vergangenen Berlin wurde die Jubilarin geprägt. Nur in wenigen Zeitgenossen neben ihr lebt dieser alte Berliner Geist noch fort. Fast alle diese in der Stadt geborenen Mitglieder der jüdischen Elite entstammten dem gehobenen Bürgertum, das in die liberalen oder gemässigt konservativen Traditionen des hohen und späten 19. Jahrhunderts hineingewachsen war, das doch, wie sehr sie auch dagegen rebellieren mochte, für ihr Tun und Lassen die gesellschaftliche Grundlage bot.

Schon in der Jugend befriedigte Gabriele Tergit das bürgerlich opulente Wohlbehagen nicht und so strebte sie das Abitur an, besuchte eine moderne Soziale Frauenschule und betätigte sich in Kinderhorten und bei der Lehrstellenvermittlung. Schliesslich studierte

sie in Berlin, zeitweilig auch in Heidelberg, an der Universität und wählte Geschichte als Hauptfach. Meinecke und Erich Marcks waren ihre Lehrer, sie hörte auch bei Max Weber, Spranger und Trötsch. 1924 promovierte sie über den materialistischen Naturwissenschaftler und Popularphilosophen Carl Vogt, der als Politiker 1848 dem Frankfurter Parlament angehörte.

Bald regte sich der Drang zur Publizistik. Mit 19 Jahren veröffentlichte sie ihren ersten Artikel, der im "Berliner Tageblatt" erschien, der Hauptstätte ihrer journalistischen Tätigkeit. Bald stellte Theodor Wolff sie dort als Redakteurin fest an. Tergit schrieb für ihr Blatt Gerichtsfeuilletons, Artikel über "Berliner Existenzen" und Beiträge für die "Berlinseite". Kürzer oder länger arbeitete sie aber auch für andere Berliner Blätter und Zeitschriften wie die "Vossische Zeitung" (Geschichten für Kinder und Skizzen aus dem Berliner Alltag), den "Börsen-Kurier", die "Weltbühne", das "Tagebuch" u.a. Seit 1929 war sie mit dem hervorragenden Architekten Heinrich Julius Reifenberg verheiratet, das Paar hatte einen Sohn. Verhältnismässig spät wandte sie sich grösseren literarischen Formen zu. 1931 veröffentlichte sie, von Hans Fallada bei Rowohlt eingeführt, ihren ersten Roman "Käsebieber erobert den Kurfürstendamm", mit dem sie grossen Erfolg erntete.

Kaum unerwartet, aber um nichts weniger jäh wurde 1933 diese Laufbahn unterbrochen. Nach einem glücklich abgewehrten Ueberfall in der Wohnung durch einen SA-Sturm flüchtete Gabriele Tergit am Morgen des nächsten Tages, es war ihr 39. Geburtstag, über das Riesengebirge nach Prag. Hier konnte sie gleich an deutschsprachigen Zeitungen mitarbeiten. Schon im Herbst 1933 zog sie jedoch weiter nach Jerusalem, wo sie mit Mann und Sohn zusammentraf. Nach schweren Krankheiten übersiedelte die Familie im Jahre 1938 nach London, und dort lebt Gabriele Tergit noch heute. Der "Manchester Guardian" nahm einige Artikel an, ab 1946 brachte der Berliner "Tagesspiegel" und später auch die Münchner

"Neue Zeitung" zahlreiche Beiträge. In dieser Zeit beendete Tergit ihr schon in Berlin begonnenes literarisches Hauptwerk, den grossen jüdischen Familienroman "Effingers", der 1951 in Hamburg erschien. Es folgten drei vielbeachtete kulturgeschichtliche Werke: "Das Büchlein vom Bett" (1954), "Kaiserkrone und Päonien rot" (1960) und "Das Tulpenbüchlein" (1965).

Seit Jahrzehnten gehört Frau Dr. Tergit dem PEN Zentrum deutschsprachiger Autoren im Ausland an, dessen unermüdliche Sekretärin sie seit 1957 ist. Im PEN, im Club 1943 wie in einem weiten persönlichen Freundeskreis erfreut sich die Jubilarin ausserordentlicher Beliebtheit und Verehrung. Ihr menschliches Verständnis, ihre Hilfsbereitschaft und ihr ausserordentliches soziales Verantwortungsgefühl sind Eigenschaften, die ihre Geltung nicht nur unter der alten jüdisch-deutschen Emigration, aber auch unter Engländern und unter Deutschen der jüngeren Generation in der alten Heimat fest begründet haben. "Die Tergit", wie sie mit Zuneigung gern genannt wird, ist eine weise, tapfere und auch eine leidgeprüfte Frau; ihren Mann hat sie nach langer schwerer Krankheit verloren, der einzige Sohn, ein begabter Mathematiker und Universitätslehrer, ist einem tragischen Unfall zum Opfer gefallen. Ungebrochen schafft und wirkt sie weiter. Vor zwei Jahren hatte sie die Freude, dass eine Neuauflage des "Käsebieber" ihr in allen deutschsprechenden Ländern grosse Anerkennung brachte. Damit

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## BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES (contd.)

DR. F. H. KROCH 75

öffnete sich auch der Weg für die Entdeckung ihres Meisterwerks, der "Effingers", dessen grosse Bedeutung jetzt erst offenbar wird. Das erweckt die Hoffnung, dass nun endlich auch ihr dritter Roman "So war's eben", den die Autorin für ihren "wahrscheinlich besten" hält, bald veröffentlicht wird. Gabriele Tergits Freunde und Bekannte nah und fern wünschen ihr viele Erfüllungen heute und in kommenden Tagen!

H. G. ADLER

### GRUSS AN DIE FREUNDIN

Liebste Freundin, Gabriele Tergit-Reifenberg, Es sind schon viele Jahre vergangen, seit ich Ihre Bekanntschaft machte und Sie in vielen interessanten und anregenden Gesprächen sowohl als Schriftstellerin als auch als Mensch kennen und schätzen lernte. Ihre Wärme und freundschaftliche Nähe haben nicht selten dazu beigetragen, den Schmerz ueber die tragischen Jahre, die die Welt, vor allem aber unser Volk, durchleben mussten, zu lindern, wenn auch nicht ganz zu stillen.

Dass wir jetzt Ihren bedeutsamen Geburtstag mit unverminderter Herzlichkeit feiern duerfen und dass unsere freundschaftliche Verbundenheit in guter alter Treue standgehalten hat, ist fuer meine Frau, Judith, und mich eine beglueckende Freude. Geistige Menschen verbindet ja nicht nur die gemeinsame Sprache, sondern auch ein tieferes Verstaendnis, eine Toleranz fuer die Meinungen der anderen, eine Eigenschaft, die bei Ihnen so besonders ausgepraegt ist. Bezeichnend fuer Ihren Charakter sind Ihre Gleichmut und Ihre Bescheidenheit und Ihr ehrlicher Enthusiasmus fuer das Unbekannte und Neue, das Sie mit bescheidener Genugtuung aufnehmen. Und wenn ich noch eine weitere Eigenschaft hinzufuegen darf, so ist es die Anmut, die innere Waerme und strahlende Humanitaet Ihrer kuenstlerischen Persoenlichkeit, die viel dazu beigetragen hat, eine beglueckende Wirkung auf Ihre Freunde und Kollegen auszuueben. Beeindruckt hat mich oft Ihr wachsamer, immer angeregter Geist. Es war ein staendiges Suchen nach neuen Werten, eine Auseinandersetzung mit den Zeitproblemen und ein Verlangen, von Neuem zu lernen und das Wissen zu bereichern. Hermann Hesse sagte einst, ein jeder muesse die Faehigkeit haben, oft vom

Anfang zu beginnen, besonders aber kreative Naturen. Diese fuer den geistig-schoepferischen Menschen bedeutende Aufgabe haben die Juden zu allen Zeiten hochgehalten.

Ihre tiefen Wurzeln liegen in Ihrem Judentum, in seiner schoepferischen Vergangenheit, in seiner Weltanschauung, in seinen Traditionen, Lehren und seinem Ethos—Ideale, die Sie mit Stolz im Herzen tragen. Hand in Hand mit Ihrer Liebe fuer das juedische Volk und sein historisches Land hat auch Ihr kuenstlerisches Gemuet die bleibenden Werte der ostjuedischen Judentum mit ihrer reichen Kultur und ihrer jiddischen Volkssprache erfuehlt. Davon legt auch u.a. Ihr zeitgeschichtlicher Roman "Effingers" beredtes Zeugnis ab. Charakteristisch fuer Ihr Einstellung und sinnvolle Deutung des Judentums sind die Worte, die Sie den Helden Ihres Romans, Paul Effinger, sagen lassen: "Man kann ueber Religion, und die juedische Religion insbesondere, sagen, was man will, sie gab den Menschen die Kraft und die Stuetze, in allen Lebenslagen das Gleichgewicht nicht zu verlieren". Und mit stiller Wehmut fuegen Sie am Schluss hinzu: "... und wie wenig die Regierenden vom wahren Menschentum sich leiten liessen".

In diesen und aehnlichen Worten kommt wahrer Edelmut, echter Glaube, reiner Idealismus, eng verknuepft mit inneren Erfahrungen und tiefen Erlebnissen eines in kuenstlerischer Fuelle reifen Menschen zum Ausdruck. Solche Menschen, voll mit spruehendem, schoepferischem Geist werden nie alt.

Ben Gurion sagte einst: "Manche Leute werden alt geboren, manche aber werden nie alt". Zu dieser Gattung freudiger, sich immer geistig erneuernden Naturen, gehoeren auch Sie, liebe Freundin. Moegen Ihnen noch viele gute, schoepferische Jahre vergoennt sein. Wie es so schoen im juedischen Schrifttum, das Sie so lieben, heisst: "Ko lechaj", "... und du moegest wohl sein, und alles was dein, wohl sein".

In Verehrung und Liebe, Ihr  
JA'AKOV J. MATTLIS

On March 29, Dr. F. Heinz Kroch, CBE, one of the earliest supporters of the AJR in Manchester, will celebrate his 75th birthday. Together with some other refugees, he founded the first home for elderly refugees, Morris Feinmann House. This was at a time when the assets from the restituted heirless property in Germany were not yet available. The enterprise therefore entirely depended on the solidarity and generosity of Dr. Kroch and his fellow workers. As chairman of the House Committee, Dr. Kroch is not only involved in the general administrative and financial problems of the Home, he has also always attended to the personal questions of the residents and frequently took particular trouble when they required advice in connection with their compensation claims. These absorbing activities for the benefit of Morris Feinmann House are particularly remarkable because, at the same time, he was in charge of a chemical company, Lankro Chemicals, which he had built up from small beginnings and from which he retired only a few years ago.

Dr. Kroch's services to the wider community have been recognised in many ways. He is an Hon.MSc of the University of Manchester, a Fellow of the University's Institute of Science and Technology, and a Freeman of Eccles. These distinctions were crowned by the award of a CBE in 1973.

When, only a short while ago, we had the pleasure of welcoming him in London on the occasion of our Board Meeting, we became aware anew of his loyalty to our cause and his deep concern for the wellbeing of his fellow refugees. In gratitude for his unstinted services we extend our sincerest congratulations to our friend Dr. Kroch and wish him undiminished vigour for many years to come.

### MEDAL FOR PROFESSOR BORN

Professor Gustav Born, Göttingen-born son of Nobel Prizewinner Max Born, the physicist, was awarded the Albrecht-von-Haller Medal by the University of Göttingen for his outstanding research on blood circulation and coagulation. In 1933 Professor Born came to England with his parents and subsequently concluded his medical studies in Edinburgh. Until 1960, he was a lecturer and researcher in Oxford, then professor of pharmacology at London University, and from 1973 to 1978 he occupied a chair at Cambridge. Some weeks ago, he was appointed professor at King's College, London. His research on cardiac arrest and on circulatory illness has introduced new methods for the treatment of such diseases.

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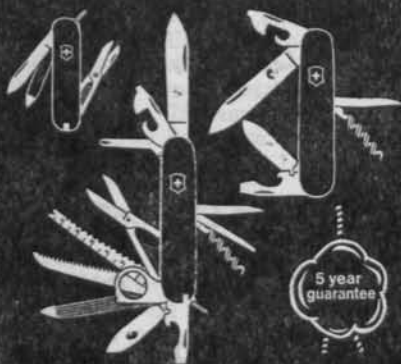
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## ERNST SIMON—EIGHTY

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they are fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow". The words of the Psalmist sound solemn and awe-inspiring and they will certainly be heeded in all their solemnity by our friend Professor Ernst Akiba Simon when, on March 15, he will have reached the age of eighty. He is one of those blessed with the "strength" by whose "reason", according to the Psalmist, it may be reached over and beyond the "threescore years and ten" generally ordained to humans as their lot. And yet, as it is Ernst Simon whose 80th birthday we are going to celebrate, we feel a distinct admixture of joyful jubilation within the seriousness of our thoughts. No one who knows Ernst Simon or has been privileged to enjoy his friendship can fail to be delighted that "by reason" of his "strength" we are able to join him with our heart-felt wishes on this happy occasion.

Ernst Simon and I were young together in those unforgettable years after the First World War in Heidelberg when the tribulations of war and the ecstasy of having arrived at long last at the end of bloodshed resulted in a specific vivacity of emotions and intellects. There was, alas, no peace yet. The end of hostilities between the nations had left in its wake new social and political disturbances and in Germany especially a perilous aggravation of Jew-hatred. The circle of students in which Ernst Simon was then our unrivalled hero was fully awake to the looming dangers. He himself, after volunteering for war service out of patriotic fervour, had changed

through the shock of virulent antisemitism from a "dejudaised aesthete to a Zionist". But the "great fortitude of his soul"—a quotation from Spinoza by which he described name and essence of the Israeli group to which he has now given his allegiance—distinguished Ernst Simon already in those youthful days. To the bitter disillusionment of his German loyalty he reacted with his new Zionist enthusiasm; to the sufferings of the war-years with intellectual ardour; to the enmity between warring nations with an impassioned love for peace.

After moving from Heidelberg to Frankfurt, having graduated with a thesis on "Ranke and Hegel" with Professors Oncken and Jaspers, he was decisively influenced by the great Rabbi Nehemia Anton Nobel, by Franz Rosenzweig and Martin Buber. Deeper and deeper did he dive into Jewish knowledge, Jewish faith, Jewish observance. He was one of the founders of the famous Frankfurt Jewish *Lehrhaus*, edited together with Martin Buber the monthly "Der Jude", but always looked for his total immersion in Jewish life to Palestine. There he served as a teacher, later as professor for education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. After the onset of Nazism he returned temporarily to Germany, following a call to organise, together with Martin Buber, Jewish adult education, a hazardous but highly successful undertaking. It served under increasingly severe circumstances to shape the vague search for a new Jewish way of life, brought about by the gruesome happenings, into some kind of a new Jewish security.

His experiences in this field he put on record in his book "Aufbau im Untergang". In 1952, he published a book on the Swiss educationist Pestalozzi "Die Lehre Pestalozzis". In 1965, his essays, written during 45 years of

his life, were published under the title "Bruecken" with an introduction by Martin Buber. "Bruecken", bridges, was indeed a symbol of Ernst Simon's life. During his years in Palestine and later Israel he was untiringly and prominently active in the search for peace with the Arabs. In post-war Germany he took part in the efforts to cleanse the Nazi-poisoned atmosphere and to bridge the calamitous gulf between Germans and Jews by spreading instruction and enlightenment.

Ernst Simon combines intellectual brilliance, a fascinating rhetoric gift with deep religious devotion. While the national character of Judaism predetermined his choice of Israel as the country of his destiny, he never became a Jewish nationalist. He kept emphatically aloof from all nationalist tendencies tempting the young and threatened Israeli state.

After arriving "by reason of strength" at "fourscore years", he is still the creative, warm and youthful personality I knew many decades ago. That he may long stay in our midst, enriching us with his moral leadership, his erudition and—last but by no means least—cheering us with his charming sense of humour is our birthday wish. Among his many gifts is the rare art of enjoying his own achievements, a pleasure which he deserves without any deduction and omission. May he long retain it, together with Toni, his wife, a companion full of vigour and vitality. May he strengthen himself when looking back on the intellectual and moral fruits of a good life, sustained by the love of his family and friends and inspiring the love of all those who have ever experienced the spell of his colourful personality.

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Egon Larsen

## NEW YORK JEW

There are still more Jews in New York than in Israel, and Alfred Kazin is one of them. His name may not be familiar to many European readers, but in America he ranks as one of the most influential critics of her modern literature, as a writer and university teacher. In his first autobiographical book, *Walker in the City*, he wrote with great affection about his childhood in the Jewish quarter of Brownsville in Brooklyn as the son of poor immigrants who never learnt to master the English language, and about his early steps in New York's intellectual life. Now, in his second autobiographical volume, *New York Jew* (Secker & Warburg, £7.95), he offers us a fascinating canvas of the war years and the post-war scene, with close-ups of famous figures in America's cultural life and personal experiences on journeys in Europe and Israel, all of it strongly influenced by his feelings as a Jewish intellectual.

His first shocks of the Hitler period came when two of his idols among the poets revealed themselves as antisemites. T. S. Eliot wrote that "reasons of race and religion combine to make any large number of free-thinking Jews undesirable"; Ezra Pound, broadcasting from Mussolini's Rome to America, said: "Don't start a pogrom—an old-style killing of small Jews. That system is no good whatever. Of course, if some man had a stroke of genius, and could start a pogrom up at the top, there might be something to say for it".

The Jews, says Kazin, "are my unconscious". Jewish suffering under Hitler came closest to him when he heard, outside a London radio shop in 1945, the transmission of the first Sabbath service from Belsen; the death camp had just been entered by a British detachment, with a *Times* correspondent who began his report: "It is my duty to describe something beyond the imagination of mankind . . .". Now Kazin heard the liberated Jewish prisoners say the *Shema*: "Weeping in the rain, I said it with them. For a moment I was home".

He struck up a great friendship with Hannah Arendt soon after she and her husband Henrich Blücher — "a poor relation of the famous Prussian military family"—had arrived in New York after escaping from Pétain's France via Franco's Spain. "From her first book in English, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*", writes Kazin, "Hannah Arendt was obsessed with genocide and the threat of future holocausts in an 'over-populated' world. She became vital to my life. . . . It was for the direction of her thinking that I loved her, for the personal insistencies she gained from her comprehension of the European catastrophe".

But Kazin is rather critical about some refugees who veered from one extremism to another, such as Willi Schlamm who had been editor of a Communist paper in Vienna and later, under Carl von Ossietzky, a contributor to the *Weltbühne*. In America it was Kazin who worked under Schlamm on Henry Luce's *Time*, but "after some years Luce found that he could do without Schlamm . . . (who) might well have believed that from his office in the *Time-Life* building he at last had the power and influence to bring back to sound principles an élite softened by liberalism. . . . He never lost the domineering ambition of his Leninist youth. He was not just another embittered ex-Communist and professional anti-Communist; he wanted to convert first America, then Germany, where he became so rabid a propagandist for a preventive atomic strike against the Soviet Union that the post-Hitler generation found him unbearable".

Kazin himself undertook, early in 1945, some kind of official cultural mission to England which made him, a civilian intellectual, travel on a convoy ship constantly threatened by German U-boats. His description of that 15-day journey makes the reader shiver and admire his enormous courage. However, his impressions of London only a couple of months before the war ended may not tally with our own recollections: thousands of people, many without homes, still sleeping every night in the tube stations of the West End although "the authorities tried to keep them out"; or a talk with "a German refugee who had been wounded fighting in a battalion made up entirely of refugees; they had been refused British naturalisation, but, the ex-German reported in derision, 'would officially be allowed to adopt British surnames'".

Another cultural mission took him to Russia, where his *delegatsia* had many young Jewish guides, in the 1960s. Ilya Ehrenburg received him for tea "in his splendid country house and explained everything except why he was the only survivor of the committee of famous Russian Jews commanded to gain international support when Hitler invaded. . . . He played a role (what role?—nobody will say exactly what) when Stalin openly turned on Jews, framed and shot twenty-four of the most prominent Jews in the Soviet Union".

He visited Israel: "The Jewish God could have been born only in these empty desert places. My Old Man, my God, the one and only Father". Yet he was not tempted to stay: "There is never any safe homecoming for Jews. There is no ease in Zion. The overpowering sense of effort, of strain, of will can be more haunting here than in the ghettos to which we were driven". Kazin's home is New York, with its flowering of Jewish intellect and talent, where the Jews can declare their Jewishness as a positive quality, and where their European origins are an advantage because it assures their contacts with the old world. New York, Kazin seems to feel, is his *shtetl*, just like some of us felt about Berlin half a century ago. Let us hope it won't fail him as our town failed us.

### BERLIN EXHIBITION

After the stupendous *Neue Sachlichkeit* exhibition at the Hayward Gallery (AJR Information January, 1979) I came away from *The Twenties in Berlin* exhibition at Annelly Juda Fine Art, 11 Tottenham Mews, London, W1, convinced that this was the most important exhibition of its kind that I had seen in London. It comprised a choice selection of fine works by Johannes Baader, George Grosz, Raoul Hausmann and Hannah Hoch. The exhibition itself unfortunately had to close on January 27, but an excellent catalogue containing essays and documents by Jane Beckett, Dr Michael Giroud, Dr Andre B. Nakov and Keith Wheldon is still available at the gallery. It is a "must" for anyone really interested in this important period in the development of modern art. A.S.

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DR. ROBERT HERRMANN 80

As the 29th February only occurs in leap-years, Dr. Robert Herrmann celebrated his 80th birthday on February 28. Born in Brünn, he belongs to that group of German-speaking Czech Jews who found their spiritual roots in German culture. He became a lawyer because he was deeply devoted to the ideas of justice and humanity, and his many grateful clients found him more than just a legal adviser. When he came to this country as a refugee, he continued a promising career in a well-known firm of London city solicitors to which he still belongs. He is a man of many interests, but outside his professional work, his life has been dominated by his love of music. A gifted pianist, he has for many years played with a small chamber orchestra every Saturday. His wide intellectual and musical interests were shared for many years by his wife whose death in a motor accident has cast a deep shadow over his life. Both of them studied for years to familiarise themselves with British culture by attending lectures at the City Literary Institute. They also shared a great love for the British countryside, and used to go hiking most week-ends. Robert Herrmann has also been active in many fields of Jewish life. During the war, he belonged to the Czech Refugee Committee, afterwards he was a member of a number of other committees, and did sterling work on the Advisory Committee for the Pension Claims of Jewish Community Servants, both in this country and abroad. Our good wishes go out to him together with those from the large number of people who have benefited from his wise counsel.

M.P.

### A POET'S LAMENT

Generally speaking, emigration was a shattering experience for poets who found it difficult to go on writing when they were cut off from the living language in which they used to express themselves. A younger generation on the other hand eventually became at home in the new idiom and wrote poems in a language which had become their true medium of expression. It is therefore somewhat surprising to find that a woman of that generation, Stella Rotenberg, who came to Britain in 1939, has had a slim volume of poetry in German published by a German publisher.\* Before her emigration to this country via Holland, she studied medicine in Vienna where she left her family behind, and most of her poems reflect the horrors of what happened after her departure. Her mother's deportation, the suffering of Jews in the camps of Mauthausen, Treblinka, Auschwitz, Belsen form the background of her poetry, and even in poems written long afterwards, her feelings are shaped by her reactions to the past.

She explains why she writes in German: she shares in the condemnation of German behaviour and even admits that German may be a harsh-sounding language, but it is the only language with which she is truly familiar:

"Sie sprechen kantig hart mit Gurgellaut, doch ists der einzige Laut der mir vertraut. So hab Mitleid mit mir und lass mich gehn, an Deutschlands Grenze horchend zitternd stehn."

In another poem she expresses the feelings which every refugee has known when first setting foot on German soil after the war: "Zu wem spreche ich? Wem folge ich vertrauend ins Haus?"

Welcher hat meine Mutter getötet? Sie sehen alle doch wie Menschen aus."

"Die wir übrig sind", is a very personal statement which many refugees will acknowledge as a relevant expression of their own resentments and reactions. M.P.

\* Stella Rotenberg, *Die wir übrig sind*. J. G. Bläschke Verlag, Darmstadt, 1978. 78pp. DM 9.80.



# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## FORMER NAZI NOT WELCOME

Seventy-five-year-old Professor Karl Winacker, chairman of the Board of the Hoechst chemical firm, formerly IG Farbenindustrie, has called off his proposed visit to Israel as leader of a five-member delegation after the "Jerusalem Post" disclosed that during the war he had been the head of the factory which developed Zyklon B Gas, used for the murder of Jews in concentration camps. In his autobiography, published in London in 1971 under the title "Challenging Years", he described his work as head of the Buna factory which maintained a slave labour camp at Auschwitz where many thousands of workers died of overwork and malnutrition. When the Allies occupied Germany, he was dismissed by the Americans and worked as a gardener for two years. He rejoined Hoechst in 1947 and became chairman of the board in 1969. In his book, he says that he joined the SA in 1933, but left in 1936 because his interest was fading.

## SABRA FROM VIETNAM

A group of Vietnamese refugees accepted by Israel, have been transferred to an absorption centre in Afulah to learn Hebrew and adjust to Israeli customs. Soon after their arrival, a baby boy, the first Sabra in the group, was born.

## GIFT FROM BRITISH GOVERNMENT

Mr John Mason, the British Ambassador, presented the Tel Aviv Assaf Harofeh Hospital with an electro-cardiographic recorder, a gift from the British Government.

## NEW TOURIST RECORD

In 1978, the number of tourists from Britain exceeded 100,000, 25,000 of them went by charter. Altogether, the number of tourists to Israel increased by 9 per cent to 1,071,000. According to the Israel Government Tourist Office in London, some 50 per cent of U.K. tourists are non-Jews, many of whom see Israel for the first time as holidaymakers.

## HARM TO CITRUS SALES IN BRITAIN

During the lorry-drivers' strike, large quantities of Israeli fruit and vegetable produce had to be diverted to the Continent. Four ships carrying £3 million worth of oranges and grapefruit were diverted there.

## ISRAELI TOURISTS UNDESIRABLE

For the first time in nine years, the 800-year-old temple city Angkor in Cambodia has been made accessible to foreign visitors with the exception of tourists from Israel, South Africa, and Taiwan.

## EL AL HELPS PASSENGERS

El Al passengers using Ben-Gurion Airport can now check in luggage the day before departure and at the same time select their seat and pay airport tax, thus reducing the waiting time before departure. Those who make use of the new facilities need only report one hour before departure and can immediately proceed to passport control.

## SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN INSTITUTE

An Institute comprising the National Injuries Centre for Israel and a Neurological Rehabilitation Unit was recently established on the site of the Tel Hashomer Hospital near Tel Aviv. It was named after Sir Ludwig Guttman, CBE, FRS, who officially opened the Institute on December 31, 1978, kindled the Chanukah candles and sang the appropriate prayers. The ceremony was attended by General Ezer Weizmann, Minister of Defence, and Mr. E. Shostak, Minister of Health, as well as by several hundred spectators. The building of the Institute was made possible by voluntary donations and a grant from the Ministry of Health. Sir Ludwig also performed the official opening of the Physiotherapy Department at Rambam Hospital in Haifa on January 2. Mrs. Lily Perry and her "Operation Wheelchair" Committee have made considerable contributions for the equipment of this Department and also for the National Spinal Injuries Centre.

## MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE FOR ISRAEL

An endowment fund for the 200-bed Ezrath Nashim Hospital in Jerusalem in memory of the late Mrs. Sarah Herzog, its president for 40 years, was opened in London. One of her main plans was for a mental health day centre which will cost £130,000 for the building and first year running costs. It will be the first centre of its kind in Israel and probably in the Middle East and is mainly for elderly people who would otherwise have to be hospitalised. They will be taken to the centre when the rest of the family go to work and collected again in the evening.

## 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.

### Thanks for Farewell Messages

Casson.—Mrs. Marion Casson received so many messages on the occasion of her retirement that she is unable to answer them individually. She therefore wishes to express in this way her sincerest thanks to all well-wishers.

### Deaths

Braunberg.—Frances A. Braunberg (née Leven) of 99 Eton Place, Eton College Road, London, NW3, passed away on January 23 after a long illness in her 59th year. Deeply mourned by her husband, family and all her friends.

Goldmeier.—Mrs. Helene Goldmeier (née Pick) passed away on February 4. Deeply mourned by her husband, sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

Hulsen.—Mrs. Lotte Hulsen died on December 19 after many months of suffering. Deeply mourned by Beata, her daughter, many relatives and friends.

Liebmann.—Mrs. Else Liebmann (née Heidenheim), formerly Wiesbaden, passed away in her 95th year on February 2. Beloved mother of John Lee and Friedel and Fritz Hallgarten, adored grandmother and great-grandmother.

Ries.—Martha Ries (Bob), late of Eleanor Rathbone House, died on January 17. Mourned and missed by her sisters Hilde Ries and Freda Welkanoz (Israel).

## CLASSIFIED

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### Situations Vacant

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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## INFORMATION REQUIRED

### Personal Enquiries

Koralek.—Elisabeth (Liesl) Koralek, daughter of a Doctor, now married, came to this country from Prague and re-emigrated to New York after the war. Last known address was Austin Street in New Jersey or Long Island. Any information should be sent to Mrs. E. P. Howell, 14 Cannobie Close, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 8RU.

Nemeth.—Would anyone who has any information concerning the above lady, Miss Klare Nemeth, whose last address known to us was Brooklea Drive, Glasgow, in 1948 please contact Birbeck Montagu's & Co., (T. M. Simon), 7 St. Bride Street, London E.C.4.

Salkind.—Walia Salkind from Berlin who lived in London already before the war, is married and therefore probably has changed her name, is wanted by Jeanne Rau from Lithuania. Replies please to Box 766.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Zimmt.—Ruth Zimmt, born in Berlin in 1905, daughter of Leonhard Zimmt, emigrated to Russia in 1930 or 1931 with her then future husband. Robinson.—Edith Robinson, born in Berlin in 1905, lived at Kuestriner Platz, emigrated to the USA. Bodlander.—Mrs. Bodlander who is concerned with the family tree of the family Gluecksmann. Any replies should be sent to Mrs. L. Casson-Bodlander, 29c Elsworth Road, London, NW3 3BT.

### A.J.R. Enquiries

Laszlo.—Mr. Ernest Laszlo, last known address.—247 Guinness Trust, Stamford Hill, London, N.16.

Lonsdale.—Mrs. C. D. Lonsdale; last known address 318 Bramhall Lane South, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 3DL.

Lowenberg.—Mrs. Beate Lowenberg, last known address 2 Amberden Avenue, London, N3 3BJ.

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## Letters to the Editor

### HEINE PRIZE FOR SEBASTIAN HAFFNER

Sir,—May I add a few words to the report in your February, 1979 issue on the award of the Heinrich Heine Prize of DM. 25,000 by the City of Düsseldorf to Sebastian Haffner in "recognition" of his book "Anmerkungen zu Hitler".

In this book Haffner states that "war is unavoidable in a world of sovereign states" and that it is "impossible to ban it from the system of states as it is impossible to ban the evacuation of the bowels from the biological system of the human body." Haffner states further that "successful conquerors and empire builders amongst whom Hitler wished to be counted have done more for peace in history than all paper declarations denouncing war" and he continues: "Not that is Hitler's crime that he tried to emulate them..."; in other words: if Hitler's criminal war plans had been successful we would have had eternal peace. It is not surprising that Haffner pushes away the Nuremberg Trial of War Criminals as "an unfortunate event which nobody now would like to remember".

As a former citizen of Düsseldorf I strongly

protest against the scandal to grant a Heine Prize in recognition of a book which flies in the face of everything Heine ever stood for. I should be glad if other readers of AJR Information would join me in this protest.

5 Endersleigh Gardens,  
London, NW4 4RX.

F. HELLENDALL

### HELENE SIMON (1862-1947)

Sir,—I am writing a doctoral thesis about Helene Simon, who was engaged in the social reform movement in Germany. She published several books and many essays and was a member of the "Arbeiterwohlfahrt" and the Social Democratic Party. While she stayed in England from 1895 till 1898 and again in 1902, she became a member of the Fabian Society and a friend of Beatrice Webb. In 1938, she emigrated to London. I should be grateful to any readers who can help me in obtaining material (letters, articles, unpublished manuscripts) concerning Helene Simon or relatives or friends of hers.

Kreuzhofstr.10/App. 329 SABINE KLOEHN  
8 Muenchen 71  
W. Germany

### GEORG KAISER

Sir,—The "Theatre and Culture" column of your January issue carries a reference to Georg Kaiser under the heading "A Jewish Author remembered". However, Kaiser was definitely not a Jew. The false assumption arose from his name and the facts that (1) one of his early comedies was called "Die juedische Witwe" (1912) and (2) that he happened to emigrate from Germany just in November, 1938. His ancestors on both his parents' side were, to quote Walter Huder, an expert on Georg Kaiser, "staemmige maerkische Bauern". (Professor Huder is in charge of the archives of the West Berlin "Akademie der Kuenste" is in the possession of Kaiser's literary estate.)

Furthermore, his name does not appear in any of the contemporary Jewish reference books which, had he been Jewish, would have been only too glad to include him.

All this, however, does not and must not lessen Kaiser's eminent standing in modern literature. After all, for seven years, i.e. from 1926 till 1933, he was a member of the Prussian Academy of Arts; along with the two Manns, Alfred Mombert, Alfred Doebelin, Ludwig Fulda, René Schickele and Franz Werfel he was chucked out by the Nazis, and his books were burnt, too.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

**Opera Treats.** A number of operas which will be transmitted by BBC radio during March and April, can be seen simultaneously on Television BBC-2. Among these will be the Alban Berg's "Lulu" (first performed in 1937) on March 11th, and Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor" (April 28th), the latter rarely performed in this country while still regularly in the repertoire of many Continental opera houses.

"Lilli, you are superb" was the unanimous reaction to an evening arranged by the Second German Television Network, under the heading "Eine Frau bleibt eine Frau". Lilli Palmer who played the lead in an everyday family story is praised for her refined acting and her instinctive ability of showing feelings of happiness or melancholy with as little as a smile or a faint movement of her hands. Reviewers call her "a great lady indeed."

100 years ago, Rudolf Friml, born in Prague 1879, was one of the first "Musical Emigrants" to the United States where he settled in 1906. Many of his song hits known throughout the world as "Friml songs" have survived to the present day, in particular the operettas "Rose Marie" and "Firefly" which, much later, was made into a film that included the evergreen "Donkey Serenade."

**Obituary.** Egon von Jordan, character actor, member of the Vienna Volkstheater (formerly "Deutsches Volkstheater") for over 40 years, has died at the age of 76.

**The Elisabeth Bergner Memoirs** "Bewundert viel und viel gescholten", published by Bertelsmann Verlag, Gütersloh, are a most fascinating biography. She calls the work a book of "untidy recollections" in which she condenses many interesting events of her rich stage and screen successes into a colourful collection of memories. She reports of her engagement in Zürich when meeting Alexander Moissi, of her years with Falckenberg in Munich and her successful period in Berlin, working with Reinhardt and Barnowsky. Emigration to London—where, seemingly, she knew everyone—and return to post-war Germany are accurately described, but despite the enumeration of all these events the book retains simplicity, modesty, and—between the lines—personifies the ambitious actress who at any given time endeavoured—and often achieved—perfection. S.B.

## "THE DYBBUK" ON BBC

The BBC are planning two productions of S. Anski's Yiddish theatre play "The Dybbuk", last performed in London by the Israeli Habima Theatre during a World Theatre series some ten years ago.

## BEN URI PICTURE FAIR

The major event in the Ben Uri's annual programme is the Picture Fair which will be held at the gallery, 21 Dean Street, London, W.1, on the evening of Sunday March 18.

Anybody who buys a ticket (price £25) gets a picture. The pictures are donated by artists, galleries and well-wishers and include some fine and valuable works of art. On the evening the tickets are drawn by lot; the earlier the number comes up, the wider the choice—but everyone who buys a ticket gets a picture. Refreshments will also be served. The proceeds are devoted entirely to the work of the Society and the upkeep of its gallery, one of the leading Jewish cultural organisations in the country. Membership of the Ben Uri Art Society is £5 per year and entitles to participate in the exhibitions, concerts and other cultural activities of the Society. Application for membership should be made to the Curator at the gallery (Tel: 437 2852) who will be glad to supply any additional information.

On Tuesday March 20, an exhibition of the work of our friend Henry Mathews will be opened at the Exhibition Hall of Harrow Library, Gayton Road, Harrow, Middlesex. The private viewing is on Monday from 8-10 p.m. and the exhibition will remain open until Saturday, 31st March, except on Wednesdays and Sundays. The theme of this exhibition is Comedy in Music and Literature.

Alice Schwab

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