

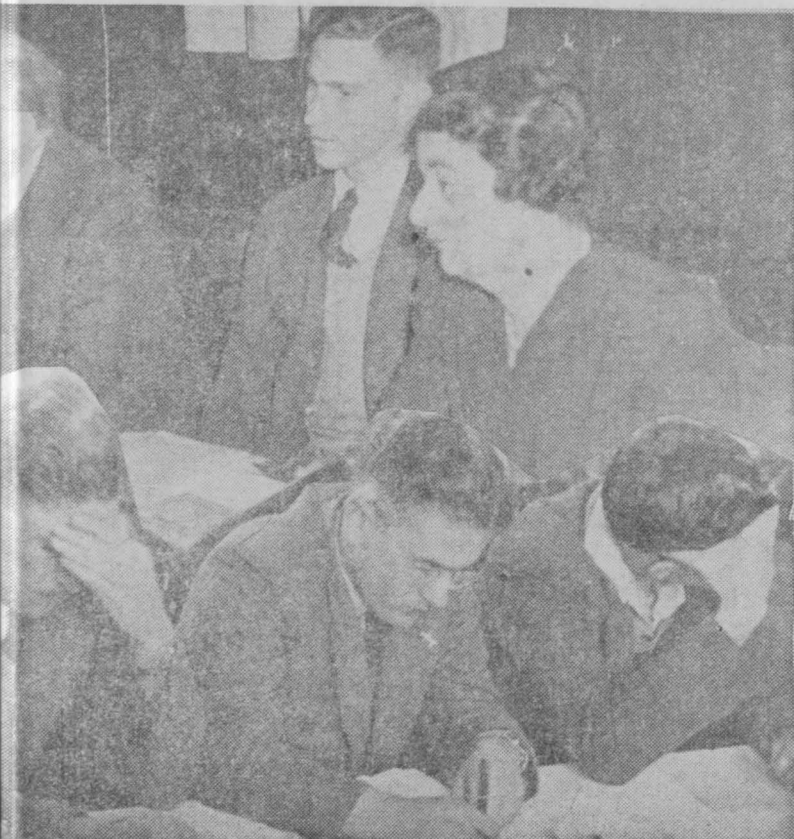
Europe

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DR. LEO RAECK
old one—man's inhumanity to

Britain could show nothing quite spectacular, she did contrive to hold down with the Marquess of Reading whose dignity and brevity gave it and finish to a great occasion, "Inaugural Rally" in London. Then, at the Conference itself in London, there was Dr. James Watson, whose little books on Palestine and anti-Semitism are well known, but perhaps less known is his gift for freeing a discussion from the sticking point. In ten minutes, the "Commission" which threatened to get lost in argument, he had the agenda outlined and had set the tone. It was a pleasure to watch his mind work.



South Seminar. (Below) Students engrossed in their studies

Serious and Otherwise

* by ben dor *

Blind Boy—Musical Prodigy

IN the summer of 1939, a boy of eleven, living in the Street of the Prophets in Tel Aviv, was blinded as a result of an accident. The case was dismissed in a few lines; much more important occurrences were then being reported.

The boy, Reuben Varna, was born in Tel Aviv, the son of Hungarian Jewish parents. From the age of seven he had begun to learn the violin, and his parents and friends thought him a prodigy. One of the Hungarian violinists in the Palestine Orchestra, Lorand Fenyves, who began teaching the boy when he was ten or eleven, confirmed the view of the parents. Several lovers of music wanted to send the boy to Jerusalem to study at the Conservatoire.

The boy found a bullet in the street. He brought it home and tried to light it with matches. It exploded, knocking out one eye and affecting the sight of the other. After attempts to cure it in Jerusalem, the eye was still bad; and the mother took her son to Budapest for treatment. The professor said the eye must be treated for two years before he could operate. The mother decided that her son should enter the Academy of Music during this period. The teachers there foretold great things for him.

The lad completed the preparatory course of four years in eighteen months. He also took up piano and composition. He then went in for the Academy course for four years and also completed the high school. But he returned to Palestine with no improvement in his eyesight. He had, however, done ten years' musical study in six and a half years. His mother read his lessons aloud and sang the notes over for him.

The boy, who spent the war years in Hungary, was invited by an impresario to go on a tour with him through Europe and overseas. But Reuben wants to be a Palestinian star, not a Budapest one, and so he came back to appear at his premiere recital in Eretz Israel.

A Sensible Boy

THE common sense of a Jewish lad in one of the settlements to which bread and supplies were brought during the period of the military siege in the Emek has been reported in the press. A truck drove up to a warehouse and, to help the unloaders, tried to get in through the doors for the discharge of its load straight into the stacks inside.

It stuck halfway as the upper beam was low. The truck could neither get in nor out.

The driver and the others stood there helplessly and even thought of removing part of the doorway. A young boy of seven stood by and watched the dispute in progress. He came up and said, "Why don't you let some air out of the wheels and then the truck will be lower and can be backed out?" It was the right counsel!

Girl Who was Saved from Tomb

AMONG recent arrivals in Palestine was a girl of fifteen years of age, originally of Lutzk, named Leah Krupnik (daughter of Selig and Basha, the latter nee Dreishpon). The girl was saved while in a tomb into which hundreds of Jews were thrown. She was not hit. She says that in 1942, the whole family was taken out to be shot. She crawled out from beneath the pile of dead in the grave, which had already been covered with earth. She jumped into a creek, where she washed herself, and recovered.

Harold Soref

ONE of the Jewish observers at the Paris Peace Conference has had numerous associations with our community. He is Mr. Harold Soref, who is in Paris on behalf of the Anglo-Jewish Association.

Mr. Soref is a nephew of Mr. Samuel Soref and Mrs. J. F. Kapnek, of Johannesburg, and Mrs. Schaechter, of Bulawayo. He was in Rhodesia in 1938, where he was closely identified with the Tanganyika League. He came to Johannesburg in 1939, where he was engaged in free-lance journalism. He returned to Britain where he joined the Army, spending the early years of the war in the Royal Scots until he was transferred to the Intelligence Corps.

In 1944 he was posted to the East Africa Command, and in 1945 spent his leave with members of his family in Johannesburg and Rhodesia. Mr. Soref is part author with Mr. Vernon Bartlett, M.P., of "The War of 1939." He has edited various publications, including "Equator," the East African Review. Apart from being a member of the Council of the Anglo-Jewish Association, he is a member of the Board of Deputies. He had closely identified himself with the Home for Aged Jews. Mr. Soref is not yet 30; nevertheless, he is most active in politics and intends to stand for Parliament in the next elections to the House of Commons.

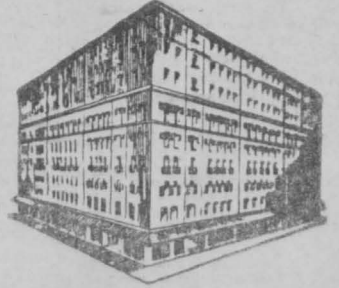
Harold Soref is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Soref, of London. He was educated at St. Paul's school and the Queen's College, Oxford. His father is well-known in Rhodesia, where he was in business during the early years of this century, and where he still has various commercial interests.

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