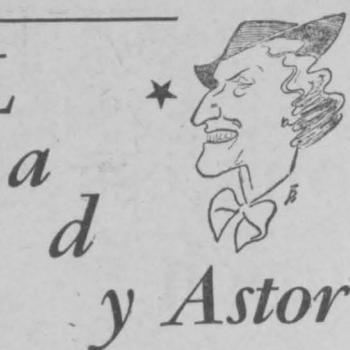


Logic And L

By DAVID
SCHWARTZ



R. WEIZMANN used to tell a story about a poor Yeshivah boy to whom a rich Jew once gave a pillow.

The rich Jew knew that the Yeshivah boy slept on a hard bench. The pillow would at least make things a little more comfortable. But the poor Yeshivah boy would not have it.

"Madoch," he said, "if it's so hard to sleep on a few feathers, I know from experience, how much harder must it be to sleep on a whole pillow of feathers?"

Jewish humour abounds in such stories, going to show how what seemingly is logical, actually is not logical at all. Another similar Jewish story relates how a Jewish pickpocket proved that it was quite legitimate to pilfer other people's pockets. He argued thus:

"Madoch, if it's legitimate for me to put my hands in my own pocket, where no one else is allowed, how much more legitimate is it for me to put my hands in another man's pocket, where even he is allowed."

The old logic teachers years back used to take the passage in the Bible, "And David said all men are liars" and prove that one could draw two distinctly contradictory conclusions, to wit:

"And David said: All men are liars.

"Therefore, David was a liar.
"Therefore, all men are not liars.

"Therefore, David was not a liar.

"Therefore, all men are liars."

I remember when I was in knee pants it was common among the youngsters to indulge in more or less kindred "logical" distortions. I recall that my brother once proved to me that a sheet of writing paper was a lazy dog.

"A sheet of writing paper is an ink-lined plane.

"An ink-lined plane is a slope-up.

"A slow pup is a lazy dog."

I got to thinking about these "logic" stories after reading a statement made in New York recently by the illustrious Lady Astor. The good lady was fulminating about the Jews in Palestine. She said what was happening in Palestine is creating such revulsion in England that, she threatens, England will never allow a Jew to become Prime Minister again.

All right, so we will never have another Disraeli. It was an honour to have a Jew, Disraeli, as Prime Minister of England, but I imagine we can get along without it. "Abi gesund," as they say in Yiddish. Of course, the loss will be England's too. It was Disraeli who got Cyprus for England; it was Disraeli who made Queen Victoria, Empress of India.

Seems to me this one Jew, Disraeli, did one hundred times more for England than all England has done for the Jews. If England can get along without a Jewish Prime Minister, we Jews can make shift without one, too. We just want a Jewish Prime Minister in little Palestine.

But it wasn't this statement by Lady Astor that made me think of those "logic" stories. It was a companion remark that the entire "Jewish Palestine business is all materialistic."

I asked myself how can anyone who professes to indulge in half-way logical thinking make such a statement. Imagine Lady Astor, an American woman who married the Astor millions, talking about anything being materialistic. Do you know how the "nest egg" of the Astor fortune was laid by John Jacob Astor? Few historians like to talk about it—it's a little too nasty—but now and then you will find one who will give you the facts.

The first John Jacob Astor, who came to America shortly before the American Revolution, was a German butcher, who made a financial "killing" by buying the cattle stolen by the German Hessian soldiers from Americans and selling it back to the Americans. Then he became a fur trader, and later turned to real estate, and his real estate deals were of a "piratical nature" which, perhaps, have never been matched in American history. Read "The History of the Great American

FROM NEAR AND

Berlin's Jewish Community

BEFORE the war there were 160,000 Jews in Berlin. To-day there are 7,000, only some of them full-blooded Jews and mostly in the older-age groups, states a report issued by the War Appeal. A few hundred are children.

Conditions are very difficult. The German Jews receive the same food rations as D.P.'s, which range from 1,600 to 2,200 calories, and the Judische Gemeinde is making efforts to identify Jews so that they can qualify for the D.P. ration.

Efforts are being made to restore their property that was looted by the Nazis, but these efforts are still in the early stages.

The chief complaint of the welfare workers who try to assist them is their expected lethargy and lack of initiative. The Joint encourages them to take an interest in communal affairs and to look after their own health and other requirements, but they have little incentive to respond. Efforts have been made to revive the community's religious life, and Rabbi Munk, whose father was originally a Rabbi in Berlin, has arrived from the United States to help re-build the Berlin community. Most of the synagogues were destroyed, and only the one that was reconstructed is in use.

The indigenous Jews want to remain in Berlin, and they will probably re-establish themselves as soon as Germany's economic life is stabilised.

There are also three D.P. camps in the Berlin area, two in the American zone and one in the French, numbering about 7,000 Polish Jews. Their demobilisation is extreme, chiefly because they do not know where they are going and

Fortunes." It's something of a classic. You can get it in the Modern Library series.

Mrs. Astor's own sires, to be sure, were "pioneers" in Virginia. Chalutzim in Virginia. Of course, there is some difference between the Virginia pioneers, from whom Mrs. Astor descends, and the Palestine Chalutzim. The Palestine pioneers have got to sweat as no pioneers have sweated. In almost all places they have to dig for water. In some places they have to bring the soil. In many places they have to dynamite through rock in order to plant.

What did the Langhorne pioneers, from whom Lady Astor is descended, do in early Virginia? Thomas Jefferson said that none of the whites in Virginia would do any real work. They thought it was demeaning. All Mrs. Astor's sires did in Virginia was to loll on the verandah, drinking mint juleps, while a Negro slave fanned them.

And this silly woman is made a Lady in England and talks about the Jewish settlers of Palestine as being materialistic. Such logic!

they have nothing to do with time. So far the vesting schemes employing hundreds out of the 700,000 are very scarce. The conditions are bad, particularly regard to food and lack of privacy, for the converted barracks, guarded by D.P. police who have no identity cards.

The children go to school by D.P. teachers and after months 50 undernourished are sent to private schools in Switzerland for recuperation. Berlin itself a childless city, a cent home with 150,000 people established. There are day camps run by Polish Jews, a hospital accommodating 100. Every Jewish person in Berlin X-rayed for TB, so far as being examined. (Austria, Italy and Bavaria, Italy and Swi-

Portraits on Stamps

THE news of the appearance of the United States postage commemorating the centenary of Joseph Pulitzer, has made us wonder whether the head of the ever appeared on a postage stamp.

Apart from Pulitzer, the head of the people of Jewish descent have appeared on postage stamps as recognition of their services to their countries.

Dr. Ludwig Lazarus, the inventor of Esperanto, whose portrait appeared on a postage stamp issued in 1927, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Leningrad Congress; Karl Marx, the anniversary of whose death is commemorated by a postage stamp in 1933, one of the also depicting his grave at the cemetery in London; the 125th anniversary of the occasioned two more postage stamps: his portrait, which was issued in 1943; Sverdlov and Lenin, who appeared in a Soviet postage stamp of 1933; Dmitri Mendeleev, the inventor of chemistry at St. Petersburg University, the centenary of whose birth was celebrated by a Russian postage stamp in 1933.

Victor Kaplan, the inventor, whose portrait appeared on an Austrian postage stamp, is most likely also a Jew.

Is Furtwaengler Innocent?

A COUPLE of weeks ago a daily press of Switzerland splashed a report and headlines that Furtwaengler had a tremendous ovation when he appeared at the Berlin Reichstag Hall. The people of Berlin were previously glad to hear of the nazification court had Furtwaengler could have made it possible for him to appear again before a German court. But Fritz von Unruh, a German poet, is apparently satisfied with Furtwaengler's public statements. Furtwaengler

Belmont

(LILI KAPLAN)

For
Exclusive Fashions

**5TH FLOOR ANSTEYS BUILDINGS
JEPPE STREET JOHANNESBURG**

FURS

Large variety of Skins in stock. New shipments arriving regularly, including SUPER FINE QUALITY ERMINES, MINKS, NATURAL NORWEGIAN BLUE FOX, PLATINA FOX. SABLES TO ARRIVE SHORTLY.

Made to Measure on the latest New York styles arriving regularly.

KOSEFF & Co.

OLGA BUILDINGS

119 PRESIDENT STREET, JOHANNESBURG

Phones 22-9381-2 — Tel. and Cable Address: "Kosefco"

A. HOFMAN & CO.

STATE & INSURANCE AGENTS Phones: 33-1424/5 & 33-3760

8 Main St. (off Loveday St.), Johannesburg

ND FAR By Ben Dor

to occupy their vocational training only a few 7,000, and books their living particularly with clothing and or they live in s, guarded by have all their

schools taught every three finished children at families in cooperation. In children's convales- 0 beds has been are also infirma- doctors and a ating 100 D.P's. on in the area is o far 9,000 hav- l. Cases are hos- to sanatoria in l Switzerland.

Stamps

the appearance in ates of a stamp the centenary of as made me won- eal of a Jew has a South African

itzer, other Jews sh, descent whose are on postage tic of their ser- es have been:

zarus Zamenhof, Esperanto, whose on a Russian 1917 on the 40th Esperanto at the ngrad Esperanto ark, the 50th an- e death was com- set of Russian ne of the stamps t grave at High- in London. The of his birth ce stamps bearing h were issued in d Uritzki who ap- et Martyr's Issue terdelev, profes- at St. Petersburg ntenary of whose ted by a set of n 1934.

the Austrian in- trait appeared on ap in 1936, was Jew.

nger Quite ent?

weeks ago the of South Africa under big head- engler was given tion when he ap- lin Philharmonic of Berlin were ob- ear that the de- had whitewashed ompletely, and for him to appear rman audience. nrth, the famous apparently dis- tve engler's pub- ur, engler had

stated that he did not consider it strange for a German to remain in Germany, during the Nazi regime. Von Unruh asks how could an honest conductor remain in a gangster state and play good German music for the delight of Hitler and his staff.

Furtwaengler said: "I could not leave Germany in its hour of greatest need. To leave at such a time would have seemed to me a disgraceful escape," and Von Unruh asks at what exact time was Germany's greatest need in the years 1936-1939, or whether her greatest need was after the conquest of Poland, France or the Balkan countries? He believes that Germany's hour of need only began after 1942 with the beginning of Russian successes and Germany's disillusionment about victory.

"A single performance of a truly great German musical composition is in itself a more powerful and more substantial denial of the spirit of Buchenwald and Auschwitz than any words could be." So says Furtwaengler.

Von Unruh replies in the obvious fashion—how could a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony conducted by the privy councillor of Goering's Third Reich on Hitler's birthday have been a denial of the concentration camps, particularly when Goering was greeted by the great conductor with Beethoven's "Be embraced by millions. Take this kiss from the whole world."

Furtwaengler furnished many proofs of his Nazi affiliations, says Von Unruh, and instances a letter written by him to Goebbels, in which he said: "When the battle against Judaism turns against the true artist (Max Reinhardt, Hubermann, etc.) it is not in the (Continued at foot of last column)

In Lighter Vein By Elyeh Nathans

Wise Men Of Chelm

WHAT Jew does not know of the Wise Men of Chelm? They provide the quintessence of Jewish humour at its delightful, delirious, paradoxical best. In the mythical European city where they reside everything is possible. When the beadle of the city became ill and could no longer go on his rounds and knock on the shutters to wake up Jews for religious services, it posed a grave problem. But the Chelmites were equal to it. They removed their shutters and brought them to the beadle's home so that he could knock on all the shutters in one place and thus save himself footwork.

* * *

AT a meeting one day Chelmites were discussing the results of smoking. Did it shorten or in-



Capture the Moon ...

crease the span of life? Said one Chelmite, "Smoking increases the span of life. My father is a heavy smoker and is alive at the age of 90." "That's a fact about smoking," conceded another. "My brother never smoked in his life and he died at the age of 10 months."

The Chelmite leader was not convinced. He insisted that smoking is injurious to health. "How do you explain my father's long age then?" inquired Chelmite number one. "You wait," retorted the leader, "It will get him yet."

OUR favourite Chelm story concerns the problems of lighting the streets. The Wise Men of Chelm were aggrieved that there was no night lighting in the city. For seven days and seven nights they convened and discussed their dilemma.

Finally, they had a brilliant idea. When it was full moon they placed a barrel filled with water in the market place and captured the moon. They covered the barrel with sheets, tied them with firm hemp, and sealed the knot holes. The first really dark night they gathered again in the market place to take out the moon and thus brighten up the streets.

To their horror, the moon was gone. It was missing. A great wail went up.

"The moon has been stolen," the Wise Men of Chelm lamented. "It's our own fault. We should have had a watchman to protect the moon from thieves."

THE Bible, too, has its moments of wit and humour. It was the prophet Isaiah who ridiculed the graven image makers as follows: "A carpenter fashions a god from a wooden board and from the remainder of the wood kindles a fire and bakes his bread."

THE Talmud has its aphorisms: "Only small change rattles in the pockets."

"If a man will hang himself, he should do it on a high tree."

In time the strong Jewish faith and immunity to suffering produced a form of religious humour which could produce spectacles like the Jew praying, "Dear God, help me. Thou hast pity on total strangers, so why not on me."

Or consider the devout Chassid who, after a long stretch of misfortune, impertuned the Lord: "Great God: you are trying your best I should forsake being a Jew, but I warn you that the trouble you cause me won't make me change my mind. I was born a Jew and will still remain a Jew."

(Continued from previous column) interests of culture" (in other words, when the battle against Judaism deos not concern true artists, then it is in the interests of culture). Another time he said: "The French Government bestowed on me as late as 1939 the honour of a Commander of the French Legion of Honour, as a representative of the eternal, European Germany."

The "disgraceful fugitives," says Von Unruh, would have been only too glad to offer the Commander their good wishes, had not the same French Government a few months earlier bestowed the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour on Foreign Minister Ribbentrop.

Romance of a Name

By N. Pearlroth

Request Name: Reisner Was Commander of Russian Fleet

This request name was submitted by Mr. J. Reisner, 1135 Schoeman Street, Pretoria

THIS is a surname of geographical origin.

It is derived from the town of Reisen (Polish Rydzna), which is situated about two miles from the town of Lissa, in the province of Posen, which from 1793 to 1918 was part of Prussia, and has since been part of Poland.

Prior to 1793 Jews were barred from many Polish cities in Posen Province. Reisen was the private property of the Sulkowski family. Prince Sulkowski was friendly to the Jews and permitted 171 of them to settle in Reisen. After Posen passed to Prussia Jews were permitted to move about more freely. It was then that a wealthy Jewish family from Reisen moved to Lissa. Here they prospered and grew promi-

nent. In 1812 the King of Prussia directed his Jewish subjects to assume permanent family names.

The Jewish family who had originally come from Reisen selected the name Reisner as their surname. The Reisners were prominent in Lissa, where they established a celebrated charitable foundation. Until the Hitler onslaught the institution bore the name of the Reisner Foundation. Some of the Reisners emigrated into eastern Poland.

Following the Bolshevik Revolution, a beautiful Jewish girl named Larissa Reisner obtained an incredibly high rank in the Russian Navy. She became for a short while the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Fleet. She was a native of Lublin, Poland.

Paradise Fashion-styled

Casuals



Product of: Modern Shoes (Pty.), Ltd.



NEAT and SMART for 'ROUND-THE-CLOCK' WEAR

Filnoma strikes the right note for winter warmth combined with style-right Filnoma tailoring, in this smart sports coat. Select yours in medium or heavy weight, in Camel's Hair shade, grey, black, brown or navy. You'll find Filnoma coats at fine shops throughout the Union.



PARISIAN WHOLESALE MILLINERS

Manufacturers of Ladies' and Children's Millinery
FAKTOR'S BUILDING,
20-30 ROELAND STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

P.O. Box 1430 Phones 2-3128/9
Tel. Add.: "Parimill"