

NEWS IN BRIEF.

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH CIVILISATION AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

Jerusalem.

A Department of French Civilisation was recently opened at the Hebrew University. This is the first time in history that French culture will be interpreted at a University through the medium of the Hebrew language. The scope of the study will include the language, literature, art, philosophy and history of the great nation which has contributed so much to the civilised thought of mankind.

The French Government has presented the Hebrew University with a very valuable library of some 3,000 books for the Department of French Civilisation.

PROF. BODENHEIMER INVITED TO TURKISH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

Jerusalem.

The Hebrew University has granted leave of absence for three years to Prof. F. S. Bodenheimer, in order to enable him to undertake the re-organisation of the entomological service of the Turkish Government and to direct the Central Institute of Entomology which is now being created. He has also been invited to act as Professor of Entomology at the Turkish National University of Ankara.

Prof. Bodenheimer's distinguished scientific position has thus received—and not for the first time—international recognition. To the long list of basic publications to his credit has just been added the latest, "Problems of Animal Ecology," issued by the Oxford Press.

FAMOUS VIOLINIST RENOUNCES MUSICAL ACTIVITIES IN ITALY.

Jerusalem.

Dr. J. L. Magnes, President of the Hebrew University, has recently received a letter from Mrs. Frieda Busch, wife of the famous German violinist, Adolf Busch. Expressing sympathy with her friends in Palestine, and recalling with pleasure her visit to Palestine two years ago (when her husband played with the Palestine Orchestra), Mrs. Busch says that on account of the anti-Jewish laws in Italy her husband had decided to break off his musical activities in that country and had written to the State Concert Bureau in Rome the following letter:—

"The unworthy decision of the Italian Government to follow the example of the Third Reich in introducing their barbaric anti-Jewish code into Italy, forces me to notify you that I can no longer see my way to giving concerts in your country. To my mind it is futile and ridiculous to work for the sake of culture in a country whose political policy has placed upon it the stamp of inhumanity and lack of culture. I shall be obliged if you would convey my decision to the concert agencies concerned, and at the same time express to them my deep regret that these circumstances have forced me to take such a step."

ITALIAN JEWISH PHYSICIST AT MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY.

London.

Dr. Bruno Rossi, a leading Italian Jewish physicist and formerly Professor of

Physics at the University of Padua, has arrived in Manchester and is now working in the physical laboratory of Professor P. Blackett at Manchester University.

Professor Rossi was born in Venice, where his family had lived for well over 300 years. He is one of the world's leading investigators of cosmic rays, and he supervised the construction at Padua of a new physical laboratory containing a million volt high-tension apparatus and a large magnet of the Blackett type for the investigation of cosmic rays. He was a member of the Italian Council of Research, and was an Italian delegate to the International Conference of Physicists held in London in 1934. He was awarded in 1937 the 28th October prize for his investigations of cosmic rays in the earth's magnetic field, in Eritrea.

Dr. Rossi's wife is a granddaughter of the famous criminologist, Lombroso.—J.T.A.

ITALIAN JEWISH NOBEL PRIZEWINNER FOR AMERICA.

London.

The "Daily Herald" reports the arrival in Copenhagen of the young Italian Jewish Professor Enrico Fermi, this year's Nobel Prize-winner, as an exile from Fascist Italy.

"A Fascist victory in the field of science. This was how Italy's press four years ago hailed the discovery of young Professor Enrico Fermi," the "Daily News" writes.

He had found a new element, Number 93, beyond the existing atomic table, and last month he arrived in Stockholm to receive the Nobel physics prize for it.

"I am not going back to Italy," he said. "My wife and children have already sailed to America and I am following them. Recent Italian legislation has made it impossible for me to continue my scientific work in my own country. You see"—and the victim of Fascist culture smiled—"I am a Jew."—J.T.A.

ITALY ASKS JAPAN TO PERSECUTE JEWS.

London.

Mr. A. J. Cummings, the well-known political correspondent of the "News Chronicle," reveals in his paper that Italy has asked Japan to join the Axis Powers in persecuting the Jews.

"In furtherance of Italy's anti-Jewish policy, at present only a pale imitation of the Nazi model," he declares, "Count Ciano recently asked the Japanese Government, in the spirit of the Axis, to cooperate in the good cause of persecuting the Jews. Since there are fewer than 3,000 Jews in Japan, the Japanese Government was surprised at this proposal and, on the ground that Japan's 'traditional policy is to recognise racial equality,' politely declined to take strong measures. As a concession, however, it agreed to tighten up its immigration rules and prevent any addition to its Jewish population."

"Do the Japanese realise," Mr. Cummings asks, "that in Nazi circles they themselves are under grave suspicion as non-Aryans of an inferior type?"

JEWS IN NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST.

London.

Distinctions were conferred on a number of Jews in the New Year's Honours List.

Knightships were conferred on Mr. Robert Mayer, for services to music, especially the organisation of concerts for young people, and Adolphe Abrahams, M.D., Dean of Medical School, Westminster Hospital.

Mr. Bertram Cohen was made a Member of the Fourth Class of the Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

Mr. Michael Ernest Waldman, member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews' Aliens Committee, was made an Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire.

Mr. Samuel Saltzmann also received an O.B.E. for benefactions to humanitarian institutions in the Dominion of New Zealand.

Mr. Isaac Melamede, Office Superintendent of the Public Works Department, Palestine, was made an honorary M.B.E.

BARON LOUIS DE ROTHSCHILD.

London.

According to the "Evening Standard," "the Germans have made a considerable reduction in the ransom which they are claiming for the release of Baron Louis de Rothschild, who has been a prisoner in Vienna since Hitler seized Austria."

"Several months ago it was stated that the ransom demanded was £2,000,000. Now it is £500,000."—J.T.A.

JEWISH REFUGEES IN NO-MAN'S-LAND BETWEEN GERMANY AND POLAND.

London.

The Polish Refugee Fund has allocated the sum of £10,000 for the relief of the refugees in "No-man's-land" between Germany and Poland. £5,000 was sent to the Central Refugee Relief Committee in Warsaw and £5,000 was set aside, under the trusteeship of Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., and Mr. Elsley Zeitlyn, honorary treasurer, towards the cost of bringing out the refugee children from Zbonszyn.

The children will be dispersed among different countries and part of them will be brought over by the Polish Refugee Fund to England. The Polish Refugee Fund has made itself responsible to the British authorities for the maintenance and training of these children and their emigration to other lands at 18 years of age or before.

The British movement for the care of children from Germany is arranging for the immigration of 50 children from Zbonszyn to England. There are over 600 children and 5,000 adults at the Zbonszyn camp.—J.T.A.

JEWISH LAWYERS IN VIENNA.

Vienna.

Vienna authorities certified 106 Jewish "consultants" to continue law practice among Jewish clients only. This represents about 6 per cent. of the 1,700 Jewish lawyers who were practising in Vienna before the "purge" came into effect.—J.T.A.

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