

Book Reviews

"SOVIET JEWRY, PALESTINE AND THE WEST," by Walter Zander. Victor Gollancz, Ltd.

In this book the author analyses the transformation which Eastern European Jewry has undergone since 1880, especially after the first and second World Wars. He deals particularly with the Jews in Poland, Rumania and the Soviet Union, to which he devotes several chapters. "Of all changes within the Soviet Union," he says, "the religious re-awakening is likely to have the greatest significance. It is the culmination of the national revival. . . . Christianity is the innermost core of the Russian question, and it is in this sphere that the Jewish problem within the Soviet Union will ultimately have to be faced." He sums up the position of Soviet Jewry in the following words: "To-day, in spite of all the destruction wrought by the Germans, Soviet Jewry ranks still second in numbers among all Jewish communities. It is nearly cut off from the outside world and mostly thought of in the West as being in a state of dissolution. But it is not dissolved yet. It is faced by tremendous challenges and it would be contrary to all experiences of its history if its core should not continue—like a forgotten army—to wrestle with the deepest problems of Jewish existence. It may even have to play once more a leading part in future Jewish life."

Dealing with the question of Palestine, the author analyses the Arab and the Jewish case, and says "it would be ideal if a solution could be agreed upon by Jews and Arabs themselves; and the Jews should make an effort to open new negotiations on such a basis. But if these negotiations fail, a decision of a disinterested third party should be sought." The Jews could, with confidence, he says, accept any obligation which an impartial authority fixes as compensation for the Arabs. Since for them everything is at stake, they will, he believes, be willing to make every sacrifice for the restoration of their nation which this authority thinks fair.

As regards the repercussion on the Jewish position in the West of the changes of the Jewish situation in Eastern Europe and Palestine, the author says that, just as the world is realising the limitations of the successes achieved by Liberalism, Nationalism and Socialism, so even the return to Palestine cannot be more than a preparation. "Israel's ultimate destiny will depend on his rebirth in the spirit."

"THE LIGHT IN THE DUST," by Willy Goldman. The Falcon Press (London).

This book is written in the form of a diary and reflects the thoughts and feelings of an inspiring young writer who was born and bred in the East End of London. It deals with his experiences during a period of some 12 months, during which he is one of the unemployed in the garment trade and spends his time thinking, reading and, above all, writing, in the hope that he may be able to earn his living in that way and not be forced to return to the sweat-shop. He is doomed to bitter disappointment and, as the author tells in the introduction, finally commits suicide.

The book has considerable literary merit. The author is particularly successful in his descriptions of both atmosphere and character. Thus he conveys both the squalor of life in Whitechapel Road and the pseudo-intellectual and literary circles into which the young writer is drawn in his quest for recognition. The characters are lifelike and are drawn with insight and understanding and not without a sense of humour.

The book was first published in 1944 and its reprinting now should win many new admirers for the author.

"Chronicle" Seaside Fund.

With the opening of the annual health-giving Seaside Camp only four weeks off, preparations are being intensified. The number of children to be accommodated is directly dependent on the funds available and intending contributors are again urged to send in their donations without delay.

THIS WEEK'S LIST.

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	£183 2 6

Grand Chanukah Concert to be Presented.

The Jewish public are advised to keep open the evening of Monday, 8th December. On this occasion the United Zionist Party Youth are to present a Chanukah Concert in the Major Zionist Hall.

Those who attended the U.Z.P. Purim Concert earlier this year will recall the high standard of that function, and it is intended to do even better on this occasion. The audience will be taken by television to Eretz Israel, where they will listen to Chanukah songs, witness a dance drama portraying the revolt for freedom, and taken finally to Modiin, where the message of Chanukah will be portrayed in sketches especially written for this presentation.

Make a note of the date—8th December.

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Return Visit of Famous Pianist.

The well-known artist, George Themeli—the blind Greek pianist—is to pay a return visit to the Peninsula. He will appear with the Cape Town



George Themeli.

Municipal Orchestra on 12th December and will give solo recitals in Muizenberg and Cape Town the following week.

When Themeli visited Palestine last year, the famous Palestinian critic, Gershon Svet, wrote in "Ha-aretz": "He is a great pianist and a great musician. Themeli is a poet of sound. Of all world-famous pianists who visited Palestine we have never heard such a beautiful tone as in his case."

Details of booking arrangements will be announced later.

Joan Hammond.

Joan Hammond again delighted a very large audience when she gave her second Recital at the City Hall on Wednesday.

For the first half of the programme, Miss Hammond chose arias by Gluck, Falconieri, Haydn, Mozart and five lieder by Brahms.

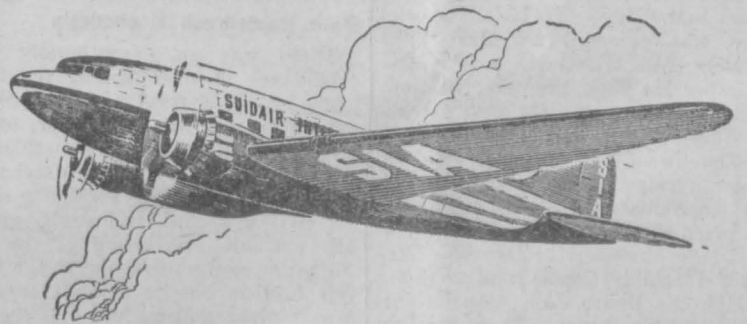
These were followed by a group of songs by English composers and arias by Giordano, Sibella and Puccini.

For encores Miss Hammond sang Schumann's "Devotion," Tchaikovsky's "None But The Weary Heart," an English song, "One Fine Day," from "Madam Butterfly," and "Love Went a-Riding," by Bridge. All these were rendered in the faultless style of this great artist.

David Andrews, an able and sympathetic accompanist, played a group of piano solos by Poulenc, Ibert and Litz, followed by two encores.

Local Celebration of Grandchild's Wedding in Palestine.

An unusual and pleasurable event took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. N. Tuch, of Vredehoek Avenue, on Tuesday, 4th November, in celebration of their first grandchild's wedding, which took place in Palestine on the same night. To mark the joyful occasion the grandparents were inscribed in the Golden Book by their children.



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