

Echoes

Hitler versus Decalogue

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. —Ten short novels of Hitler's war against the moral code. By Thomas Mann, Rebecca West, Franz Werfel, John Erskine, Bruno Frank, Jules Romains, André Maurois, Sigrid Undset, Hendrik Willem van Loon and Louis Bromfield.

Stalin's "Jewish Ancestry"

Stalin, according to an article by the Nazi Deputy Press Chief Sundermann in Hitler's paper, the Volkischer Beobachter, personifies the Jewish type. Several "facts" and documents are cited in the article which "prove" that his maternal grandfather was a Jewish pedlar. The apparently mysterious rise of Stalin to his position of "Dictator of the Soviet Union" can be traced, says Sundermann, to his connection with the Jews.

... Baron Robert de Rothschild, who has two sons in prison camps in Germany, collects funny stories to send to them. "The contrast is nice," he explains, "the prisoners laughing, while their German guards, as usual, are sullen and morose."

Tel Aviv's Cohens

THE commonest family name here is "Cohen," according to the register of adult citizens compiled by the Jewish Community Council.

Some 2,300 Cohens were recorded, compared with 1,400 "Levys" and 1,000 "Mizrachis." The register listed a total of 113,670 adults, of whom 108,560 were over 20 and entitled to suffrage, while the remainder were between 18 and 19.

The census revealed that there were 3,000 non-Jews resident in the town.

Paulette Goddard's Impressions

"Tel Aviv is as modern and up-to-date as any fashionable Hollywood suburb," said Miss Paulette Goddard, former wife of Charlie Chaplin, when she recently gave an enthusiastic report of her tour in Palestine.

New Books

Dante's Divine Comedy has been translated into Hebrew by Immanuel Olsvanger.

used to sit, studying and teaching, with the stumps of his legs in a pail of water, so that the ants might not be able to crawl up his body. His name Gimzo came from his favourite slogan: "Gam zu l'tovah," which means: "This, too, is for the best." And if it also came from the fact that he was born in a place called Gimzo it only proves the foresight of Providence, and adds the final proof to the authenticity of the story.

"Gam zu l'tovah," the Jews of Kasrievky and Kozodoievka could say after the reconciliation. And the same could be said by the Jews of Teplik, because of what happened in the case of Sholom Ber, the rich man of the village, and Berel the Red with the lame leg, and Agamemnon Afonegenovich Plisetzky, the anti-Semitic prefect of Teplik.

Serious and Otherwise

* by ben dor *

Mrs. Hayman in Darkest Africa

WE have had news of hundreds of arrivals in Palestine lately, and of hazardous and adventurous trips to get there. Mrs. Ethel Hayman chose the unique way of travelling most of the journey in a motor car—not such a bad idea in these days of wearisome waiting for the more usual forms of transport. She left Johannesburg at the end of March with a party of three scientist friends, and arrived in Palestine at the beginning of this month.

They travelled along the national route through the Transvaal and Southern Rhodesia, saw the Victoria Falls, then on to the Belgian Congo and into the jungle. The beauty of the jungle forest was incredible. Mrs. Hayman writes: "The giant trees, magnificent flowers and brilliant insects formed a seeming paradise, but the tsetse fly, malarial mosquitoes and other insects make it a death trap for many."

The journey had been carefully planned so that an objective was reached each day before sunset. But one day they were late, and suddenly a torrential rain caught them. In no time the road became impassable, and the car sank deep into the mud. There were traces of elephants, gorillas and even leopards about them. It was impossible to proceed and impossible to remain. The windows were closed for protection, but had they remained the party would have been asphyxiated. So without weapons and with only one feeble torch, they set out in the deluge to try and reach a mine they had passed. "We all wondered privately what the others would do if one of us were attacked by an animal, and I think we all decided that the survivors would have to leave the poor victim," Mrs. Hayman confesses. They were very grateful when they finally reached the mine in safety.

After Juba they and their car travelled by river boat, down the White Nile on the banks of which they saw the Dinkas, tall, thin men with a stork-like habit of standing on one leg, the other raised and bent, and supporting themselves by their staffs, or by leaning on a comrade.

Mrs. Hayman says she had always wanted to see the Dark Continent, not merely fly over it. "Here was a rare opportunity, and I took it."

Larry Adler in Palestine

A VISITOR to Palestine some time ago was Larry Adler, the famous harmonica virtuoso. He has now written an article on this visit, which he describes as having been "both enjoyable and inspiring."

Adler tells of a visit he paid to the Noga Cafe, accompanied by Jack Benny and Erika Mann, to hear the cafe's five-piece orchestra. He was surprised, he says, to see that the cafe was packed with people who had come not to eat or to drink, but solely to listen to the music. "There were no drinks or dishes on any of the tables, nor was there any conversation. This was the first time that I had ever seen such a thing, and the three of us agreed that this was the most civilised sight we had seen since our tour began."

Before leaving Palestine, Larry Adler made a special point of calling on Miss Henrietta

Szold. The amazing old lady who so impressed Wendell Willkie also captivated Adler. "She is a sparkling conversationalist," he writes, "and I was both pleased and proud when I found that we were both from Baltimore, Maryland."

At the suggestion of Miss Szold, Adler spent a day on a co-operative settlement near Petach Tikvah. He was tremendously impressed.

Unfortunately Adler's visit to the Holy Land was very brief. His farewell words to Henrietta Szold, however, were: "I'll be back."

Bronislaw Huberman

WE recently announced that the famous violinist, Mr. Bronislaw Huberman, founder of the Palestine Orchestra, intends visiting Palestine next season as soloist with the orchestra.

The inauguration of the orchestra took place in 1936. "It was not an easy task for me," Huberman says. "In order to select the 75 musicians for the orchestra, I corresponded with many hundreds and held auditions for some 200." But the result was amazing, and he soon assembled one of the grandest orchestras for the smallest country in the world.

Toscanini was so filled with enthusiasm for both orchestra and audiences of Palestine, that after his last concert of the inauguration series he exclaimed spontaneously: "Oh, Huberman, I am so sad to leave this wonderful orchestra, these unique audiences! I shall come back next year!" And he came back. "The only time he nearly lost his temper," Huberman adds, "was when we tried with great subtlety to raise the question of his fees. He simply refused even to touch the subject. He is not a Jew, yet he rendered Palestine the greatest service possible."

The idea of forming an orchestra in Palestine came to Huberman because he was so impressed by the very high level of music in Palestine, and the wonderful enthusiasm of Palestine audiences. In a recent address Huberman said: "There is something which emanates in Palestine from the soil, from the people and their work. It is a sort of an all-embracing mysticism which permeates the activities of the most humble worker just the same as of the leaders in all walks of life." He described the reaction of European violinists when faced for the first time with this unexpected kind of electrically charged atmosphere. "The responsiveness of the audience at that time (1928)!" he said. "What enthusiasm! What expression of eagerness reflected on the face of each listener to receive the message of eternal beauty in music! Where the halls proved to be too small to seat all the applicants for tickets, some of them climbed on water-pipes and barbed wire up to the roof to try to listen from there."

And he tells as a typical example how the cook of the boarding-house where he was staying asked if, as a great favour, he would accept a cold dinner so that she could go to the concert.

"As a whole," he says, "one can state that the working-class has the greatest share in the development of Palestine; I mean not only the material, but also the cultural development."

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