

**BOOK REVIEW:**By *Dr. Harry Abt*

## —“JUDENSCHICKSAL”—

By *F. A. Theilhaber*

THE book under review, written and published in Palestine in German, deals with the “Judenschicksal” (the Jewish fate). It furnishes the reader with eight biographies of people of Jewish descent who, during their lifetime, tried to shake off their Jewish heritage. They are Ferdinand Lassalle, Emin Pascha, Alfred Dreyfus, Otto Weininger, Albert Ballin, Ludwig Frank, Rosa Luxemburg, and Walther Rathenau.

Felix Theilhaber, the well-known author of “Der Untergang der Deutschen Juden” (The Decline of German Jewry), first published in 1911, regards these eight personalities as examples and their fate as symptomatic: they all met with a tragic end.

The reviewer, however, cannot see the “Judenschicksal” in the life-story of anyone of them. It is the story of assimilationists rather than of Jews. Those seven men and one woman who forsook and renounced their Jewish heritage, were in search of a new spiritual home which they never found. They were “Randmenschen,” tending to the periphery of Jewish life, for they were lacking in any concrete substance.

It is a deeply regrettable misconception and misinterpretation that Theilhaber sees in those seven men and one woman the forerunners of the 5,000,000 Jews murdered by Hitler's gangsters. In fact, there is not the least connection between those who entered the gas-chambers at Maidanek and Auschwitz singing “Ani ma'amin,” and Walter Rathenau who proclaimed: “I am a German of Jewish origin. My people are the German people, my home is Germany, my faith the German faith which is above any other creed.”

In all fairness to the author, it must be said that the eight character sketches are gems of psychological composition, revealing a deep insight into the rather complex character of the persons chosen by him, and it must be stated that his love does not pass the love of biographers, that he

**Chanukah Celebration at Witbank**

The inaugural meeting of the newly-formed cultural group of the Witbank Zionist Society took place in the Hebrew Hall on December 22.

Rev. Bernstein opened the proceedings and delivered a short address on Chanukah. An interesting feature of the programme was a play, “Chanukah Fantasy,” depicting incidents in the life of the Mendlesohn family, the cast being Brian and Shirley Young, Morris Freedman and Ivan Moselle.

An interesting musical programme followed with Rev. Bernstein, Mr. Barney Hope, Mr. Maurice Chesler, Mr. David Blumberg, Mr. Harry Schill, and the Witbank Zionist Youth under the direction of Morris Freedman as the artists.

Mr. Isaac Schech made an excellent compere. A vote of thanks was accorded the artists by Mrs. Fanny Blumberg.

is far indeed from sympathising with them.

But one cannot help asking the question why those eight essays were written at all? The number of those Jews who wish to read a book in the German language is limited, and those who know German will resent the uneven style of and the very many misprints in this book in German.

H.A.

“JUDENSCHICKSAL,” by F. A. Theilhaber. Edition Olympia, Tel Aviv. 900 Mills.

**PALESTINE PROBLEM DEALT WITH IN “DIE BURGER”**

(From Our Own Correspondent)

In two articles recently, “Die Burger” deals with the question of Palestine. The one tackles the problem of the increased anti-Semitism which Jewish terrorist acts have brought about in England, and the other concerns itself with the attitude of the British, particularly the British army, in Palestine.

The first article recalls that a synagogue was set on fire in the East End of London (incidentally, this item had been reported in “Die Burger,” but in neither the “Argus” nor the “Times”).

This incident, says “Die Burger,” is bound up with the mysterious telephone calls which have recently been received. It is quite possible that some of the threats of “Jewish terrorists” really emanate from anti-Jewish and Fascist organisations. This is in any case an old way of arousing emotion. Fascist organisations are flourishing in England today, and they have probably been egged on by the Jewish terrorism in Palestine, which is creating bitter feelings and making anti-Semites of British soldiers returning to Britain, who experienced this terrorism, the paper declares.

After giving a survey of the rise of Fascism in Britain, “Die Burger” says that the obvious place for Mosley to operate is in the East End, where so many Jews live. In 1936 and 1937 his activity took such forms that many Jews said they were reminded of the pogroms they had lived through in Poland and Russia.

The second article, ironically enough, brackets together the repressive attitude of the British authorities in Germany and in Palestine. This time “Die Burger” seeks to make no distinction between the German civilian population and the Jews of Palestine, both, according to the article, the victims of a corrupt British policy. After condemning the treatment of German civilians, the article goes on to say:

“Evidence has come to hand that in their searches of the Jewish settlements of Dorot and Ruchama the soldiers overstepped the boundaries of reasonable behaviour. Since then evidence has come to hand of other similar incidents. Property of the settlements was destroyed, and swastikas drawn on walls.”

The article ends by quoting the words of an overseas correspondent who made these things public: “If these were isolated incidents, the wisest thing might have been to keep silent, but that is not the case, and our duty is to tell the world these things,” the article concludes.

**RED CROSS APPEALS FOR FUNDS**Address by *Mr. J. Milne*

A GREAT deal of money was required by the South African Red Cross for its renewed peace-time task, declared Mr. Joseph Milne in launching the Red Cross Campaign, of which he is Chairman, at a function held at the Langham Hotel on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Milne pointed out that the funds collected by the Red Cross during the war could not be used for peace-time purposes. Consequently the new campaign was necessary. “When you contribute to the Red Cross,” he said, “it is not charity, but a humane act.”

Mr. Milne also mentioned that the Red Cross did not discriminate as regards race and religion in the allocation of its funds.

“The war is not over for the Red Cross,” added Mr. Milne.

“The Red Cross is always fighting a war, a never-ending war against illness and injury and ignorance, and against all other things that menace health and happiness of mankind. The aftermath of war has brought to our notice hundreds and thousands of disabled soldiers and seamen and airmen in every country of the world, not to mention the starving refugees and displaced persons.

“We here in South Africa have our share in taking care of those people who gave everything to fight for us. Now it is our turn, and our opportunity, to do something for those who are disabled or incapacitated because of that war.”

**“Ophir” Evening**

An interesting lecture was given by Mr. J. S. Judelowitz on the “Life and Work of David Goldblatt,” editor of the first Yiddish Daily in South Africa. The evening was arranged by the “Ophir” to commemorate the first anniversary of Mr. Goldblatt's death.

The chairman, Mr. A. Shaban, welcomed Mrs. Cohen, daughter of Mr. Goldblatt, who had journeyed from Bloemfontein for the occasion.

Mr. I. Friedman of Durban was another speaker.

Mrs. Cohen warmly thanked the “Ophir” for arranging the evening.

Mauricec Shapshak, son of Mr. Rene Shapshak, rendered piano solos.

**MR. ZYGIELBAUM IN PORT ELIZABETH**

Mr. F. Zygielbaum, of Johannesburg, recently visited Port Elizabeth where he made several appearances under the auspices of the Jewish Cultural Club.

His lecture on “Yiddish Theatre” revealed a fundamental knowledge of the theatre in general, and the Yiddish and Hebrew theatre in particular.

At a concert in the City Hall on December 30, Mr. Zygielbaum was ably supported by Cantor M. D. Klaff (Yiddish songs) and by Miss B. Abraham (piano). The hall was packed. The first half of the programme was in a humorous vein and was interspersed with folklore. The second part was of a serious and classical nature.

Mr. Zygielbaum, who appeared in appropriate costume, gave a masterful rendering of “Boots,” “Shylock” and “Good Night World.”

Mrs. Rappaport, on behalf of the Jewish Cultural Club, suitably thanked Mr. Zygielbaum.

The proceeds of the concert will be devoted to Jewish writers overseas.

**Jewish Youth Orchestra**

The Youth Orchestra of the Jewish Musical Institute commences its rehearsals on January 12, at 10 a.m. at the Doornfontein Government School, Van Beek Street, Doornfontein.

New members may register during the rehearsals, or phone the Manager, Mr. Z. Engel (24-5408), or Mr. S. Aronowsky, the Musical Director (44-4896), any day between 5 and 7 p.m.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

The old established Health Institute of “Carey's Turkish Baths” will be taken over and conducted under entirely new management as from the 1st February, 1947, under the name of “The London Health Clinic.”

It is the intention of the new management to organise the establishment into the finest equipped Health Clinic in the country and will cater among other features the following types of treatments:—

TURKISH BATHS — CABINET BATHS — MASSAGE — VARIETY OF SLIMMING TREATMENTS AND REDUCING MACHINES — VARIOUS ELECTRICAL TREATMENTS — COLONIC IRRIGATIONS — CHIROPODY — FACIAL AND BEAUTY TREATMENTS — REMEDIAL EXERCISES — GYMNASIUM CLASSES, Etc.

Some of the finest and latest reducing and other equipment has been imported from U.S.A., including “Battle Creek,” “MacLevy's” and “Glamoriser,” etc.

It will be conducted under the personal supervision and management of an experienced Physiotherapist.

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