

FESTIVE ANNUAL MEETING

The Tasks That Lie Ahead of the AJR

There cannot be many annual general meetings with such a festive air—almost like a family gathering—as prevailed at the AJR Annual General Meeting held on the balmy summer evening of 1 July at the Hannah Karminski House. Afternoon rain had washed the air, friends and acquaintances gathered in groups to gossip and catch up on news before they settled down to the business of the evening, which was to bring them up to date on the AJR's activities, and then provide them with a fascinating—indeed riveting—journey into the past and future with a guest speaker who held their rapt attention from beginning to end.

The Chairman, Mr. C. T. Marx, opened the meeting by recalling that the Association could now look back on a history of over 41 years and wondered who would have thought in those days of war that it would still be flourishing and serving its community at this latter end of the century in such very different circumstances. From a group of uprooted people uncertain of their position in their new surroundings they had become a fully integrated section of this country, to which they had also made a great contribution in many fields, and whose British-born children and grandchildren continue their tradition of service to country and community.

He then asked the assembly members to stand in memory of the members who had died in the last year, and mentioned the names of four who represented the best in the community's character: Rabbi Jacob Kokotek, Sir Hans Krebs, Mrs. Doris Levy and in the last fortnight, Mrs. Erna Goldschmidt. He was pleased to note that Lady Krebs was present at the meeting.

CHANGING NEEDS

Returning to his opening theme, Mr. Marx emphasised the inevitability of change in such a long-lived organisation, and also in response to changing needs.

It was essential to increase the membership to maintain the strength of the Association, and to provide the pool of individuals willing and able to help with committee and voluntary work necessary to keep it going as effectively in the coming 15 to 20 years as it had been in the past 40.

A milestone of change would be the retirement of Dr. Rosenstock at the end of the year. As one of the pillars of the Association since its inception, he had been general secretary or director for most of that time, as well as editor of *AJR Information*. To have published a monthly journal now in its 37th year uninterrupted, and to have maintained such high standards is a remarkable achievement, and an

appropriate occasion would be found closer to his retirement date to assess and express our awareness of his outstanding service to the Association.

The Association general secretary, Mrs. Taussig, left at the end of January for health reasons, and in the interregnum, the Honorary Treasurer Mr. Spiro had supervised the running of the office with outstanding energy and ability, and a great debt of gratitude was owed to him. Pressure on him would be relieved from 1 September, when Mrs. Anna Patterson would take up the post of general secretary. She had many years of practical experience in social service work, as well as having taught it.

She came from a refugee family, and her appointment underlined the Association policy of attracting younger people, and particularly those whose background as the first British-born generation of our community would assure full understanding of the needs of those we serve.

These were changes on the administrative side, but above and beyond that it was essential to recruit new members to replace those who had departed, and to enlist from among them volunteers to help with all our activities, and not least from the younger generation. The Chairman urged those present to pursue the quest for new members vigorously, and also for those who would fit into the category of *Friends of the AJR*. How often, he observed, people who had deliberately stood aside from the *AJR* knew very quickly where to find it when they needed help for one of their loved ones . . .

Recalling his open letter in the last issue of *AJR Information* appealing for members' support of the Wiener Library campaign for its endowment fund, Mr. Marx reminded his audience of the invaluable function of the Library as a storehouse of our recent history and of a great variety of information and materials on antisemitism, fascism and allied subjects, with sophisticated modern equipment housed in an attractive building easily accessible to researchers and inquirers. He thanked those who had contributed, and urged those who had not to be sure they did, and generously.

SELF AID CONCERT

Sunday, 17 October

Please keep this date free for the Self Aid Concert (in conjunction with the AJR) at 3 p.m. in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Further details will be announced in next month's issue.

The Chairman wound up by emphasising the two main future tasks of the AJR: to continue looking after those—quite elderly now—whose lives were scarred by the Holocaust, which meant maintaining and improving the old age homes and other welfare activities, and to keep alive and pass on to our children the knowledge of the past, of our heritage, without prejudice to our integration into the British way of life, which has largely been successfully achieved.

The Honorary Treasurer opened his report by remarking that the Accounts for 1981 held no surprises. Income from membership fees and donations at £42,339 showed a slight advance on £41,028 in 1980. Throughout the last three years the number of Members and Friends had shown a steady though modest rise. The membership drive in 1980 and 1981 had secured 556 new Members and Friends, thus leaving the AJR with a positive balance of 141, taking into account losses of 415 members in the same period. There was a further increase in outgoings caused by the continuing rise in the cost of producing and distributing *AJR Information*. Fresh appointments, increases in work load and a modest adjustment of earnings much in line with the national average make outgoings under salaries a major growth area, but this feature should be controlled by increased efficiency and better utilisation of staff resources.

CONTINUITY OF WORK

To bridge the gap between income and outgoings it has become necessary to obtain gradual increases in financial support from the AJR Charitable Trust for many of our welfare activities, thereby limiting the loss in the 1981 accounts to £453. The Trust had supported our work in 1981 with total contributions coming to £25,000, compared with £13,500 in 1980 and £9,000 in 1979. For 1982 we shall again have to look to the Trust for major support. The Trust depends for its fresh income on legacies so helpfully provided for in the wills of members. We owe deep gratitude to their memory.

It was essential to husband the funds of the Trust so as not to jeopardise in coming years the continuity of our present social work activity, which will then be so badly needed. To improve the Association's income we must take in many more Members and Friends. While there is no intention of changing our traditional policy whereby Members and Friends fix their own level of annual subscription, we shall appeal during the remainder of the year for increased payments and greater use of covenants to all who can afford them. We would thus hope to lift the average of Members' subscriptions, which now stands at about £11 to around £15. The attainment of this modest target would make a major contribution towards the upkeep of all our services.

Accommodation in Otto Hirsch, Marie Baneth and Hannah Karminski Houses is filled to capacity. Eleanor Rathbone House, which the Trust runs

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FESTIVE MEETING

jointly with the Allocations Committee of the CBF, and which provides sheltered accommodation in 52 flatlets, is full. The residents in all these Houses are elderly and require much support in the form of company and looking after. There is an urgent need for volunteers to visit and to take a personal interest in one or two residents per visit. Hundreds of requests for help and advice have been dealt with by staff at headquarters. All who call upon us value highly this work carried out under Mrs. Matus and Mrs. Neuschul. In over 130 cases we could provide home help for the infirm and elderly, and regular telephone contact has been maintained with a growing number of lonely refugees for whom contact with our helpers is particularly vital.

Our work for the Homes in Bishops Avenue and Otto Schiff House continues. Ownership and operation of these Homes is vested in the Allocations Committee of the CBF and control and policy direction of these Homes, which have 192 residents, is the responsibility of the Management Committee, on which the AJR is strongly represented. Day-to-day control is under the Director, Maurice Ross, and he and his staff handle their responsibilities with much devotion and efficiency. The AJR is responsible, under Mrs. Margot Williams, for the selection of residents. In 1981 there has been considerable growth in the demand for the Osmond House type of accommodation for the frail and very frail. We have therefore had to adjust our admissions policy to take care of the most urgent cases. Thus people have to stay on in their homes much longer than was previously the case, and admission below the age of 79 will become the exception.

NEED FOR ENTHUSIASM

Mr. Spiro summed up by calling for a vigorous drive, pursued by all, to increase the membership, and for volunteers, especially from the younger generation, to join the work of those in office, bring new and fresh ideas, as well as the strength and enthusiasm of their younger years, a generation born and firmly established in the country which provided refuge to their parents and grandparents. He expressed his thanks to all his colleagues in Fairfax Mansions for their support and co-operation in the work upon which they had been jointly engaged for the last six to nine months.

This was followed by the election of officers. Mr. C. T. Marx was re-elected Chairman unanimously, as were the Honorary Treasurer Mr. Ludwig Spiro, and the Vice-Chairman, Dr. F. E. Falk. Mr. Marx and Mr. Spiro were praised by Dr. Falk for the devotion and enthusiasm with which they had worked for the Association. Mr. Marx moved that the Board be re-elected, thanking them for their help and co-operation, and Mrs. Finburgh was added to the Board.

PAINTINGS FOUND IN HAMPSTEAD ATTIC

While selecting works for an exhibition, a member of the Fine Art Society made an exciting discovery in a Hampstead attic. In the house owned by Mr. Eric Wolmark, he found five previously unknown paintings by Mr. Wolmark's father Alfred, a well-known Anglo-Jewish painter. They had lain undisturbed for many years, as demonstrated by a thick coating of dust, and no one knew that they were in the house. After cleaning, the pictures were shown in Glasgow as part of an exhibition of Jewish art in Britain from 1900 to 1950. It is hoped that they will in due course be seen in London.

PROF. BORN EVOKES PAST AT AGM

The guest speaker was Dr. Gustav Born, Professor of Pharmacology at Kings College, London, FRCP, Fellow of the Royal Society, who had served in the RAMC during the war, and who had received the Albrecht von Haller Medal from the University in his native Göttingen. His subject was 'A Scientist Remembers', but few of those present could have anticipated the fascination and the scope of his presentation. Prof. Born's talk was built around a series of slides which turned out to be very evocative, arousing complex feelings ranging from keen nostalgia and admiration to irony and laughter. He began by playing a few bars of Brahms's 'Academic Festival Overture'. It was his great-grandfather Solomon Kaufmann, a wealthy textile manufacturer in Tannhausen and Breslau, who arranged for Brahms to receive his only honorary doctorate. Brahms wrote the Overture for that occasion. We saw the inscription in his grandmother's *Poesiebuch*, with a quotation from the Overture.

Grandfather Gustav, a Professor of Anatomy and an experimental biologist at Breslau University, had married Solomon's very musical daughter, Margarete. Gustav senior was interested in Embryology and, among his other achievements, initiated the investigation of the function of the corpus luteum, a gland of internal secretion which produces progesterone, and thereby laid the basis for the development of the contraceptive pill.

Father Max Born was of course the Nobel Prize-winning physicist; also very musical, indeed good enough to play piano duets with the great violinist Joseph Joachim (to whom Brahms dedicated his violin concerto). But Max settled for physics, winning a prize with his doctoral dissertation on mathematical problems of elasticity. He was a lifelong friend of Einstein and popularised his relativity theory in the first book on the subject. He disagreed with Einstein on the implications of quantum theory, and it was indeed for his work on the quantum theory that Max Born got his Nobel Prize. There was an amazing photograph of the participants in the 1927 Solvay Conference in Brussels, showing all the world's great physicists assembled together with Einstein seated in the middle and including brilliant younger men like Heisenberg and Pauli. It was Pauli who, on another occasion, prefaced his comment on a lecture by Einstein with the words: "Was der Herr Einstein gerade gesagt hat, das ist garnicht so dumm!"

Professor Born also mentioned that in his father's weekly seminars, the very young Robert Oppenheimer always spoke up first and at considerable length. The young American physicist was told, as politely as possible, that he might occasionally cede that right to others. Much later, when Oppenheimer became

famous and influential, Max Born used jokingly to remark that that was why he, Born, was never invited to the United States . . . On the other hand, when after the First World War Born and his colleagues were short of money for basic equipment for experiments—that was the great decade of discoveries in the twenties!—it was an American Jew, Mr. Goldman of Goldman Sachs, the merchant bankers (the same Goldman who financed the youthful studies of Yehudi Menuhin), who came to their rescue with a thousand dollars, a sum that went a long way then. Academic life was also less bureaucratic in those days, at least at the higher levels: when in 1919 Max Born wanted to swap Professorships with Max von Laue because it suited their mutual convenience (Frankfurt and Berlin), they arranged it all with a mere exchange of letters.

When the Nazis seized power the Born family came to England, first to Cambridge from 1933-36 and then to Edinburgh until Max retired in 1953. Important books continued to come from him including "Principles of Optics", "The Restless Universe", and the Waynefleete Lectures under the title "Natural Philosophy of Cause and Chance". Max was much concerned with the philosophical implications of physics, e.g. with the notion of "invariance".

Max Born loved Wilhelm Busch, and translated some of his verse into English with considerable wit and skill, which we were able to enjoy by comparing the German and English versions of the lines about the physical properties of an *Ohrfeige*.

Max Born always refused to have anything to do with work on nuclear weapons.

The speaker's mother, Hedwig, came from a very academic family, and wrote both prose and verse very well. After the Second World War she wrote an appreciative essay on British democracy. This caught the fancy of the Foreign Office which arranged for her to give talks, based on an expanded version, in post-war Germany. Alas, when she arrived at King's Cross station her luggage with the text of the speech was stolen, and she returned to Edinburgh.

Professor Born also told us a little of his own work. He has been studying platelet aggregation in the blood which, among other things, is a cause of heart attacks and strokes. When one considers that more than half of all deaths in this country result from cardiovascular disease (cancer 17 per cent, accidents 6 per cent, and 23 per cent from all other causes) one grasps the importance of his work.

Of his five children none so far has chosen a career in science, except that his elder daughter, also an excellent musician, has just obtained a first-class degree in Anthropology from University College London. His younger daughter, still only sixteen, is well on the way to a career in the theatre, and we saw stills from a film in which she has starred.

To accent the changing times Professor Born ended by playing a few bars of a song sung by his niece, the attractive celebrity Olivia Newton-John. "I still prefer Brahms", he added wryly.

Mr. Arnold Horwell expressed enthusiastically the gratitude of the audience for the great enjoyment everyone present had obtained from the talk of exceptional depth and interest. Mr. Horwell also pointed out how the Born family epitomised the best in German Jewry, and how our guest's achievements reminded us of the magnitude of the German-Jewish contribution to British life.

The Chairman, Mr. Marx, echoed this enthusiasm, which was shared by all.

BBC TO FILM "LAST WALTZ"

"Last Waltz in Vienna", George Clare's prize-winning account of a Viennese Jewish family, is to be shown in a BBC television film for the series "Arena". This is in addition to the Austrian version which is to be broadcast in his native country.

ENQUIRY DESK FOR MIDLANDS

Following the success of the Board of Deputies' Central Enquiry Desk, the Birmingham and Midland Jewry's Representative Council plan to set up a similar answer service in their own district.

HOME NEWS

TELECOM SUBSIDIARY ACCEPTS BOYCOTT

British Teleconsult, a subsidiary of British Telecom wholly owned by the Government, has fully accepted the terms of a boycott in connection with a project to supply Saudi Arabia with earth satellites. The form attached to the contract stipulates that neither Teleconsult nor its subcontractors in the project will have any business dealing with Israel; will not own Israeli shares or assist Israeli businesses; have no factories in Israel; will grant no trading rights to or act as agents for Israeli firms. In case of breach, the contract can be revoked without compensation.

CANTOR RESIGNS

The Rev. Louis Berkman has resigned as Cantor of the Belsize Square Synagogue. He has been invited to teach the classes for Cantillation and Liturgical Music in the Reform and Liberal Tradition at the Leo Baeck College.

PAUL SIMON'S "UNIVERSAL AUNT"

Niece of the film director Josef von Sternberg, Judith Piepe came from a Jewish family living in the Lüneburg Heath district. She emigrated to Britain from the Third Reich and now in her early sixties lives in the East End of London. She converted to Anglicanism and some twenty years ago became a parish worker for St. Anne's, Soho. There she came into contact with young people and developed a particular interest in young musicians. The fact that she herself had been a stranger and an outsider gave her a sympathy with the uncertainties of youth, which she translated into practice by becoming a kind of "universal aunt". Among her protégés was the songwriter Paul Simon, who later teamed up with Art Garfunkel. On hearing him in a Soho folk club, Judith Piepe encouraged him in his work, introduced him to publishers and promoters, and even provided food and shelter when necessary. Paul Simon has not allowed his subsequent success to dampen his gratitude.

DISSIDENT HONOURED IN ABSENTIA

The wife of Anatoly Shcharansky, the mathematician imprisoned on a treason charge in Soviet Russia, was recently presented at the House of Commons with a lithograph by Henry Moore. It represented an award by the Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry made to Shcharansky in absentia in recognition of his "outstanding services for the release of Russian Jewry".

USSR ACCUSED AT UNESCO CONFERENCE

Letters of protest were sent by the National Council for Soviet Jewry to the delegates at the Unesco World Congress on Books held recently in Kensington. The letters pointed out that a Unesco publication, "Social Life and Social Values of the Jewish People", has been sent to a number of Soviet Jews, but has always been confiscated by the postal authorities on the grounds that the book contained material prohibited from import into the USSR under Soviet postal regulations. "Why", the National Council wants to know, "does the Soviet Union ban Unesco publications, while it continues to attend Unesco congresses?"

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LORD FISHER'S LIFE RECORDED

The life and times of Lord Fisher of Camden are to be shown in a film "From Stepney to the Palace of Westminster". Three versions of the film are to be made available on audio-visual recordings: the first is the fullest account, the second is designed for elderly people in the Jewish community and the third is directed towards schools, Jewish and non-Jewish, with additional printed information for the use of pupils.

PROGRESS FOR MANCHESTER MUSEUM

Plans for the Jewish Museum in Manchester have been strongly supported by donations of money and by the presentation of items for display. One exhibit will be a scale model of the old "Jewish Quarter" in Manchester. No small help has been provided by the English Tourist Board, which has made a grant of £10,000 to be used in converting the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue for use as a museum. Funds for the project now stand at £70,000.

Some weeks ago, a Holocaust Exhibition was held in Salford, including a scale model of a concentration camp made by the pupils of King David School. Many exhibits were lent by Mr. Leon Greenman of London, who has preserved a number of objects and papers testifying to his own experiences as a camp inmate, and who was present at the exhibition in order to tell young people at first hand about life under persecution.

NF CANDIDATE FAILS

The Young National Front editor Joseph Pearce, after six months in prison for inciting racial hatred in the paper "Bulldog", stood as a candidate at the parliamentary by-election at Merton, Mitcham and Morden, which was won by Angela Rumbold. Pearce polled 547 votes and lost his deposit.

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GERMAN TOWNS

BONN

Claus Goldschlag, the 60-year-old Canadian Ambassador in Bonn, was born in Berlin and was brought to Canada from the Auerbach Orphanage in Berlin in 1937 by a Canadian philanthropist. He has served in the Canadian foreign service in London, Vienna, Ankara and Rome, after having studied oriental languages, notably Persian and Turkish, at university.

HAMBURG

The former private villa of Albert Ballin at 58 Feldbrunnenstrasse in Hamburg has become a listed building because of its outstanding architectural merit. It was built in 1908-9 by the well-known architects Lund and Kallmorgen. After 1945 it was the office of Hamburg's cultural administration, and then a UNESCO pedagogical institute.

FRANKFURT

A memorial statue to Paul Ehrlich (1854-1915), the great chemotherapist who received the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1908 for his discovery of salvarsan to treat syphilis, is being sculpted by the 34-year-old Swabian artist H. D. Sailer, and will be sited in the Westendplatz of Frankfurt-am-Main. Ehrlich lived at Westendstrasse 58 for about a decade-and-a-half. The house has a relief bust of him on it and a painting of him at work in his laboratory on the inside.

EBERSTADT

Following the placing of a memorial stone some years ago on the site of the synagogue of the Eberstadt Jewish community by the city of Darmstadt (which has absorbed Eberstadt), a pamphlet on 'Eberstadts jüdische Mitbürger' has appeared, compiled by Robert Hess and published by him from Heinrich Delp Strasse 194, D-6100 Darmstadt-Eberstadt, at DM 5.90. It seems that until the Nazi period, Jews and Christians lived together quite harmoniously in Eberstadt. There are useful illustrations in the booklet.

LANGENSELBOLD

Surviving former Jewish residents of Langenselbold, near Hanau, might be interested to learn that it has attained the status of a town, with 10,000 inhabitants. Before 1933 there were 200 Jewish inhabitants, about three per cent of the then 6,000 population. Most of the Jews were retailers, cattle dealers, butchers and bakers. Most of them were able to emigrate to America, Africa and Palestine, but the estimated 45 still there in 1939-40 were deported to the East. The last Jewish community official was Max Zegla, and he was preceded by David Loeb.

E.G.L.

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Michael Wallach

MEN AND IDEAS

Alexander Carlebach: Men and Ideas (*Ishim Vede'or*): A Jewish Miscellany. Selected Writings 1935-1980. (Koren Publishers, Jerusalem, 1982, n.p.). Obtainable from Jewish Memorial Council Book Shop, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1 (paperback £6.50, hardcover £10).

The articles in this volume reflect 35 of the most eventful years in Jewish history. As the author might well put it, echoing our liturgy, *From darkness to great light, and from bondage to redemption*. It is his greatest merit that, unlike many fellow German Jews who survived the Holocaust, he has endeavoured, and with some measure of success, to maintain a sense of balance in life and thought.

Rabbi Alexander Carlebach is the scion of a distinguished German rabbinic family with strong Orthodox leanings. Most of his active life has been spent in this country and, latterly, in Israel. In this volume he has preserved many of the articles written during his rabbinic life, in which he comments on people and events in the light of his philosophy.

Perhaps "philosophy" is too ambitious a word (and *Weltanschauung* would falsely suggest an unduly Germanic flavour), for a system of thought and ideas emerges from these writings by implication rather than methodic enunciation. Nevertheless, it is often interesting, refreshing and sometimes surprising, occasionally challenging.

Your reviewer has some difficulty in being objective about much of the material in this volume: my career and the story of my life have some curious parallels to the author's.

SYNTHESIS OF CULTURES

His guiding start and inspiration were and are Samson Raphael Hirsch. I received my early schooling and Yeshiva training at institutions inspired by Hirsch's teaching, and helped to make it accessible to the English-reading public. We have both broken away from Hirsch at a number of points, though possibly not in the same direction. We unite in regretting the wholesale rejection so fashionable today, of the underlying approach of *tora im derech eretz*, the synthesis of Jewish and European culture.

Hirsch's motto is a typically German variant of a philosophy whose roots go back to Philo of Alexandria and Maimonides of Cordoba. Its contemporary eclipse and total rejection on the right as well as the left of the religious spectrum seem to your reviewer more a concomitant of the psychological rejection of German values than rational thought. In restating Hirschian values Rabbi Carlebach has done great service to Jewish values.

That he distances himself from the Master in some respects, far from detracting from Hirsch's reputation, will only serve to enhance it, for he thereby separates the permanent wheat from the transitory chaff. To put these faults in a nutshell: the Master vastly underestimated, in fact he largely ignored, the greatest reservoir of Jewish life, in the shtetls of eastern Europe; but in that he was merely echoing German Jewry's contempt for the *Ostjuden*. He totally failed to comprehend the unfolding Zionist movement; there, again, he was in the company of many great rabbinic figures of his day (including our very own Chief Rabbi of the time).

Finally, he lacked a sense of humour; but there too, he was merely being a *yekke* among *yekkes*. But, as the author points out, German Jewish Orthodoxy—Hirsch included—compensated by its high cultural and artistic leanings. His stout defence of Orthodox German Jewry against some of the fashionable disparagement will warm many a heart.

The work is divided into sections on German, British, Ulster, European and American Jewries (in that order), Zionism and Israel, Halacha and Aggada, and sketches of some Orthodox Jewish figures including members of his own family.

The halachic section is a little rabbinic "trade talk", almost obligatory among self-respecting rabbis. The Hebrew in which some of the articles are written is correct and fairly fluent and, if not inspired, at least does not suffer from the awkwardnesses of the rabbinic style applied to everyday usage.

The dominant merit of Rabbi Carlebach's work lies in the broader horizons which rise above the "four cubits" in which the contemporary rabbinat has largely locked itself. The author reasserts that religious Judaism reaches out far beyond the minutiae of the "ceremonial law".

But on occasion "he doth protest too much"—which I take to be a symptom of the uncertainty which any thinking Jew must contend with in the post-Auschwitz age. Rabbi Carlebach is too honest a thinker to hide behind the sloganising fanaticism in which many of his contemporaries have taken refuge, and many of his propositions end in an (unspoken) question mark. It is thus to his merit that he has given us "a little here, a little there", rather than the carefully constructed system of ideas we might have expected.

The book will stimulate all thoughtful Jews to ponder the "whence" and the "whither" of Jewry, and those with German associations in particular.

ITALIAN REFUGEE DECORATED

A law student debarred from taking his degree in 1939 by Italy's racial laws came to England where he joined the BBC's Italian service. After the war, Mr. Massimo Coen made his fortune in the Anglo-Italian textile trade. Eventually he was appointed president of the British-Italian Chamber of Commerce and he has now received the honour of being named Cavaliere del Lavoro by the Italian President. It is the first time that this rare distinction has been conferred on a resident of the United Kingdom.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REUNION OF RELIEF WORKERS

Sir,—Next year, 1983, will mark the 50th Jubilee of the Central British Fund (now World Jewish Relief), parent body of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad, which operated in Europe and the Middle East during and after the war. It would seem an appropriate year for a reunion of former members of JCRA, field workers, those active in London and volunteers identified with its work generally.

If there is a positive response it is hoped that a reunion will be held in London one evening in September or October, 1983.

Former members are now widespread throughout the world and we would appreciate hearing from them with present addresses and if possible addresses of other former members so that contact can be re-established.

Would former volunteers please write to us as to their interest in a reunion as early as possible, and ask others with whom they are in contact to do so?

ABRAM GAMES
CHARLES SPENCER
41 The Vale, London NW11

GUILT OF ALLIES

Sir,—We learn only now that in 1942 it was already known to the leaders of the West, the Soviet Union and the Vatican that the Holocaust was taking place. While Denmark and Bulgaria saved most of their Jews, and one single Swede, Raoul Wallenberg, could save 100,000 Jews, hardly any help was given by Britain, the U.S.A. or the Pope.

This terrible reality must not be forgotten.

78 Priory Road,
London NW6 3NT
GERALD ELLIS

WALTHER RATHENAU

Sir,—I read with great interest in the June edition the excellent article by C. C. Aronsfeld about the assassination of Walther Rathenau.

I should like, however, to add some personal observations. It was, of course, a fact that Rathenau was not a confessing Jew; he did not show much interest in Jewish affairs.

I myself worked from 1915-1917 in the *Kriegsmetall A.G.* in Berlin, of which Rathenau was the overlord, as he established this company as a subdivision of the *Kriegsrohstoff-Abteilung des Kriegsministerium*.

When Rathenau's father, Emil Rathenau, the founder of the A.E.G., died in 1916, I read in German papers about his funeral. Then, Walther Rathenau said at the graveside of his father, when he threw the three handfuls of earth on his coffin:

"... und jetzt spreche ich ueber Deinem Grab den uralten Segen unserer Vorvaeter: ... 'Der Herr segne Dich und behuete Dich ... 'mit den Schlussworten 'und gebe Dir Frieden'."

That proves, in my opinion, that Walther Rathenau did not negate his Judaism. I myself also felt first and foremost a German, when I was sent in 1917 to the *Kaiserlich Deutsche Gesandtschaft Militaerische Handelsabteilung, Abt. Metalle*, in Bern, where I worked until the liquidation of the Department in 1920. Of course, after the abdication of the Kaiser and the establishment of the Weimar Republic the title became *Deutsche Gesandtschaft, Abt. Metalle*.

The Nazis taught me that I was first and foremost a Jew.

16 Faber Gardens
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LUDWIG LION

WREATH FOR RATHENAU

In commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the assassination of Walther Rathenau, (see *AJR Information*, June issue) the Governing Mayor of Berlin laid a wreath on the memorial stone in the *Königsallee* in Berlin-Grünwald. The nearby Walther Rathenau Oberschule presented a memorial exhibition.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Soviet Holocaust Reports Published

As the remorseless destruction of East European Jewry rolled on, two Soviet Jewish writers—Ilya Ehrenburg and Vassily Grossmann—began to compile a dossier of eyewitness reports, diaries and letters as evidence of the mass murders in ghettos and concentration camps. Also included was documentary material relating to the Jewish partisan resistance. The documentation, entitled "The Black Book", at first enjoyed the Kremlin's blessing but with Stalin's change of policy towards the Jews in the late '40s all copies were destroyed.

Fortunately, however, one handwritten copy of the manuscript had reached Israel, but it was not until 1965 that it was handed over to Yad Vashem. Still no attempt was made to publish it until, five years ago, Alexander Donath, president of the New York Holocaust Library, learned of its existence. He found that there were gaps in the manuscript, but perseveringly managed to fill almost all of them, except the chapter on Lithuanian Jewry which is still missing. A translation from the original Russian has now been published by the Holocaust Library/Schocken Books in New York.

Most Americans Support Israel

A Gallup poll conducted in the United States on behalf of the American Jewish Committee, before the fighting in Lebanon, showed that Americans who would support Israel in the event of a Middle East war outnumbered those in favour of Arabs by five to one. Public opinion considered that Jews are more loyal to the United States than to Israel. Other findings of the poll, one of a series taken over the last five years, were that only 9 per cent of the sample believed that Jews had excessive influence; many more declared that trade unions, business interests, Arabs or Blacks were over-powerful in the community.

Court Questions for PLO

When Fred Sparks, an American Jewish journalist, bequeathed £16,000 to the Palestine Liberation Organisation in his will, the American Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith all sought to have the bequest set aside on the grounds that the PLO was a terrorist organisation. The matter has now been brought to a preliminary hearing and for the first time a Palestinian representative has been questioned before an American court on the group's aims and activities.

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EXTRADITION FROM CANADA SOUGHT

A naturalised Canadian, Albert Rauca, who has been living in the country for 31 years, has been arrested at the request of the West German government. Rauca, now aged 74, is accused of the murder of over 10,000 Lithuanians during his service in the SS. Although the Canadian Jewish Congress estimates that some 50 or 60 ex-Nazis are living in Canada, this is the first occasion on which the Government has co-operated in extradition proceedings.

Award for Poles in Canada

The widow of a Polish victim of Auschwitz, Mrs. Wanda Olbryska has been presented in Toronto with the Yad Vashem medal of the Righteous Gentile. Mrs. Olbryska and her late brother helped to save a number of Jews, some twenty of whom were sheltered in her own home despite the ever-present danger of death under Nazi occupation laws.

FRANCE

Paper Fined

The newspaper "Témoignage Chrétien", an honoured name during the German occupation of France when it was an outspoken anti-Nazi publication, has since 1967 taken up an anti-Israel attitude. In consequence of an article published a year ago and entitled "Israel—the terrorist state", the editor was prosecuted on a charge of inciting hatred and contempt for Jews. A fine of £150, together with symbolic damages to the International League against Racism and Antisemitism and to the Amitié Judéo-Chrétienne de France, was imposed.

Businessmen Defy Boycott

When Kuwait asked the fashion designer Pierre Cardin to fill in a questionnaire in connection with the Arab boycott, he flatly refused to do so, in compliance with French law which forbids trade discrimination on racial or religious grounds. Kuwait is now expected to blacklist M. Cardin, who deals with both Israeli and Arab firms. The car manufacturers Renault also expect cancellation of sales in Iraq, Libya and Saudi Arabia because of the sale of vehicles to Israel by one of Renault's subsidiaries. However, Algeria recently took a delivery of 5,000 cars despite the terms of the boycott.

Decline in United Jewish Appeal

Although nearly £6 million was raised by the 1981 French United Jewish Appeal, it was less than in the previous year and fewer Jews contributed. Out of a community about 700,000 strong, only 23,000 made donations to the appeal, a state of affairs which was attributed to the worsening economic situation.

REJECTION OF AFRIKANER ANTISEMITES

South African policemen have been officially warned not to join the extremist right-wing and antisemitic group Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging. The movement's aim, as proclaimed by its leader Eugene Terre'Blanche, is an "Afrikaner Christian people's government". Jews would not enjoy any political rights, since "they recognise Israel, not South Africa, as their fatherland". Although the AWB, whose emblem is a three-legged swastika, has tried to associate itself with the right-wing splinter Conservative Party, Dr. Treurnicht, who heads the new party, has rejected any alliance with the AWB and has declared that Jews are "ordinary citizens of the country".

MEDAL FOR ITALIAN PROTESTANT

Pastor Vinay, an Italian Communist senator who supports the Palestinian cause, has received the Yad Vashem Medal of the Righteous Gentile for his part in saving the lives of Jews during the German occupation of Florence. Explaining his present stance, the pastor declared that in defending the oppressed, he found himself in the opposite camp from the Jews today. Nevertheless he hoped that those he had saved would understand him.

Unbeknown to the pastor, Reuven Campagnano, one of the children he rescued, was invited to the Rome ceremony of presentation and the two men embraced one another in greeting. Reuven's mother, who in 1942 had hidden her five children among Christians, telephoned from Israel to thank Pastor Vinay for his help and courage.

SYNAGOGUES LOST UNDER TURKISH LAW

Under Turkish law, communal property belonging to Jews or other minority groups are subject to the "Vakif" provisions, which stringently limit the amount which may be spent on repairs or restoration. If property is sold, the purchase price must be lodged in a blocked Vakif account. Since communities are unable to restore synagogues and other buildings, many of the premises have become dilapidated and in such circumstances the Vakif authorities can take the buildings over. In this way several historic synagogues have been expropriated. The Jewish community is at present making representations to the Turkish Government that this outdated law should no longer be enforced.

ANCIENT YUGOSLAV COMMUNITY DISCOVERED

After a thousand years, excavations near the Yugoslav town of Novy Sad have revealed the existence of an ancient Jewish community. Nearly 300 graves, dating from the 8th and 9th centuries, have been found to contain bricks bearing representations of Menorahs and other Jewish symbols. What language was spoken by the group or what they called themselves remains a mystery.

EXILE ACQUIRED HITLER'S CUTLERY

Kent antique dealer David Corcoran believes that he may possess a set of silver cutlery which once belonged to Hitler. Although only one place setting, it tallies with monogrammed silver which has surfaced in the United States. Mr Corcoran says that, while in the army, he met a Jewish immigrant who used the name "Bradley" and was nicknamed "German Willie". Bradley went to Germany with the British Armistice Commission as a translator and came back with various items of interest. Returning to Germany, he left the silver with Mr. Corcoran and it stayed for 30 years unnoticed in a workshop. It is believed that "German Willie" died some years ago.

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JEWES IN WEIMAR PERIOD

There is a tendency among the young Jewish generation to tell those of us who lived in the Weimar Republic that we did everything wrong, that we knuckled under to the hostile forces around us, that we should have put up a brave fight against them, perhaps even armed resistance. Such accusations are based on a complete lack of understanding of what the situation of German Jewry was really like, and how diversified and complex the social and political groupings were; even now we cannot offer a collective answer to our young accusers. It seems that we have to leave that answer to the historians, though they have to compile it from mountains of contemporary journals and other records. This is what an American professor of history, Donald L. Niewyk of the Southern Methodist University in Louisiana, has done in his book *The Jews in Weimar Germany* (Manchester University Press £12.50). His sources are mainly the Jewish press, thoroughly researched but of course lacking the immediacy of eyewitness accounts.

UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED

The main chapter of the book deals with German antisemitism, with many quotes from the works of Eva Reichmann, Hannah Arendt and a host of other writers. Niewyk's survey of anti-Jewish attitudes on the part of representative German groups in the Weimar era shows "that there was a good bit of antisemitism, but that it was very unevenly distributed and rarely of the extremist variety sometimes advocated by the Nazis . . . Only the university students and the army showed any substantial vulnerability to radical antisemitism". This mentality and behaviour of the German students — who in 1848 had been in the forefront of the struggle for democracy and liberalism — began under the Kaiser in the 1880s and reached its climax in 1930 when the Nazi Students' Union "became the dominant force" at the universities, where also many professors had outspoken antisemitic prejudices and "a few were only too eager to trace the problems of Germany in general and higher education in particular to Jewish sources".

But it was to be Hitler's achievement to hold the Jews alone responsible "for the cultural modernism that bewildered and antagonised more than a few ordinary Germans: Marxian Socialism, pacifism, internationalism, expressionism, psychoanalysis, atonal music, and organic architecture. What made his myth plausible was the disproportionately large number of Jews among the critics and innovators of Weimar culture . . . In truth, Jews were no more solely responsible for modern culture in Germany than they were for the abuses of capitalism or socialism", says Niewyk, and he arrives at the somewhat arguable conclusion: "Without the contributions of a single Jewish intellectual, Weimar Germany would still have produced a remarkable and energetic cultural life not substantially different in its broad outlines from the one for which it is known." We who saw and experienced it may have formed a different opinion: that Weimar culture was largely a result of an extraordinary symbiosis of Jewish and unprejudiced Gentile talent.

Niewyk reports on the most controversial subject, the German-Jewish response to antisemitism, with academic precision. He sees a variety of attitudes: the pessimists who "expected to lose their citizenship while remaining otherwise unmolested" if the Nazis did take over; the optimists who "anticipated little or no change in their status due to the moderating influence of the non-Nazi right" (he quotes the Jewish educationalist Heinemann Stern); the Zionists who believed in Jewish nationalism as "the only effective antidote to antisemitism". The work of the *Centralverein*, he says, was significant in three respects: overtly, it confronted the antisemitic charges with the truth; covertly, it aided antiracist political parties; inwardly, it "brought a sense of security and confidence to the Jews".

Obviously, the greatest obstacle to unified Jewish action was the contrast of personal and political viewpoints among the German Jews. At the extreme fringe there was Max Naumann and his League of German Nationalist Jews who seemed to agree fully with Walther Rathenau's advice that the Jews should "replace their Asiatic customs and habits with behaviour more becoming to Germans". The extreme assimilationists were some of the baptized Jews such as the Munich editor Professor Cossmann — notorious for his defence of the antisemitic *Dolchstoß* myth that the Jews had stabbed the undefeated German army in the back in 1918.

However, the book also makes the astonishing claim that middleclass Jews who were threatened with economic extinction believed in the idea of *Berufsumschichtung*, which was "spoken of in almost messianic terms by virtually all segments of Jewish society": a reorientation towards farming and the skilled trades, not as preparation for emigration to Palestine but to make Jews economically acceptable to the rest of the German population.

Niewyk's answer to the charge that we did it all wrong is this: "No consideration of the Jews' conduct and role should suggest that different behaviour during the Weimar years would have altered the outcome in any significant way."

EGON LARSEN

ANOTHER COMMENT

This is an academic history. It is written by someone who does not seem to have had any personal connection with the events described. It is based on a painstaking investigation of the written sources supplemented to an extent not known to this writer, by correspondence and personal interviews. The resulting preoccupation with the written word may, in the reader who is not an eye-witness, produce an impression that all German Jewry at the time was absorbed in internal dissensions to a greater extent than was really the case.

On the whole, it is an objective statement though, in some instances to which I shall revert, it is not free from bias.

It lacks, I suggest, a clear definition of a Jew, and the words "baptise", "baptism" or the like do not appear in the index although they do come into some of the discussion. In dealing with the economic attainments of German Jews, baptised and perhaps even half-Jews appear to be included whereas in connection with the subject of most of this book, i.e. the fight against anti-semitism and organised reaction thereto, they obviously do not come into the picture. Before the days of the Republic most antisemitism was of a religious nature and could be avoided by baptism, e.g. in securing university appointments. It is therefore surprising that the author should state on page 53 that there was nothing new in Nazi antisemitism. Another term which is not clearly defined is Assimilation, of which there were certainly a number of distinct degrees. The author mentions the specifically Jewish students' organisations (KC) but does not mention a much more assimilationist phenomenon, namely student fraternities like the FVW which were nominally interdenominational but in fact had almost exclusively Jewish membership.

SOCIAL CLASSES

In reviewing a work based on such thorough research, it would be churlish to look for mistakes. There are, however, a number of matters on which I would disagree with the conclusions reached. I question the division of German Jewry of the time into four social classes in which a member of the Warburg family is relegated to the second class. In my view, there is a tendency to underplay the pre-Hitler level of antisemitism, though I was surprised to find it suggested that the outlook for Jewish lawyers before 1933 was poor. There is also no clear indication that antisemitism grew in importance over the period of the Republic which was certainly the case at least in the later years.

The bias mentioned earlier leads to a clear preference for German Jewish liberalism over Zionism and is exemplified in a brief attempt at a short history of Zionism worldwide. The conclusion is reached that before Hitler Zionism was a dying creed and that the same was true of antisemitism which, it is suggested, is now in worldwide decline. One can only question these assumptions.

The book suggests from time to time that "the Jews" could have taken this or that alternative position. It is not perhaps made clear enough that by being organised through their communities and otherwise, they were in no position to enforce a unified stand.

These observations are not meant to deny that Niewyk has made a useful contribution towards clarifying the subject for a readership which did not experience at first hand the events reported in great detail. It cannot, however, in my opinion be regarded as anything like a definitive work on the subject, for which it is perhaps too early anyway.

E. O. HERZFELD

LEGACY

The AJR Charitable Trust has received a legacy of £9,245 from the estate of the late Mr. Kurt Bloch.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

OVER 700 BERLINERS HELPED JEWS

When the West German Cross of Merit was awarded to three people who had saved Jews during the Nazi years, Senator Heinrich Lummer took the opportunity to speak about the unsung heroes, "the true heroes, those who quietly sacrificed themselves, who did not ask questions about religion, but held out a helping human hand to fellow humans in despair and need".

Up to 1963, some 700 Berlin citizens had been honoured by the Senate for their work of rescue. After 1976, such cases were honoured by the West German state and 25 Berliners had received the Cross of Merit. Several thousand Jews managed to survive the war, living covertly in Berlin—and no other town in Europe can boast so many ordinary people ready to help their fellow citizens without regard for personal safety.

On this occasion, two women and a man received the medal in recognition of their courage and humanity. Gerda Charlotte Wasilke had passed off her Jewish friend as a bombed-out relative, allowing her to share her tiny one-room flat. Susanne Witte had saved a Jewish singer and, lacking the extra ration-book and throughout the heaviest air-raids, continued to support her clandestinely from October 1942 until the end of the war. Stefan Kubicke had taken into his home a complete stranger who faced deportation. By juggling the man between Herr Kubicke's house and that of a friendly chemist, he successfully threw the Gestapo off the scent.

JEWISH THEMES ON BERLIN STAGE

Berlin's Theatertreffen this year included several productions with a Jewish theme or of Jewish interest. The Bochum company presented Lessing's "Nathan der Weise" as its main work and its studio production was "Bin ich froh ein Jud zu sein". This was an anthology of short extracts such as songs from "Fiddler on the Roof", letters by Rosa Luxemburg, Brecht's "Ballad of the Jews", Clare Asscher-Pinkhof's "Sternkinder", an excerpt from the Auschwitz commandant's diary and many other scenes, moving or horrifying.

Heidelberg's main production was Marlowe's "Edward II", directed by David Mouchtar Samorai from Israel. The company also gave a "Chassidic Evening" entitled "Nichts ist vollkommener als ein gebrochenes Herz". This too was an anthology programme, with songs and sketches based on texts by Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav. The performance was produced with great success by Yossi Yzraely.

WEST GERMAN COURTS BLAMED

The fact that the Bundesgerichtshof, following a precedent of the 1960s, still considers the People's Court in the Third Reich to have been a properly constituted tribunal, has drawn accusations from the East German State Attorney Josef Streit, who points out that not a single jurist living in West Germany has been convicted for his activities in the People's Court. Streit revealed that his office had handed over more than 6,000 documents for use in the current investigations, now dating back three years, into the possibility of prosecuting former court officials.

CONVICTION ON UKRAINIAN MURDER CHARGE

After nearly six months of hearings, Franz Bauer and former Police Commissar Hans Hertel have been found guilty of complicity in the murder of about 1,000 people in the Ukraine. The original charge spoke of 11,000 Jews who had been shot. The two men were sentenced to imprisonment for 5½ and 3½ years respectively.

WEISS VERSUS GOEBBELS

At a colloquium held at the Berlin-Grünwald Wissenschaftskolleg, Dr. Dietz Bering of Cologne University spoke about "Deputy Police Commissioner Weiss Versus Gauleiter Goebbels—the 'Isidor' Affair". (The subject was treated at length in *AJR Information* of November 1981). Dr. Bering has a specialist interest in the Nazis' use of names for antisemitic purposes, as they used the name 'Isidor' in their attacks on Weiss.

E.G.L.

AUSTRIA

Wiesenthal's Viennese Home Bombed

Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna, most fortunately escaped injury when a time-bomb was left in a pressure cooker outside his flat. Although property was extensively damaged when the bomb exploded, Mr. and Mrs. Wiesenthal escaped unhurt. It is believed that neo-Nazis, not Arabs, were responsible for the outrage and the Austrian Jewish Community has offered a £3,500 reward for information leading to an arrest.

Eisenstadt Museum Opened

Eisenstadt now has a Jewish Museum, sited in the town's former Jewish quarter. To mark the official opening an exhibition was mounted, entitled "One Thousand Years of Austrian Jewry".

Jewish Events in Vienna Festival

The Vienna annual festival has for the first time had a major contribution from the city's Jewish community. A Berlin group presented "The Dybbuk" and the Jewish Centre held a Yiddish film week.

Tyrolean Legend of "Ritual Murder"

Local patriotism, artistic merit, Vatican pronouncements march across a darker backcloth of ritual murder accusations and antisemitism in the town of Judenstein in the Tyrol. When the church was repaired in 1969, the roof painting and frescoes showing the "ritual murder" of Andreas von Rinn in 1462 were also restored. The Austrian authorities in charge of cultural history commented that the paintings did not clearly identify the perpetrators as Jews and that in any case they were unique examples of the work of the brothers Josef and Franz Giner, who flourished in the eighteenth century. However, an Austrian delegation against antisemitism reported in 1970 that the figures of the murderers were plainly intended to be Jewish. After representations to the Catholic authorities, it was eventually agreed that a tablet should be put up proclaiming that the story of Andreas von Rinn was pure legend and the Jews had nothing to do with the supposed crime. The tablet soon disappeared, however, and the votive inscription and the wooden figure of Andreas on the so-called Martyr's Stone were reinstated.

Professor Hermann Kuprian of Innsbruck then took up the matter with Church representatives, who pointed out that children were no longer taught that Andreas was a martyr and that, over the years, pilgrim processions to the church have been discontinued and various figures purporting to show the "Jewish murderers" have been removed. So far, Professor Kuprian has managed to ensure the more solid fixing of a new tablet to the church wall, in which the age-old accusations are denounced as legend and falsehood.

MUNICH TV MAN SACKED

When the radical right-wing "Deutsche National-Zeitung" made Franz Schoenhuber's autobiography "Ich war dabei" its Book of the Year, protests erupted from Bavarian democratic and Jewish circles. Schoenhuber was not only a former member of the SS who had written extensively on his years in the organisation, he also held a responsible post in the Munich radio and television station. The protesters declared that, in view of his past and of his attitude to the public debate on his book, Schoenhuber was not fit to occupy his position in the democratic media. He has now been dismissed from his job.

THREE FIGURES OF POST-WAR GERMANY

Familiar names to those who lived in Germany in the 30s and after the Second World War are those of Carl Orff, Fritz Eberhard (Helmut von Rauschenplat) and Robert Havemann, all of whom have died.

The composer Carl Orff, a pupil of Hermann Zilcher and Heinrich Kaminsky, continued to write his individual works throughout the Third Reich and up to the 70s, his most famous composition being "Carmina Burana".

In contrast, Professor Eberhard distinguished himself by his active political opposition to the Hitler regime. An ardent Social Democrat and trade unionist, he escaped to England in 1937 but returned to West Germany after the war, where he helped write the Federal Republic's Constitution.

Dr. Robert Havemann is best known for his outspoken criticism of the East German government, which as a Communist he had supported. Imprisoned for his political activity by the Nazis, he was later expelled by the GDR authorities from the Party and his university post.

At the time of his death he was living in East Berlin, and attendance at his funeral was strictly limited by government order.

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THOMAS MANN'S WAR DIARIES

The four volumes of Thomas Mann's Diaries for the years 1933-1939 (reviewed in *AJR Information*, July 1981) are now followed by a fifth, covering the war years from 1940 to 1943 (Thomas Mann: *Tagebücher 1940-1943*. Herausgegeben von Peter de Mendelssohn. S. Fischer. Frankfurt 1982). It is a book of no less than 1,200 pages of which the essential explanatory information alone fills some 350. The book would have been far less voluminous if the editor had had the courage to eliminate entries like "½9 Uhr. Aufgestanden u. gebadet", "Nach dem Aufstehen rasiert" or "Der Milchmann brachte Eier, etwas Butter und viel unnütze Milch".

In spite of all the excitement created by the initial successes of Hitler's war machine, mainly the collapse of France, the present volume is of far less political interest than its predecessors, since Mann's reactions to the catastrophic news from the battle fronts are predictable. In unpolitical matters the Diary served him as a kind of lightning conductor: only Mrs. Katia Mann and his daughter Erika (who for years had a dominant influence on the father) escaped the writer's grumbling criticism unlike his other children.

During the war years Thomas Mann lived in a kind of splendid isolation in the United States, first at Princeton in the east and then in California, and he was able to play an active part only by helping in the rescue of refugees and by broadcasting appeals to the German people—one of the most valuable parts of the BBC's German programmes. How he responded to the bad and to the good news, his expectations, illusions and prophecies, his whole armchair-strategy,

as registered in the Diaries—all this shows hardly any originality in style and content and could have been jotted down by any other refugee. Here is how he expressed his satisfaction about Roosevelt's re-election as President in November 1940:

"Es ist die erste Freude, der erste Sieg nach mehr als 7 Jahren, die nichts als Enttäuschung und Gram brachten".

Entries like "Zum Bombardement Münchens, was ich diesem dummen Nest gönne" or "Der alberne Platz hat es geschichtlich verdient", reflecting a transient mood, should not be overrated, as they are followed by genuine expressions of sympathy for the Munich students (the Scholls and Prof. Huber) executed in 1943. But it is remarkable that even in the seclusion of his Diaries Mann avoided an unambiguous answer to the question of how far he included the whole German people in his condemnation of National Socialism.

THE GERMAN CHARACTER

Once he came near to accepting the views propagated by Lord Vansittart:

"Gelesen in Vansittart's Schrift 'Black Record'! Geschichtliches angreifbar, aber psychologisch wahr. Die drei deutschen Eigenschaften 'Envy, Self Pity and Cruelty' unbestreitbar. Das Buch lässt heftig nach Sühne und gründlicher Heimsuchung verlangen".

In a message, however, for the Office of War Information (March 1943), published for the first time in this volume, he opposed the idea of wholesale punishment and expressed his hopes for a German anti-Nazi rebellion:

"I do not agree with the idea of wholesale punishment (...), especially because I do not consider the German people hopeless—no more so than humanity itself (...). I do not think that the German people are exceptionally hopeless because I believe that the kind of education which the Nazi system was permitted to exert (...) would produce the same results on any people (...). A fascist revolution in America, if it were thinkable, would most probably not look any nicer (than the Nazi revolution). A nation falls victim to a Hitler but once and never again".

In those dark years Thomas Mann was able to participate in saving the life of many and bringing them out of France and over to the United States, but in his Diaries he spoke about the "Kruppzeug, das hier landet" and was full of bitterness, because his brother Heinrich had brought his wife (despised by Thomas) with him. In comparison with previous volumes there are fewer snide remarks about Jews but Thomas Mann insisted on the superiority of his brand of hostility to Hitler: "Diese Juden haben einen Sinn für die Größe Hitlers, den ich nicht ertrage". An evening conversation with other emigrés displeased him because of the "allzu ausschliesslich jüdischer Kreis". His well-known dislike of Bert Brecht, Alfred Kerr, Alfred Döblin and Emil Ludwig is confirmed in the volume and extended to Erich Maria Remarque. Franz Werfel, championing in the last years of his life rather right-wing views, is rebuked for his fears of a "left-wing" peace: nothing mattered except the downfall of Hitler and it was "objektiv ungehörig, in meiner Gegenwart so zu sprechen". Perhaps the only German exiled writer who escaped Mann's criticism was Leonhard Frank, a frequent visitor in the Mann household. Most peculiar is Thomas Mann's lack of understanding of the human tragedy of Stefan Zweig (partly denied

and partly confirmed in a previously published letter to Zweig's first wife). In the Diaries it was first a "rätselhaftes Vorkommnis", its motivation being "ganz unzulänglich", then it was "albern, schwächlich und schimpflich".

In spite of the fact that Thomas Mann, now nearly 70 years old, had to get used once more to life in unfamiliar surroundings, and in spite of the world-shaking events, paralysing the activities of lesser men—these events directly affecting members of the Mann family—his capacity to create great works of lasting value never suffered. Only of two days (in 1940) he complained, "Nichts gearbeitet". Between 1940 and 1943 "The Transposed Heads" and "Joseph the Provider" were finished and "Dr. Faustus" started, the Diary carefully registering every day's progress. Nevertheless, Thomas Mann still found time and energy for many other literary activities. Several times he crossed the United States for extensive lecture tours. Once he noted "Häufung von Veranstaltungen, Besuchen, Uebernahme von Geschäften, die mir Sorgen machen". That he was able to master all those difficulties deserves the highest admiration.

"ANGLIZISMEN"

It is, however, surprising how many English words and how many which the Editor classifies as "Anglizismen" crept into Thomas Mann's notes. He even wrote "Hauptland" (influenced by "mainland"), when he meant "Festland". Peter de Mendelssohn has patiently explained most of them but left the word "brunch" without explanation (breakfast and lunch combined). His footnotes about persons and events are an indispensable contribution of the highest value, even if we are sometimes left in the dark about what aroused Thomas Mann's anger.

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OBITUARIES

DR. ERNA GOLDSCHMIDT

By the death of Dr. Erna Goldschmidt on 18 June in her 81st year our community has lost one of its most devoted active members. The manifold causes with which she was associated included a deep attachment to the AJR. When the first Old Age Home for former refugees was established she was from the very beginning one of its House Committee members. This was no easy work, especially during the first period, when we had to gather experience in this essential venture. Through her feelings of social commitment and her longstanding communal work, Erna Goldschmidt was a special asset to the Committee. She resigned only a few years ago when her health compelled her to reduce her workload. Yet she remained a member of the AJR Board and attended its meetings regularly. The contacts with the AJR were also strengthened by the position of her late husband, Dr. F. Goldschmidt, Chief Legal Adviser of URO and, by virtue of this office, also in constant contact with the AJR.

Erna Goldschmidt's Jewish activities date back to the days in Germany. At that time, her work was centred around the B'nai B'rith Lodge, and for some years, she was Chairman of all the Women's Lodges in Germany. As soon as the opportunity arose after her emigration she again put herself at the disposal of the Lodge. She became the Founder President of the Leo Baeck (London) Women's Lodge on the inauguration of the Lodge in 1946 and later served again as President for two years. During the first post-war years, she organised a parcel service for the few survivors on the Continent. At the same time she laid the foundation of the Lodge's social work in this country as chairman of the Welfare Committee, an office she held up to the end. Her manifold commitments included the running of a Home Help scheme. Yet her main interest was devoted to the Lodge's Home for the Elderly, Clara Nehab House in Golders Green, and even when her health began to fail she made it a rule to visit the Home regularly.

One of her most cherished schemes was the acquisition of a House which could be used as a meeting centre for the Lodge's functions and also provide accommodation for the elderly in flatlets. The scheme, embarked upon in 1975 with her active participation, was realised in due course by the establishment of the Lodge House in Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead.

The death of Erna Goldschmidt is not only mourned by her family, it leaves a void in the whole community and is a deeply felt personal loss for the great number of people who knew her.

GERTRUD PROCHOWNIK

Mrs. Gertrud Prochownik, who died in London on 6 June at the age of 97, took an outstanding part in the work of the Berlin Jewish community as head of the Employment Agency from 1926 onwards. When the Nazis came to power she was also instrumental in finding employment abroad for would-be emigrants. She survived the war in Berlin with the help of two German families who gave her shelter at great risk to themselves. After the war, she joined her daughter in Australia, and in 1962 the whole family (including two granddaughters) came to England.

GUENTHER BALLIN

Guenther Ballin, who played a leading part in the German-Jewish youth movement "Kameraden" in Berlin, has died in Buenos Aires at the age of 73. After having completed his studies at the Berlin University, he first taught at a Berlin Municipal school and from 1935 onwards at the Jewish "Joseph Lehmann Schule" associated with the Berlin Reformgemeinde. After his emigration, he became a teacher at the "Pestalozzi-Schule" in Buenos Aires. From 1956 to 1965 he was also a lecturer in German Literature at the University of the City of Buenos Aires. At the same time, he took an active part in the work of the organisations founded by Jews from Central Europe, especially of the "A.C.I." (Juedische Kulturgemeinschaft), whose chairman he was for some time. He was also the co-founder of a Jewish "Lehrhaus".

PETER FREUND

Dr. Josef Peter Freund has died in Jerusalem at the age of 72. He was the elder son of the well-known historian, jurist and Jewish activist Dr. Ismar Freund (1876-1956). Educated at the Berlin Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums, he was rabbi at Erfurt from 1937-39. In Palestine/Israel he was active in many fields and published German-language writers. He did much to keep alive the memory of his father's achievements.

E.G.L.

HANS MEYER

An influential and widely recognised figure in West German Jewry, Hans Meyer has died aged 70. He had been a leading member of the Frankfurt a.M. Community Board and repeatedly its chairman and also a representative on the Central Council of Jews in Germany. Born in Magdeburg, he emigrated to Palestine and some time after the war settled in Frankfurt as a legal adviser. He assisted many Nazi victims in the prosecution of their restitution claims.

PROFESSOR HENRI TAJFEL

The death has been announced of Professor Henri Tajfel, a founder of the European Association of Experimental Psychology. Born in Poland, he studied in France where he volunteered for the Army at the outbreak of the Second World War. He was captured by the Germans and was an inmate of prisoner of war camps until 1945, whilst his family all perished in the Holocaust. After working for rehabilitation of war victims, Professor Tajfel settled in England in 1951 and became a professor of social psychology at Bristol University.

GERTRUD BLANK

Gertrud Blank has died in Jerusalem at the age of 90. She was a leading Jewish social worker in Germany until 1939, in the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle in Berlin and later as a roving social worker in the provinces. In Palestine/Israel she was in the social welfare department of the Vaad Leumi, and then until her retirement cared for demobilised soldiers. She was one of the last survivors of the Jewish social welfare stalwarts of pre-Nazi Germany.

E.G.L.

BENJAMIN DAVOUD

Twice in his life Benjamin Davoud, who has died at the age of 80, had to emigrate to escape persecution. Born in Georgia, he saw his father shot on his way to synagogue in the days of the Russian Revolution and thereupon fled to Germany, where he established himself and maintained his family. Just before the Nazi take-over, he emigrated to England and rebuilt a prosperous life here.

PIOTR RAWICZ

Piotr Rawicz, the Polish-born author of "Le Sang du Ciel" (Blood from the Sky), committed suicide in Paris recently, a few weeks after the death of his wife. He was 63. "Le Sang du Ciel", which earned him the Rivarol literary prize in 1962, was a first novel dealing with the extermination of the Jewish communities in Eastern Europe and based on his own experiences in the death camps. As well as his critical and journalistic work, he was the friend of many Soviet dissident writers and introduced Solzhenitsyn's works to the West by translating them into Yiddish.

COLOGNE SOCIETY RESTORES CHAPEL

The Verein vom Heiligen Lande in Cologne has restored a chapel near Capernaum beside the Sea of Galilee, near the spot where Jesus is said to have preached the Sermon on the Mount. Cardinal Höffner of Cologne recently dedicated the building, named after the "Miracle of Loaves and Fishes", which has been renovated in accordance with old paintings and drawings.

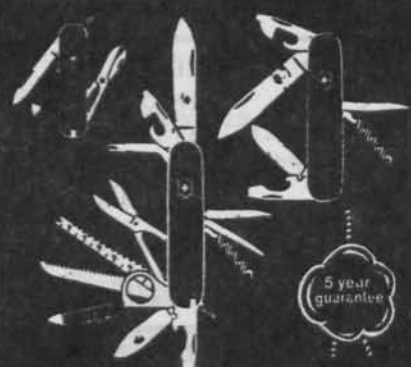
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- 9 Aug. Dr. Erwin Seligmann: The Controversy about George Steiner's Hitler Novella.
- 16 Aug. P. & H. Lichtenstern: Samples of Jewish Religious and Folk Music.
- 23 Aug. R. W. Rendall, F.C.A.: Stagflation, Causes and Cures.
- 6 Sept. Zwi Rosenwasser, B.A.: The Hebrew Language throughout the Ages.
- 13 Sept. to 4 October: Keine Vorträge.
- 4 Oct. Gerald Holm: Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson (born 1832).
- 11 Oct. G. Jaeger: The Genius of George Eliot.
- 18 Oct. Isca Salzberger-Wittenberg: Melanie Klein—Her Life and Work.
- 25 Oct. Dr. R. von Schulze-Gaevernitz: Deutschland, das Ottomanisch Reich und der Orient (vor und nach 1914).
- 1 Nov. A. Bryett: The Salzburg Festival (with Music).

MISCELLANEOUS

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

A characteristic light is cast upon the Nazi crimes in a collection of Letters from the Front which has been compiled by two German students of military history, Ortwin Buchbender and Reinhold Sterz, *Das andere Gesicht des Krieges: Deutsche Feldpostbriefe 1939-1945* (Munich, 1982). They have classified the letters according to the various stages of the war and one section deals with the extermination of the Jews.

Among the ten samples (in a total of 350) not one has a word of compassion. The Jews are "raving beasts", "pigs in human shape" which "will be sent to the proper place where they will no longer oppress the peoples—rest assured of that". Great pleasure is expressed at the receipt of *Der Stürmer*, and the indiscriminate killing of 3,000 Jews is recorded as a bald matter of fact.

The absence of any criticism cannot be due to censorship as in other respects the writers do form an independent opinion, especially after the turn of events. Quite a few regret the failure of the attempt on Hitler's life in July 1944 and there is no lack of sarcasm about the promised "wonder weapons".

A special section is devoted to the pathetic case of a lieutenant Edgar Jacoby who managed to join the army by concealing his Jewish origin until in May 1941 his sister, registered as Jewish in Hamburg, was found to have attended a Nazi women's meeting and claimed in her defence that after all her brother was an officer in the army. Nothing is known about what happened to either sister or brother.

MEMORIAL MEETING AT LIDICE

Lidice, razed to the ground by the Nazis in revenge for the assassination of Heydrich, was the scene of a memorial meeting forty years after the day when all its men were shot, the women sent to concentration camps and the children dispersed no one knows where. The Czech leader Gustav Husak was present at the ceremony, together with many East European representatives and the West German Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

EMIGRANT ENGINEERS

Walter Goldstein, of the historical section of the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure in Düsseldorf, reports that the request for information from emigrated engineers, published in *AJR Information* and in the relevant journals in the US, Britain and Israel, has brought in replies from some 200 engineers, mostly retired, or from their surviving relatives. Furthermore, the VDI's request for financial support from the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) has been granted so that the VDI has been able to employ a qualified scholar to proceed with the project of recording the history of the emigrated engineers. Many of the respondents, says Mr. Goldstein, have expressed their satisfaction at the VDI's interest in their personal history and fate.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The Queen's Birthday Honours List carries a knighthood for the banker, Mr. Walter H. Salomon, and the appointment of the philosopher Professor Sir Karl Popper as Companion of Honour. Mrs. Rosa Freedman, a former Mayor of Barnet, was awarded an MBE.

BIRTHDAYS

WOLFGANG S. MATSDORF 75

On 9 August, Dr. Wolfgang S. Matsdorf (Jerusalem) will celebrate his 75th birthday. He has been associated with Jewish causes throughout his life. Born in Berlin, he spent his formative years in the Deutsch-Juedische Jugend-Gemeinschaft (DJJG) and the K.C. fraternity. When the Nazis came to power and he was dismissed from the judiciary, he was appointed "Syndikus" of the Hesse District of the C.V. In 1938, he emigrated to Australia, where he first worked with the Australian Jewish Welfare Society and until the outbreak of war, was instrumental in the admission of many persecuted Jews to that continent. Later, he became a probation officer. He has now lived in Jerusalem for several years and his love for that city is boundless. He is active in many spheres, especially in the B'nai B'rith Israel Lodge, whose quarterly bulletin is edited by him. He is also the correspondent of several Jewish papers in countries of the Diaspora. His vigour belies his age, and we wish him continued strength for a very long time to come.

ALICE GOLDBERGER 85

On 15 August, Miss Alice Goldberger will celebrate her 85th birthday. One of her outstanding merits as an educationist was the care for the surviving children of the concentration camps whom she looked after in the reception centre in Windermere and later in the hostels opened for them, first in Lingfield and afterwards in Isleworth. She is still in touch with her former charges, now spread over many countries. For many years she has done important work in Anna Freud's Hampstead Child Therapy Clinic, and though, in the course of time, she had to curb her activities, she is still in constant contact with the Clinic and looks after the wellbeing of a number of children. We extend our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Alice Goldberger.

FAMILY EVENTS

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

Birthdays

Eisinger:— Elsa Eisinger—On the occasion of your 92nd Birthday on 24 August, best wishes and love from Lisl and Freda.

Feilman:— The members of the Ex-Service (1943) Association (Birmingham Branch) are delighted to announce the 80th Birthday on 23 August of our esteemed Chairman George Feilman. May he continue to enjoy good health and vigour together with his dear wife Herta for many happy years to come.

Kaufmann:— Mrs. Betty Kaufmann, Flat 6, 14-18, Springfield Lane, London, N.W.6., widow of the late Mr. Max Kaufmann, will celebrate her 80th Birthday on 25 August. With warmest good wishes and love from all her family in England and North and South America.

Deaths

Hirschmann:— Franz Hirschmann, of Ealing and Wembley, passed away on 14 June in his 78th year. Mourned by relatives and friends in many countries.

Wolfsfeld-Lieberg:— Hilda Wolfsfeld-Lieberg passed away 25 June. A marvellous mother and grandmother who will be sadly missed by Walter, Max, Lisa, Etta, Raffi, Ilan, Hugh and John Block. A tower of strength to all the family and anyone in need.

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Personal

LADY, EARLY 60s, active, with many interests, love of nature, wishes to meet gentleman or lady for friendship, walks, travel. Box 933.

N.W. GENTLEMAN in his late fifties would like to meet lady, intelligent and optimistic, for a genuine friendship. Please send picture. Box 935.

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AJR Enquiry

Sanderson:— Would Mrs. H. Sanderson, last known address 10, Manor Court, Aylmer Road, London, N.2. please contact the Membership Department.

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FRITZ BAMBERGER HONOURED

Hebrew Union College awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Dr. Fritz Bamberger. Before he went to the United States, Dr. Bamberger was educational head of the school administration of the Berlin Jewish Community from 1933 until 1938. In the U.S., he was first editor of two widely recognised magazines and, from 1962 until 1978 Professor at Hebrew Union College. For many years he has been actively associated with the New York Leo Baeck Institute as its Vice-President.

SAARLANDER HELPED THE BLIND

Blinded in childhood, Dr. Ernst Blum became an active worker in the interests of handicapped people in his native Saarland which, due to his efforts, became the first Land in the Federal Republic of Germany to institute a pension for the visually handicapped. He also inspired the building of schools for blind and deaf people and founded the German association "Hilfe für Blinde in Israel". Dr. Blum died in 1970, but his name has been commemorated in a new building in Herzlia, which includes a dental clinic for the blind and partially sighted with a gymnasium annexed where blind children can be given physical training.

MODERN COLLECTION AT BRITISH MUSEUM

The modern collection is a new venture opened on 24 June on the first floor of the main building. At the moment the collection is small, but it is to be extended and permanently displayed. Amongst the items now shown we find a lot of old friends: a white tea service by Arzberg, a coffee pot designed by Wilhelm Wagenfeld and Jena glassware designed by Gerhard Marcks. There is also a lovely little silver teapot designed by Marianne Brandt at the Bauhaus. My home town is represented by silver cutlery produced by Bruckman of Heilbronn. I also saw an attractive silver sauceboat designed by Van der Velde.

One of the showcases contains items of the German Jugendstil, including works designed by Behrens, Christiansen, Margold, Müller and Olbrich. The display is small but well arranged and includes items which are not only familiar and pleasant in themselves, but also evoke sentimental memories of the past.

A.S.

SPEER'S LEGACY TO UNIVERSITY

Ben Gurion University of the Negev has received the initial instalment of the late Albert Speer's royalties on his last book "The Slave State". Shortly before his death, Hitler's one-time munitions minister asked his British publisher Lord Weidenfeld to nominate an Israeli foundation to receive the money.

DRAWINGS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Those of us who do not have an opportunity to go to New York should not fail to see "A Century of Modern Drawing from the Museum of Modern Art, New York" now on display in the Print Room, British Museum (entrance Montague Place). The exhibition is open until 12 September. It comprises water-colours, drawings and graphics and includes many works that have never been lent before and are unlikely to be available for loan in the future. It includes exquisite Noldes, beautiful Klees; it is difficult to remember that they still exist. There are also very good examples of the work of Heckel, George Grosz and Hannah Hoch, as well as superb Kokoschkas. Cézanne and van Gogh, to include but a few of the artists represented, are also included in this outstanding exhibition. The catalogue, with over a hundred illustrations, is itself a pleasure to browse through.

The Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy (open until 15 August) is also not to be missed. As usual it includes a great variety of pictures. Our old friends Hans Schwarz, Hans Feibusch and Henry Inlander are well represented.

An exhibition of recent works by Eleonore Koch was held at the Rutland Gallery. The exhibition closed on 2 July.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Increased Anglo-American influence on Austrian stages. When Oscar Wilde's "Lady Windermere" reappeared at Vienna's "Josefstadt", and, being an instant success was played in repertoire during these last two seasons, and the same author's "Ideal Husband" had equal acclaim at the Schauspielhaus Graz, there was no great surprise. However, it was felt that the trend to provide audiences with more "Western" fare became intentional when Agatha Christie's "Mousetrap" was produced in Bregenz, followed by Arthur Miller's "View from the Bridge", with a new "Midsummer Nights Dream" in Linz coinciding with "My Fair Lady" in Innsbruck. The Vienna Volksooper performed "West Side Story" every night during June, and Vienna's Volkstheater presented Dale Wassermann's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" as an end to the 1981/82 season.

Salzburg. This year's "Jedermann" (Everyman) is being played for the last time by Maximilian Schell. It is reported that Klaus Maria Brandauer, very much in the news since the "Mephisto" film, will be given this part in 1983.

Birthdays. Elisabeth Bergner will be 85 years old this month. A legend in her lifetime, she delighted German audiences in pre-war days, and then transferred her activities to Britain. Having remained a remarkable actress to the present day, she was seen, together with Martin Held in the picture "Der Pfingstausflug", when, shown trying to escape from an Old Age Home, the "Bergner Charm" was as effective as in

"Der träumende Mund", nearly 50 years before. Alice Treff, one of the "longest-serving" actresses of the German stage, recently on television and guest artist in Vienna, is 75.

Obituary. The world of entertainment has lost 3 colourful and outstanding personalities during the early part of this summer: Romy Schneider, daughter of Magda Schneider and the late Wolf Albach-Retty, has died in Paris at the early age of 43 after an international career and a life full of highlights and deep disappointments; Rainer Werner Fassbinder, the German film producer who had a meteoric rise to fame with 41 films during a period of less than 15 years, has died in Munich. He was 36. Fassbinder's films, not always emotionally satisfying, and often cruel and violent and meaning to shock yet always powerful and significant, were acknowledged to have opened a new chapter in post-war German film production. Some of his works "The Bitter Tears of Petra Kent" and "The Marriage of Maria Braun" were shown in this country. The death of Kurt Jürgens at 66, announced recently, is profoundly mourned not only in Germany but in the many centres where this actor's immensely stirring and virile personality was appreciated. Jürgens, five times married, and equally at home in Switzerland, France and Germany, excelled on stage and in films (he also performed in one-man theatre shows), and told much about his life-style in his autobiography "Und kein bisschen weiser".

S.B.

EDITH GEHEEB-CASSIRER

The well-known educationalist Edith Geheeb has died on the threshold of her 96th year. She was best known as founder of the Odenwaldschule in Oberhambach near Heppenheim. She was the daughter of the industrialist and Stadtrat Max Cassirer (who died in London in 1943). She had founded her Odenwaldschule in 1910, then established the Ecole d'Humanité in Switzerland in 1934; it was moved to Goldern in the Bernese Oberland in 1946. Her warmth, good nature and insight will be remembered by pupils who attended the schools she ran for seven decades. E.G.L.

YAAKOV YAVNOZON

The death of the founder-president of OSE in Mexico, Dr. Yaakov Yavnoz, was announced recently. Lithuanian-born Dr. Yavnoz was living in Paris at the outbreak of the Second World War but emigrated to Mexico shortly afterwards.

THE MIRELS FAMILY

This May was the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. jur. John Sokolowski-Mirels in Berlin. He was born in Wreschen in 1886, the son of Bernhard Sokolowski and Johanna Sokolowski, née Mirels. His mother devoted most of her later life to the study of and research into the famous Jewish family tree of the Heller-Fraenkel-Mirels families. The family tree as well as the well-known "Jichesbrief" are still in existence. The son of Dr. Sokolowski-Mirels, Mr. B. S. Mirels, lives in London (Beaufort Close, W.5).

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