

A MONUMENT TO JEWISH VALOUR

—SOLDIERS WHO DIED FOR FRANCE

THE recent dedication of a monument in memory of Jewish soldiers, alongside the great French War Memorial erected on the site of the Battle of Verdun, recalls the yeoman service rendered to the cause of the Allies by the Jews of France.

ACCORDING to the figures that were presented on the occasion, there were about 190,000 Jews in France and Algeria in 1914, of whom 32,000 were mobilised into the French army. Of these, 6,500 laid down their lives for their country. Of the 12,000 Jewish volunteers in the Foreign Legion, about 2,000 were killed. General Andre Weiller, speaking on behalf of the Jewish Veterans on that occasion, said simply that the Jews, like members of other creeds and nations, had done their duty in the cause for which the Allies fought and that the chief factor in the final victory was the total unity of purpose that united all combatants.

The population of the Jews of France was considerably augmented after the war by the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine. The latest estimate of the number of Jews there is 240,000, and of Algeria, whose Jews became French citizens in 1870, 110,000. Before the war, France's Jewish population was much smaller and the proportion of native Jews was less than 50 per cent of the total. The largest number of Jews was concentrated in Paris, although there were even then considerable Jewish communities in Bordeaux, Bayonne, Marseilles, Nice and Lyons. The Jews of Alsace-Lorraine, the main source of Jewish immigration into France, regarded themselves as belonging to France and all their sympathies and interests were with the French and large numbers of them who could get away came to France at the outbreak of the war to fight under her flag. There were not many Jewish officers in the French army in 1914, only two Jewish generals and four in the reserve and a goodly number of colonels and captains. The Dreyfus Affair was still not entirely forgotten and while Dreyfus had been exonerated there was a feeling of distrust towards

Jewish officers which was not always under cover and many Jews either resigned their commissions or tried to hide their origin because of the stigma that appeared to have been attached to their names. The war, however, completely wiped out any vestige of anti-semitism in the army and its allied agencies and a number of high offices of great responsibility were entrusted to Jews and discharged by them with courage and honour.

A GLORIOUS page of valour and devotion was added to the French war records by the large number of East European Jews who had settled in Paris for a longer or shorter period prior to the war. Jews from Russia predominate both in their numbers and in their manifestations of bravery and loyalty, but there were also considerable numbers of Jews from Rumania and from old Turkey who distinguished themselves on the battlefield. Some of the latter, because of their citizenship of an enemy country, could not be admitted to the army, but the French authorities, convinced of their devotion and loyalty to the allied cause, made an exception in their case at the solicitation of the Alliance Israelite Universelle. Most of these "foreign" Jews were not naturalised and had no obligation to undertake military service, and of the numerous volunteers who presented themselves for service large numbers were rejected by the authorities because of their physical unfitness. Still, of an estimated foreign Jewish population of about 30,000, more than 4,000 such volunteers served under the French colours and a large proportion of them died in action. They included young men as well as old men, many of them poor working men with large families who laid down their lives for their adopted country. Some of them

received citations of honour by the department of war and a few were made members and officers of the Legion of Honour.

THE enthusiasm on behalf of France on the part of the Jews was not confined to the battlefield. The scientist and the writer, the physician and the merchant, each in his own field, contributed his full share to the welfare of his country. Thirty-four Rabbis or acting Rabbis served as chaplains, while two soldier Rabbis served in the ranks. The latter two met their death in battle, while of the chaplains, six were killed in action. Rabbis Bloch and Ruff were exempt from military duty because of their age, but both of them enrolled as volunteers and begged to be stationed in positions of greatest danger. Rabbi Ruff had both his legs shot away during a bombardment and later died. The story of Rabbi Bloch's death has frequently been retold and has often been pointed out as a most illustrious example of human sympathy and of sublime selflessness. A farm house in which 150 wounded men were sheltered was destroyed by a German barrage and the men had to be removed on stretchers. A soldier who was seriously wounded asked the Rabbi for a crucifix, taking him for a Catholic priest. Rabbi Bloch procured one for the dying man and was later himself struck down by a shell which exploded in front of the ambulance in which he was being taken together with the wounded. Several of the Jewish chaplains received decorations for bravery and were often cited in military dispatches. The record of the Jews in the French services during the war is indeed a most noble one and we well understand why the French Jews are so proud of it.

J.E.

PITY THE POOR GERMAN!

By
Howard Vincent O'Brien

PITY the poor German!

If he has heart disease he can't use digitalis, because it was discovered by a Jew, Ludwig Taube.

If his tooth aches he cannot have the comfort of cocaine; for that would be utilising the work of a Jew, Solomon Stricker.

He will find it hard to avoid typhus unless he takes advantage of what two Jews, Vidal and Weill, learned about this disease.

If he has diabetes, the aid of insulin is not for him; for a Jew, Mikowsky, had a hand in its discovery.

If he has a headache he must shun pyramidon and anti-pyrin, discovered by the Jews, Spiro and Ellege.

If his child has convulsions he must avoid chloral hydrate, the discovery of a Jew, Oscar Liebreich.

If he has a mental screw loose he must not attempt to tighten it by psycho-analysis, because the father of that technique is a Jew, Sigmund Freud.

If he has ear trouble he can't go to Heinrich Neumann, the specialist who treated the Duke of Windsor. Prof. Neumann is a Jew.

If he has cancer he can get no help from the great specialist, Ferdinand Blumenthal. Prof. Blumenthal has been forced to leave Germany.

If his wife needs the services of a gynaecologist, she will have to consult somebody besides Drs. Nobi and Oscar Frankl. They have committed suicide. So has Dr. Knopfmacher of Vienna. Well past 70, this eminent scientist was "treated" with castor oil by patriotic Hitlerites.

He may like music, but he can't listen to Toscanini because Toscanini's daughter is married to a Jew, Horowitz.

He may like modern music, but he may not listen to the works of Arnold Schoenberg, who has been proscribed as an exponent of "cultural bolshevism."

He may like the music of the past, but there will be no more performances of Goldmark, Mahler, Mendelssohn, Meyerbeer and Offenbach.

Pity the poor German!

The poor German may like to read. But the list of authors whose works must not be read grows constantly longer. To the list of forbidden German writers has now been added a list of Austrian writers.

He may like to travel. The list of available places to visit has now been shortened. Vienna, once one of his favourite cities, no longer exists. The coffee houses have been closed. *Gemeinlichkeit* has disappeared. There is no laughter in the heurigers of Grinsing. Theatres are dark. There is no music in the air.

His world shrinks ever smaller. More and more cramped, he tries to be comfortable in the iron strait-jacket of the psychology that a madman has given him. Each day he cuts himself a little more adrift from everything that we have learned to call civilisation.

Pity the poor German!

—"Chicago Daily News."

CORNER LOUNGE

Eloff Street, cor. Pritchard Street — JOHANNESBURG.

ERIC WILSON AND HIS LONDON ORCHESTRA play Three Sessions
Daily and Afternoon and Evening on Sundays.

The Social

Hub of

Africa