

Echoes

"WONDERFUL" is Lily Pons' opinion of Palestine, where the Metropolitan Opera star spent four days in the course of a 25,000 mile U.S.O. tour of U.S. camps in the Middle East and Italy. She toured with her husband, Andre Kostelanetz, CBS conductor. Describing the country as "an oasis in the Middle East," she regretted "that we had only so short a time there."

Mr. Kostelanetz said that the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, which they heard in Jerusalem, "ranks with the finest." After a visit to the communal settlement Givath Brenner, Mr. Kostelanetz said he came away with "a feeling for the soil." Palestine's sanitary facilities and agriculture surpassed, in their opinion, any in the Middle East.

FROM Broadway columnist Leonard Lyons: "This story is being told about Mischa Elman and Jascha Heifetz, both of whom attended the funeral of a mutual friend. The deceased's family selected Heifetz to play at the funeral services. Elman felt slighted. 'At last,' he consoled himself, 'I can listen to Heifetz and won't be allowed to applaud.'"

aries, made use of a revolutionary technique against a government they despised. It was a matter of principle with them not to strengthen the rule of the Romanovs if they could help it.

And stories are told, too, of children lost in or to the revolution; if the Jews fell short of their quota for the army, they "went over the top" in their quota for the revolution. One father gave a daughter to Artzibasheff; perhaps even some Americans will remember the furore which *Sanine* created at the beginning of this century, and the wave of suicides which it set in motion among the Russian intelligentsia. One gave a son to the revolution proper; he tells of neither with pride nor with shame. A third describes the fantastic efforts he made to get his gifted son into a Gymnasium, how he uprooted himself from his native town, how he succeeded, at infinite cost, in finding a school which would take the boy—only to have the boy join shortly after his admission, in a political strike against the principal.

THE YELLOW BADGE—WEAR IT WITH A SMILE



Two of the immigrants who arrived from the Balkans to Palestine last month. They were engaged on slave labour by the Germans and were freed by Tito's partisans. One of them still wears the Yellow Badge—this time with a smile.

Serious and Otherwise

* by ben dor *

Andre Maurois

MOST people in this country regard Andre Maurois as a confessing Jew, and it will, therefore, come as a surprise to learn that a Jewish newspaper in America has recently handled a batch of correspondence questioning the faith of this famous French biographer. One writer, Jacques Torczyner, even asserted that Maurois is "a Catholic and a well-known anti-Semite . . . having always refused to take any active part in the defence of Jews." Then, there was a quotation from a De Gaulle paper in which Maurois was described as "a converted Jew."

Finally, a Jewish columnist addressed a direct enquiry to Maurois himself—a simple procedure, which, by the way, is seldom followed when controversies arise about the "Jewishness" of various celebrities. Maurois wrote back to deny that he was an anti-Semite, to deny that he had ever been converted, or had ever written or spoken a single word against the Jews "of which I am one."

He declared himself opposed to Pétain, and stated that the Vichy Government had confiscated everything he had ever possessed. He further says: "One of your readers said that I was an anti-Semite. Will you please ask him to read what I have written on the subject? He will not find one line to justify his absurd statement. What he will find is, on the contrary, a defence of the Jews and an indictment of racial law."

This, however, did not settle the matter. Recourse was had to Maurois' autobiography, "I Remember, I Remember." There, it appears, Maurois complained about the paucity of his Jewish education which, through no fault of his own, left him ignorant of "the doctrine of the religion which by birth should be mine." He further says that his first real religious instruction was Protestant and literary; later on under Professor Alain it was Catholic and philosophical.

He was married twice to Catholic women, and the children by the first wife were brought up as Catholics. The first marriage ceremony was a civil one, the second religious.

While there is nothing to prove that Maurois was an anti-Semite and the charge must therefore be dropped, it is still difficult to regard him as 100 per cent. Jew. This impression is strengthened by some of the articles which he wrote after the invasion of France. As far as I recall he made a strong case in favour of Pétain.

Not So Thorough

IT seems that the ruthless spying machine established by the Gestapo in occupied Europe was not quite fool-proof, after all. A little while ago an amazing report was published in Moscow about a Jew who managed to pass-off as an Aryan and act as interpreter to a high German officer, while at the same time handing out valuable information to partisans.

Now comes a similar story from Normandy. The hero of the exploit has just arrived in London and gave details to the press.

Dr. D. was a Russian Jew long resident in France. The Maquis gave him false identity papers which made it possible for him to masquerade as a naturalised Frenchman of Russian origin. Before long he became interpreter to the Nazi Major Shaer, who was in charge of Russian and Polish forced labourers building the Atlantic Wall. All throughout he kept contact with the underground movement.

On D-Day Dr. D. was pleasantly surprised to see twenty American parachutists near the soldiers' canteen where he was to have his breakfast. He introduced himself, and led the party to the room where the Nazi major was sleeping. Delightedly he announced their arrival. The Major said he didn't like these Russian jokes, and will he go away, please, and let him sleep. His sleep was, however, quickly dispelled by the Americans, and he was marched off to the prisoners' camp.

By a coincidence Major Shaer and his erstwhile interpreter met on the boat which took them to England. It was only there that the Nazi discovered that Dr. D. was a Jew. Reporters of the story leave nothing to the imagination of the reader and say that Major Shaer was very angry . . .

Dr. D. reports that many Jews were working under false identities in German organisations. They had supplied valuable information to the Allies about local defence.

Distinguished Surgeon

ONE of the foremost surgeons in the U.S.S.R. is Professor Vladimir Levit, at present occupying the position of Major General of Medical Services in the Red Army. He has recently been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War (2nd Class).

Professor Levit is the author of over 90 works which have won fame for him in the scientific world, both in the U.S.S.R. and abroad. He was the first surgeon in Soviet Russia to operate on cancer in the stomach, the ninth successful operation of its kind in the world. He was also among the first to apply a method of surgical operation to the symptomatic nerve in cases of Angina Pectoris and bronchial Asthma. He has also contributed much to the treatment of shocks, particularly traumatic shocks.

On the occasion of his 60th birthday in 1943, he was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour. His two sons are also on active service.

YOUR COLLEGE FOR 1945.

Commercial, Secretarial and Matriculation Courses.

Day and Evening Classes

Books Free.

Students under 16 are allowed to join this college. Minimum standard of education required, Form I (Standard VI).

Enrol Now.

New Term—4th January, 1945

Johannesburg Business College

23 BECKETT'S BUILDINGS, PRESIDENT STREET, JOHANNESBURG

If its Insurance

THE STANDARD GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

AUBREY M. CRAMER (Managing Director).
Phone 33-7131. P.O. Box 4352
Johannesburg.



**TYRES!
TYRES!**

Permits are NOT required

for REPAIRING DAMAGED TYRES. BRUISES, CUTS, BURSTS, ETC.

Bring or send your tyres to us for examination.

We can repair the damage to enable you to get many extra miles of wear from the present tyres.

Do not Discard any Tyre without our expert opinion on its condition.

REMEMBER we are the only firm in South Africa making the famous "CASTLE" NON SKID double duty tread. A DOUBLE DUTY TREAD means EXTRA MILEAGE & SAFETY

WE ARE THE LARGEST TYRE DEALERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE CASTLE VULCANISING and TYRE CO. (PTY.) LTD.

134 Main Street (cor. Smal St.), JOHANNESBURG. (Opposite Castle Brewery).

BRANCHES AT: KRUGERSDORP, PRETORIA, GERMISTON.

Phones: 22-3233
P.O. Box 3238. 32-3234

MOSMARK MATZO

South Africa's Best