

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### BOOKS FOR HEBREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

Jerusalem.

Eighty cases containing 2,500 books which form the bulk of the Jewish theological library on the Island of Rhodes, have been received by the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem. The books, amongst which are many ancient and valuable volumes, were discovered by Jewish soldiers from Palestine when the British forces entered the island.

Many rare volumes on Spain in general and the Jews of Spain in particular are included in a large and unique collection of books received by the Jewish National and University Library from Dr. Ignacio Bauer, an active Zionist for many years. Dr. Bauer indicated his intention of presenting his private library to the University when here on a visit in 1936 and placed the collection under the protection of the British Legation. The books, shipped in nine large packing cases via Lisbon, were forwarded with the aid of J.D.C. representatives in Portugal.

### PALESTINE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

Jerusalem.

During the nine years of its existence the Palestine Symphony Orchestra has given 1,309 concerts with an attendance of well over 1,500,000 people, and included 147 concerts for the armies of nearly every ally fighting in the Middle East. In the past season the orchestra gave 144 concerts in Palestine and 36 in neighbouring countries. Expenditure totalled £54,000, for which income from Palestine amounted to £44,000.

Bernardine Molinary, the world-famed Italian conductor, will open the orchestra's first post-war concert season in Jerusalem. Louis Cohen, who scored a hit with Palestine audiences last season, will conduct the orchestra for four months this season. Other celebrated conductors and soloists are being invited to come here, like Toscanini and Hubermann. The orchestra has already received invitations for three concert tours in Egypt and one at Beirut, and also inquiries from England and South Africa.

### FIRST HEBREW UNIVERSITY PH.D. IN ARCHAEOLOGY.

Jerusalem.

The Hebrew University has conferred its first Ph.D. degree in Archaeology upon Dr. Maximilian Kon, a Jerusalem architect, whose thesis on the family sepulchre of Queen Helene of Adiabene, "Tombs of the Kings," in Jerusalem was prepared under the guidance of Professor E. L. Sukenik. Dr. Kon's thesis, which will shortly be published in book form, is the first comprehensive study of one of the most important antique Jewish monuments still in existence.

### RABBI WISE WITHDRAWS STATEMENT

New York.

Rabbi Stephen Wise has written to the Czech Consul here withdrawing his statement that 7,000 repatriated Jews had committed suicide and unreservedly accepted the Czech Government's statement that the story is untrue.

### INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FORMED TO RECOVER LITERARY TREASURES LOOTED BY NAZIS.

New York.

To facilitate the recovery of historically valuable books, documents and museum objects taken from Jewish homes and institutions by the Germans during the war, the World Jewish Congress has formed an international committee for recovery of cultural property, composed of some of the most outstanding Jewish personalities in the world. The committee will promote a thorough search for the stolen materials and return them to the original owners. In cases where

the owners have not survived the war, the recovered materials will be presented to the Hebrew University in Palestine as trustee. Collection centres are being established and it is expected that the military administrations in the various occupied territories will facilitate the work of the representatives of the Committee.

### TWENTY THOUSAND PAY HOMAGE TO VICTIMS OF MAJDANEK.

Warsaw.

"The most extensive reports in the press hardly convey the real picture of the horror which one witnesses in the Majdanek camp even to-day," said Mr. Arthur Bliss Lane, United States Ambassador to Poland, upon his return here from a visit to the ill-famed death camp.

The American envoy brought with him ashes from the crematoria and toys left behind by children who were thrown into the furnaces. He is sending these to the United States to be displayed in a planned exhibition on German and Japanese atrocities.

Mr. Lane's visit coincided with the "Majdanek Week" which was observed in Warsaw, Lublin, Cracow and other towns with mass meetings and exhibitions depicting the Majdanek horrors. The meeting in Majdanek was attended by 20,000 people, including high Government officials. The flags of 17 nations, nationals of which had been murdered there, flew over the crematoria and wreaths were placed on the mounds of ashes by representatives of the Polish and Red Armies.

### NORWEGIAN CROWN PRINCE ATTENDS REOPENING OF OSLO SYNAGOGUE.

Oslo.

Many Norwegian notables, led by the Crown Prince, attended the re-inauguration of the synagogue here, which was closed down during the German occupation when many Jews were deported from Norway to German concentration camps.

A memorial service for those who were killed in the camps marked the re-opening of the synagogue. Chief Rabbi Friedigar, of Copenhagen, delivered a sermon thanking all those who had helped the Jews in Norway during the trying period of the Nazi occupation.

### NAZIS WHO PARTICIPATED IN POGROMS IN 1938 SENTENCED IN GERMANY.

Frankfort.

Sentences of imprisonment have been passed at a trial held at Weilburg on three Nazis accused of having taken part in the pogroms against the Jews in Wilmar in November, 1938. Two of them were condemned to two years' imprisonment and the third to one year's imprisonment for "breach of the peace" (Landfriedensbruch). It was the first trial of this kind in the American occupation zone.

The accused were found to have been responsible for the arrest of Jews. During the trial they attempted to show that they had done their utmost to save the Jews from a worse fate. The excesses which led to the burning down of houses, smashing of windows and wholesale looting were in detail described in court.

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## POSITION VACANT

Applications are called for the post of Assistant-Secretary to the Cape Town Committee of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies. Applicants (male or female) must possess organising ability, a pleasing personality, tactfulness and experience of office routine.

Preference will be given to ex-servicemen and women. Bilingualism and knowledge of Jewish affairs will be a recommendation.

Applications to be submitted in applicant's own handwriting, and enclosing copies of testimonials, to reach The Secretary, P.O. Box 2009, Cape Town, not later than 23rd October 1945.

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