

Echoes

THE most comic of all confiscations of books in Holland was that of the famous juvenile "The Son of Dik Trom." For some time the reasons were not made public, but then it became known that the author of this book—which was written at least 35 years ago—had used the following phrase: "Adolf could not jump over the ditch and he fell right into the water . . ."

SIR OSWALD MOSLEY hasn't changed his Fascist colour. An employment agency, replying to his request, sent him a cook. She was Jewish. Replied Sir Oswald: "I do not care for kosher food." The Jewish cook, it is reported, was not too enthusiastic about cooking for Mosley.

THE MEYER DIVISION.

And you have probably heard about the captured Nazis who informed their interrogators that they were from the Hermann Meyer division. The Allies had never heard of such a division, but research into the files of old newspapers revealed that during the London Blitz, Herman Goering boasted that "if the R.A.F. ever bombs Berlin you can call me Meyer," Meyer being a Jewish name and distasteful to Fat Herman . . .

—Heard in the Lobbies.

THE unusual ceremony of circumcision of triplets, three sons born to a Jewish sergeant in the British Army and his British-born wife, took place at the Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, recently, in the presence of Chief Rabbi Herzog, a Jewish army chaplain, and a number of distinguished guests.

The parents are Sergeant David Dezent, of a Palestinian Jewish unit of the Royal Engineers, and his wife Eliza (Elsie), a Jewess born in England.

The three sturdy infants were given the names of the three archangels—Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. A feature of the circumcision ceremony was that the father had to give the "Shehechyanu" prayer three times. The children are to be looked after, for the time being at the W.I.Z.O. Baby Home in Jerusalem.

used to be," for whatever their own practices and inclinations, the ancient setting no longer exists.

What kind of Sabbath is it, I ask you, which leaves the world around you utterly unchanged from the week-days? The shops are open, the market-place is filled, the horses neigh, buyers and sellers crafter, the El or the surface car thunders past the synagogue, and the Sabbath siesta is a day-mare in a din of blaring radios and yelling children playing baseball in the street. And all the surviving Kasrievkites, the traditionalists and modernists alike, remember now and again with a nostalgic pang the far-off magic of those sacred hours, those transfigured interludes of the Sabbaths and festivals for which even progress and freedom have found no substitute.

(Continued next week)

Serious and Otherwise

* by ben dor *

Wingate: Lawrence of Judaea

IT would be wrong to describe Major General Orde Charles Wingate as a friend of Zionism. He was more than that. He was a complete and devout Zionist.

Many are the stories told about his belief in a Jewish Zion. In Palestine, they say, he had on his wall a map of the future Jewish State, with the borders clearly marked stretching far beyond the most extravagant claims made by the most extreme Zionists. They knew him in Palestine as the Lawrence of Judaea, and although in later years, thanks to new glorious exploits, he acquired the reputation of Lawrence of Ethiopia, and Lawrence of Burma, it is a fact that he himself clung to his first love, and remembered Zion while in the hills of Ethiopia and the jungles of Burma.

It is an open secret to-day that he was to command the Jewish army, which was promised to Weizmann earlier in the war. That this was not to be, was as much a tragedy to the Jews as to Wingate himself. As recently as last June a letter from him was read by his wife at a Zionist gathering in London. It concluded with the Hebrew words (he studied and had a knowledge of Hebrew) 'Im Eshkachech Yerushalaim—If I forget thee, O Jerusalem.'

He was inordinately fond of the Jewish patrol whom he had trained and led during the riots in Palestine. They in turn idolised him. They remembered how on one occasion he burst forth in an exhortation of a Jewish sentry for failing to take a shot at him in time. The story went that he had decided to go right into the very midst of the danger zone, though Jews had warned him against it. He wanted his Jewish men to be as fearless as their commander. They responded well, and he was always proud of them.

The sympathy of every Zionist will go out to his wife, Lorna Wingate, who is herself an ardent adherent of our cause.

"I was born Zionist," she once wrote, "whereas some achieved Zionism and others, through sad experience, had Zionism thrust upon them."

Her mother, Mrs. Monchieff Patterson, is head of the Scottish "Society to Aid Jews," and often appears on Zionist platforms.

"I am frequently asked," she remarked, "why I am a Zionist. I will give you a very brief answer. I am a Zionist because I have been to Palestine."

Cernauti

CERNAUTI, capital of Bukovina, which has been so important a milestone in the recent victories of the Red Army, is better known to the Jewish reader as

Czernowitz. At one time, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the city was given to Rumania after the war. In the middle of 1940, when Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina were ceded to Russia, the city came under new rule which lasted for about a year, until the Hitler attack on Russia.

There were some 50,000 Jews in Cernauti—a fine community of many colours. There were Chassidim of the old Galician type, assimilated Jews, under the spell of German culture from the time of the Austrian occupation, modern mashkilim, and Zionists of all shades. The neighbouring town of Savagora, which also figured in the news lately, was the seat of great Tsadikim, and has given many legends to Jewish folk-lore.

It will also be recalled that the first Yiddish Language Conference which aimed at giving Yiddish a proper status, was held in Czernowitz and is known as the Czernowitz Conference. A number of Jewish periodicals in Yiddish and German appeared in Cernauti right up to the outbreak of the present war.

No details have so far come to hand regarding the fate of the Jewish community which formed 40 per cent. of the population. It is recalled, however, that during the German invasion of 1941, there were fierce battles in the streets of Cernauti, and German reports in particular referred to the strong resistance offered by the local Jews. It is, therefore, possible that many of the Jews managed to escape with the retreating Russians.

Back of Old Envelope

THE late Mrs. Albert Einstein once visited the astronomical observatory atop Mount Wilson . . . She asked about the giant telescope there . . . "We use it," she was told, "to discover the shape of the universe" . . . "My husband," said the famed scientist's wife, "does the same thing with a pencil, on the back of an old envelope."

Jewish Characters in "Salome"

SEVERAL people have written to me to complain about the way some of the characters in Strauss' opera "Salome" were depicted by the producer. They suggested that the five Jews are presented as members of an Eastern European Ghetto rather than proud ancient Judeans who defied the power of Rome.

On the other hand, the Nazarenes of the opera were clean shaven, and had the appearance of tall and dignified orientals. The early followers of Jesus and John the Baptist were Jews, differing little in faith and not at all in external appearance from other members of the Jewish community. The waving of hands in the opera and the manner of the Talmudic disputations was more in accordance with a Synagogue in Poland a hundred years ago than of the times of the early Christian period.

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