

# NEWS IN BRIEF.

## PALESTINE INDUSTRY.

Jerusalem.

During the first four months of 1941, Jewish industry received the same amount of orders as for the whole of 1940. The credit needed to finance these orders was given by a consortium consisting of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, the Jewish Agency (using Keren Hayesod funds), and the Palestine Industry Bank, with the Jewish Agency giving a financial guarantee. The Palestine Corporation, an affiliate of the London Economic Board for Palestine, and other financial institutions also took part in these credit operations.

## ANGLO-PALESTINE BANK.

Jerusalem.

Comparison of the 1940 accounts of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, which were issued recently, with those for all Palestine's banks as published by the Office of Statistics, reveals the interesting fact that the Anglo-Palestine Bank is responsible for almost half of the country's total deposits, and grants over 40 per cent. of the country's banking credit. At the end of 1940 the aggregate deposits of all banks stood at £P.14,845,000, of which £P.7,184,000 (48.2 per cent.) were with the Anglo-Palestine Banks. Bank advances and discounts at the end of 1940 were £P.9,764,000 for all Palestine and £P.4,064,000 or 41.6 per cent. for the Anglo-Palestine Bank.

## COMPENSATION FOR DEATH OR INJURY AS RESULT OF ENEMY ACTION IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

Compensation for death or injury as a result of enemy action in Palestine has been approved by the Secretary of State, it was officially announced. The amount and character of the awards will be based on the Palestine Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, and the general character of the scheme will be similar to that operative in the United Kingdom.

## SPECIALISTS' CONFERENCE IN TEL-AVIV.

Jerusalem.

A two-day's conference of nose, ear and throat specialists was held at the Tel-Aviv premises of the Palestine Jewish Medical Association. More than twenty papers were

read by specialists from Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel-Aviv.

## PALESTINE BREWERIES, LTD.

Jerusalem.

Palestine Breweries Ltd., of Rishon-le-Zion, report a net profit of £P.20,000 for 1940, after deducting £P.5,000 for organisation expenses. Investments in the plant comprise £P.50,000 in shares and £P.25,000 in debenture bonds. The production for the first two months of 1941 amounted to a million litres, or three times more than the total for the same period last year.

## FIRST HEBREW HANDBOOK ON WOODWORK.

Jerusalem.

The first Hebrew handbook on wood-working and carpentry, "Technology of Wood" by Zvi Friedman, has been published recently. The book fills a great need among craftsmen, students and the public at large, and comprise a glossary of the terms in this trade.

## PALESTINE JEW PERFECTS IMPORTANT AERONAUTICAL DISCOVERY.

Jerusalem.

A twenty-four-year-old Jew, a native of Petah Tikvah, now serving with the R.A.F. "somewhere in the Western Desert," has perfected an important invention for the improvement of aviation, according to the Jerusalem Hebrew daily, "Davar."

The military authorities have ordered the Jew (whose name, for obvious reasons, cannot be given) to proceed immediately to London in order to submit his invention to the Air Ministry.

## JEWISH SCIENTIST'S DEATH.

Jerusalem.

The death has occurred in Tel-Aviv at the age of sixty-nine, of Dr. Arjeh Beham, founder of the only Pasteur Institute in the Near East.

Dr. Beham was one of the earliest adherents of the late Dr. Theodor Herzl.

## A NEW PALESTINE OPERA.

Jerusalem.

The score for an original opera with contemporary Palestine as its setting is being

written by Mr. Mare Lavry. The opera is to be called "Gad, the Watchman." Mr. Max Brod has adapted the script from a drama by Mr. S. Shalom.

## Prof. A. APTOWITZER HONOURED BY HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

Jerusalem.

In recognition of his attainments, the Hebrew University has elected Prof. Aptowitzer an honorary member of its Institute of Jewish Studies. Prof. Leon Roth, Rector of the University, Prof. S. Assaf, Chairman of the Institute of Jewish Studies, and Dr. Werner Senator, Administrator of the University, visited him on his seventieth birthday to inform him of his election.

Prof. Aptowitzer is a distinguished scholar in the field of Jewish Studies, and has been living in Jerusalem since 1938. He was an instructor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of Vienna for over thirty years, and counts several professors of the Hebrew University among his former pupils.

## ASCORBIC ACID TABLETS FOR THE FORCES.

Jerusalem.

After prolonged experiments, local chemists and pharmacists have succeeded in producing from citrus the ascorbic acid tablets required for the Imperial forces. These tablets, which were formerly imported from America, are manufactured from orange juice and contain Vitamin "C," otherwise produced artificially in British and American factories.

## FATE OF GREEK JEWS.

Jerusalem.

Almost the entire Jewish population of Athens, numbering some 30,000 souls, have remained in the city, despite the German occupation, according to the Alexandria correspondent of the Hebrew daily "Davar." This information was obtained from Mr. Victor Meir one of the most prominent members of the Athens Kehilla, who only just succeeded in making good his escape.

Dr. Itzhak Barzilai, Chief Rabbi of Athens, and Mr. Vitalis, President of the Kehilla, who were the official representatives of the Jews of Greece before the Greek "Quisling" Government assumed power, have escaped safely, and are now "somewhere in the Middle East." A number of Jewish refugees from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland also managed to escape, with the assistance of the Greek and British authorities.

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