

## Israeli Airman

The letters "Cheth-Alef" on his helmet stand for Chei-Avir (Air Force)



Nevertheless, it was a jolly talk, with Jack Alexander (who is also in London) in the chair, and the audience seeming to like it. And it is so seldom that anyone in England either speaks about or wants to hear about the Jewish community of South Africa that I was glad that someone was talking, even if he was dealing with only the lesser aspects of our life.

I must not forget to repeat one of Mr. Dainow's best stories, even at the risk of repeating what you have already heard. He was remarking that South Africans take their Judaism and Zionism on many occasions with lightness and humour; and he quoted this instance. When a campaign speaker arrived in Bloemfontein one day, he was solemnly asked whether he would like to meet "the leader of the Jewish Underground Movement". Much mystified and intrigued, he agreed—and was taken to the chairman of the Chevra Kadisha (the Burial Society)!

It may also interest collectors for funds to know that Mr. Dainow has worked out a code of symbols to help him in his approach to prospective donors (or contributors?). Here are some of them:

- V.C.—Very Comfortable.
- R.D.—Rich and Decent.
- R.N.—Refuse Nothing.
- E.K.G.—Er Ken Geben.
- N.V.R.—Not Very Rich.
- N.C.O.—Not Comfortably Off.
- D.D.T.—Derlang dorton mit a track.

# from NEAR and FAR

## BY BEN DOR

### Gerald Cassen To Sing At Carnegie Hall

MR. GERALD CASSEN, the South African baritone, who has been in America since the beginning of the year, has been chosen, from among a number of candidates, to sing excerpts from Mendelsohn's "Elijah" at a special concert in the Carnegie Hall, New York, next month.

This concert will provide Mr. Cassen with his first really big opportunity since he left this country, and it is hoped that it will be the precursor to a number of important engagements. Mr. Cassen has been extremely busy during the past few months giving song recitals in New York City and the provinces.

Our correspondent in New York also writes that the two young Israeli pianists, Ella Goldstein and Sigi Weissenberg, both of whom have visited South Africa, are now in America and are enjoying considerable success. Weissenberg, in particular, has won widespread approbation from public and critics alike.

### Protestant Ministers Awarded Hebrew Scholarships

FIVE Protestant ministers have been awarded fellowships for graduate studies at the Hebrew Union College—Rabbinical Seminary of the Reform Synagogue.

The Graduate Christian Fellowship Programme is designed to

help Christian clergymen prepare themselves to teach Bible and Semitic languages in their theological seminaries and colleges and to give them a clear and accurate understanding of Judaism.

### 22 Nobel Prize-winners Write For Hebrew Encyclopaedia

THE first of a comprehensive sixteen-volume encyclopaedia in the Hebrew language to be published in Jerusalem, is just about ready.

There is a dramatic story connected with this project. The Israelis speak of this project as being realised among conditions unknown in history. The conditions are: the siege of Jerusalem, the hunger, the isolation from the outside world, the death at the hands of Arabs of four of the chief editors, the mobilisation by the Israel army of many of the writers. The siege of Jerusalem delayed the publication of the first volume. As an added precaution they are printing the Encyclopaedia both in Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv.

It is an ambitious undertaking—not just another Encyclopaedia, only in Hebrew. It is going to excel the Britannica, which is getting stale and in which the article on atomic energy is a reprint, without changes, from the 1927 edition, despite the revolutionary changes which have taken place in that science in the past few years.

Six hundred scholars from all over the world, including 22 Nobel Prize winners, are writing for the Encyclopaedia. The only scholar who was approached by the editors and refused to co-operate,

was a baptised Jew, who said he was not interested in an Encyclopaedia published in a language that has been dead for 2,000 years now.

But the Encyclopaedia is going to have a Jewish slant. The Roman emperors, Titus and Hadrian, pictured as benefactors of humanity in non-Jewish books, are reshaim (wicked men) in Jewish tradition. One presumes they will treat Ernest Bevin in the Jewish way, too.



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THE HOUSE OF HEARING

## Romance of a Name

By N. Pearlroth

Sent in by Mr. N. Ordman, Rutsenza Farm, P.O. Odzi, Southern Rhodesia

THIS name is derived from an ancient German term meaning "Arbiter" or "Referee".

It is barely possible that the name was first attributed to an ancestor who held a judicial office. It is much more likely, however, that it refers to an ancestor who held the office of Elector in one of the annual elections in a Jewish community.

Such elections were always held on Chol Hamoed, the work-day interval between the two parts of Pesach. Three ballot boxes were used. Nine names were drawn from these ballot boxes, and the nine citizens so determined would

constitute themselves into a Board of Electors who would choose the entire Community Administration for the coming year.

The Hebrew title of each Elector was Borer, which also means "Arbiter" in Hebrew. The title was highly esteemed and was retained during the entire lifetime of the holder.

When the time came to assume permanent family names a man who was either the current "Borer" or who had held the office in the past took the title as his family name. Ordman (more correctly "Oertman") is a subsequent retranslation into German of the Hebrew "Borer".