

RABBI & AUDIENCE

By LEON ROTH, F.B.A.

WHAT are the questions which are being asked today? I suggest to you that they centre, not on 100 years on, on the confrontation of religion with science, but on the confrontation of religion with politics. Science remains important; it is not, however, the problem of its logical validity and metaphysical status which now disturbs men's minds, but the use to which it is being put. Science has become an instrument in the hands of the politicians. Its much-vaunted dependence has collapsed. It has accepted the complaisant rôle of providing the means for an arrogant politics which determines all ends.

"Cult of the Band-wagon"

I am using the word politics in a wider sense than usual. I do not refer to the inner play of opinion, the contests of government, the maintenance of a balance of power, the harmonising of pressure groups, the public debate, the modification of majority decisions in the light of minority criticism, which constitute what is called the democratic process. I refer rather to the wider characteristics of our age: the debasement of parliamentarianism, the cult of the band-wagon, the proliferation of demagogues and propaganda salvagers, each with his promise of a glorious future just round the corner. Let Albert Camus' "Homme Révolté." Study his analysis of the so-called ideologies of our time. He sees in them pervaded, messianism; and if you think it over you will understand why. They are all imbued with an apocalyptic vision of the last things—that is the messianism; and to achieve it they declare that all men, every enemy, every wicked man, is permissible—that is the perversion.

If there is an issue which is of central importance today, it is just that: how can the messianism be maintained, how can it be won? It is this sort of problem which in one form or another (and I need not dilate on the particular form which it assumes today for world Jewry) is at the bottom of much of the activity which I refer to for a moment of the interest in and around such controversial figures as Father Huddleston or Robert Oppenheimer or the Paris

well, that lies in your hands, Rabbis and Ministers and Preachers and Teachers of the Jewish Religion to Jewish Congregations. Each of you, in his own time and in his own way, each single one of you, will have to make your decision; for there comes to all men "the time of the offering of the evening oblation" when they can "hath" no longer. I refer to the Terecentary year when I remind you of an episode from Jewish history of the seventeenth century, an episode which, if not connected, is at least connectible, with

ARCHAEOLOGY IN SINAI

By GOLDA ZIMMERMAN

(The Jewish Chronicle Correspondent in Jerusalem)

TWO archaeological expeditions to the Sinai Peninsula took place recently. One was headed by Mr. M. Dothan, of the Department of Antiquities of the Ministry of Education, which concentrated mainly on the area where the Biblical site of Kadesh Barnea is believed to have been. The second was headed by Professor B. Mazar, President of the Hebrew University, and was concerned mainly with photographing MSS. and documents in the library of St. Catherine's Monastery for later study.

Each team consisted of 15 members. That of the Department of Antiquities travelled much of the route which did Woolley; the celebrated British archaeologist, and Lawrence of Arabia 40 years ago. The place they surveyed is now called Tell Kudeirat, which is identified with Kadesh Barnea, since it contains the most prolific well in the area. Some scholars suggest that the ancient Israelites spent most of their forty years in the wilderness in this area. The team expressed its belief that this was an important centre from prehistoric until Arabic times.

Fortress Discovered

Mr. Dothan's team made a brief preliminary excavation to try to find out something more about the fortress on the summit of Tell Kudeirat, which was already discovered by Woolley and Lawrence. Their finds lead them to date it about the "ninth century B.C." Woolley did not date it at all. The fortress was apparently a very strong one, built of stone and rising to a height of some 35 feet in places, and with two towers. It was surrounded by a glacis intended to keep away besiegers from the wall. Pottery finds indicated that the main period of occupation of the fortress was during the Judean monarchy (ninth to seventh centuries B.C.E.), when it is believed to have served as a military and administrative centre for the entire area. It was probably destroyed at the time of the First Temple.

Around the central site of the fortress the expedition found remains

MOROCCAN JEWISH TYPES



A Jew from the Rabat area with his grandchildren in the traditional garb and headdress

our own Anglo-Jewry; for its hero, Jacob Sasportas, was, for a short time in the 1660s, the first regular Rabbi of the newly constituted London Jewish Congregation. I am not going to delay you with an account of the messianic episode centring on Shabbethai Zevi. Rooted in massacre, watered by superstition, fanned by fanaticism, it flowered in a ecstasy of enthusiasm which engulfed both leaders and led. Only one man stood out—Sasportas; and the more I read the documents, only edited (by a Jerusalem scholar a year or so ago) and I strongly advise you all to study Dr. Tishby's edition of the full text of the "Tizaitz Nobel Tzevi", the more I am horrified, and the more I marvel. What a triumph of foolish faith on the part of the crowd; what a collapse of all wisdom on the part of the scholars! It was a case of *Athanasius contra mundum*, one man against the whole Jewish, and non-Jewish, world. It mattered nothing to Sasportas that he stood alone, abused by his own congregation; it mattered nothing that, in this, his own congregation was in full accord with all other organised congregations; had not men who dared to question the validity of the Messiah been trampled to death in a Venice synagogue? Single-handed Sasportas carried out a world-wide campaign of argument and denunciation. He sent letters—and what letters!—all over Europe and the Near East: Italy, Germany, Turkey, Egypt, Palestine; and he repeated, and repeated often, the one refrain: "It is not right. It is not true. It is not our religion. It is against the very tenets of Judaism. The Messiah of the Jews, our awaited Messiah, is not that."

Cardinal Faulhaber

Did his letters carry weight? I do not know. But he had the conviction, and he spoke out. As I read him now after nearly three hundred years, I think of the religious figures of our own day who refused to be bought or intimidated: let us recall, for example, his men with pride; as Jews with gratitude, the name of Cardinal Faulhaber, the Catholic priest who, at the height of the Hitler frenzy, obeyed the voice of conscience and dared to stand up in Munich Cathedral and testify to the authentic German of Judaism.

And so Sasportas, testifying to, and glorifying the name of, authentic Judaism, denied the existence of what was universally presented and accepted as fact. If he had lived in our time he might have echoed the remark of A. J. Balfour: "It is unfortunate, considering that enthusiasm

Continued on page 27, column 1

DOCUMENTARY MEMORIAL

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a legitimate, urgent concern that the memory of our dead, the millions slain by an inhuman Government, shall not perish but stay ever present as a warning and an inspiration. Suggestions have been made that a special prayer be introduced into the synagogal liturgy, that perhaps, too, a new fast be appointed; and in the city which first conceived the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior imaginative minds have built a memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr.

But it is not just across the water that something concrete has been done. A peculiar memorial exists in this country. The great and varied collections of documentary evidence which the Wiener Library has assembled are familiar to scholars and students exploring and recording the story of the Jewish catastrophe. Yet to the public at large the Wiener Library which is a research institute and information office, means curiously little, perhaps because a "library" seems too exclusively associated with books and almost certainly because the library's work is conducted quietly, far from the madding headlines.

Authentic Documents

The memorial erected at the Wiener Library tells its tale from the very beginning from the days when Hitler first appeared. It reveals, in authentic documents, that—credible though it must sound—the assassination was part of the very earliest Nazi propaganda ("Perish Judah!"). There is not a shadow of doubt that Jews were to be treated, literally, like "bugs" (Goebbels' own term), and none was more savage in spirit than the murderous propaganda than the man who is now one of Colonel Nasser's trusty servants, Dr. Johann von Leers. It is this evidence, often quite unknown in its revealing detail, which lends the somber colour to the broadly familiar facts, suggesting that the figure of six million dead may well be a conservative estimate.

The progress of the extermination itself is told in shoals of documents which, in such number and variety, are probably found nowhere else in this or, indeed, any other English-speaking country. They are, in the first place, the Nuremberg trial documents, not only those published which are available elsewhere, too, but also those no less important that were never published and lie hidden in bundles of fading stencil.

The story they tell, which, in all its horror, is not by any means known as much as it should, is reinforced by documents produced at lesser war crimes trials which revealed ever new features of the extermination. The Wiener Library made a point of collecting the carefully drawn-up writs of indictment as well as the texts of

IN THE PROVINCES

Manchester

SHOCHET LOSES ACTION

Case Against Shechita Board Dismissed

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

In a two-day civil action at Manchester Assizes last week Mr. Philip Kriekie, a shochet, of Dorchester Avenue, Prestwich, lost his claim, with costs, in a case in which he sued the Manchester Shechita Board for breach of contract.

The plaintiff, who alleged that the Board had defrauded him into disposing of his slaughter-yard, sued Mr. Samuel Davies, Mr. Lawrence Marks, Mr. Reuben Barrow-Sicre, and Mr. Solomon Sidney Levy as members of the Board.

Giving judgment, Mr. Justice Donovan said that: "It is wholly untrue that the Shechita Board have acted fraudulently or dishonestly in any way in this matter. It seems to me, on the contrary, that they have gone out of their way to help the plaintiff. It is not their fault if their efforts have yielded no permanent result." He concluded: "Indeed, the dishonest feature in this case is the bringing of this action, and it is dismissed with costs. He orders that £250, paid into court by plaintiff as security for the defence costs, should be paid out to the defence."

Mr. Kriekie's case was presented by Mr. R. H. Forrest, Q.C., Recorder of Salford. Mr. David Brabin, Q.C., appeared for the Shechita Board.

Mr. Forrest said that the plaintiff, who had long desired to obtain the Board's diploma as a slaughterer, did not get a licence because he had acted as a poultry slaughterer in competition with the Board.

Counsel quoted long extracts from correspondence between plaintiff and the Shechita Board, together with minutes of the Board and of the Rabbinical Commission, which he said were in the issue of licences. The matter, he said, dated back to before the war, and as a result of the continued delay Mr. Kriekie lodged an action in 1950 against the Shechita Board and its Chairman, the late Nathan Laski, for damages for breach of contract. During the action the minutes of the Board were produced, and for the first time the plaintiff discovered he had in fact been refused a licence to go into a slaughterhouse and learn the trade.

"It is on that that these new proceedings were brought," said Mr. Forrest.

Mr. Forrest went on to say that in January, 1938, the Rabbinical Commission refused to grant an application for a licence made on behalf of Mr. Kriekie by the Shechita Board. Yet in June that year, ignorant of this refusal, Mr. Kriekie signed an agreement with the Board

recalling the 1950 litigation, counsel said the action lasted two days, and Mr. Kriekie lost his claim. As a result he was made bankrupt, but he still continues in business. His case was that had he known in February, 1938, his application for a licence had been refused he would never have gone on with the transaction regarding his poultry-yard. The mere fact that at some later date he did succeed in getting a licence did not alter the position.

Asked how plaintiff was worse off today as a result, Mr. Forrest said: "He had to pay out money to his brother for the poultry-yard, and instead of being a shochet in 1939 he worked for years for the Board, and as a result he lost £10s. a week, instead of making a profit of ten guineas a week on his own. He has therefore eight years in which he lost those wages he would have got as a shochet. That was £7 10s. So he was losing £4 a week throughout the war years up to 1947."

Questioned by the Judge the plaintiff said that about 1931 he wrote twice to the Shechita Board telling them about his intention to set up a shochet if he could have practical. He got no reply to that request. So in 1933 he went to London taking a letter of introduction from Rabbi Levine, and got tuition in poultry killing from Rabbi Shapoznik.

"And did Rabbi Shapoznik give you a diploma allowing you to kill poultry?"—Witness: "Yes."

On returning to Manchester he obtained the licence from the Manchester Corporation and opened a yard for the killing poultry. That business prospered "very much."

Counsel: "What sort of profit were you making every week?"—"Round about £11."

Asked by Mr. Brabin in cross-examination, if he bought the poultry-yard in 1932 for £40, witness said he was using his mother's backyard. He sold the yard and his brood in 1935 for £40, but (plaintiff) went on killing poultry there, and paying a rent.

Pressed on the point of the Rabbinical Commission's licence the plaintiff said that it was not until 1950 that he knew that a licence was needed.

Mr. Brabin, opening the respondents' case, claimed it was not possible for Mr. Kriekie to say he did not know he had to have a licence. It was the Board's case that there was not the slightest evidence of fraud.

Shechita Board's Case

"Our argument is that we told him, not that he knew a student's licence had been refused for him. It is all honestly the Board should have told him, and we say they did."

The witness for the defence included Mr. Reuben Barrow-Sicre, President of the Manchester Shechita Board for many years, who, when asked by the Judge why he had not taken the matter to court, said: "It would be the purpose of persons on the Manchester Shechita Board to prevent a man carrying on an illegal business."

The Judge: "It is suggested you wanted to put him out of business even if he got a licence?"—"Not if he got a licence."

Mr. Brabin: "Was it your purpose to put him out of business if he hadn't got a licence?"—"Obviously, it would be my duty on behalf of the community."

In his summing up for the respondents Mr. Neville Laski, Q.C., Recorder of Liverpool, who had acted professionally for the Manchester Shechita Board when the plaintiff originally lodged his action.

In his summing up Mr. Justice Donovan said that on the evidence before him he was satisfied that the plaintiff had entered into the written agreement, and

Leeds

BRITAIN AND ISRAEL

M.P. on Educating Public Opinion

From our Correspondent

Mr. Julian Amery, M.P. for Preston North, addressing the Leeds Zionist Society last week, paid a tribute to the Israeli Army for its feats in the Sinai Peninsula.

In his view, said Mr. Amery, there was no collusion in the recent operations, and no evidence was forthcoming to prove the existence of collusion.

There was almost a mathematical equation in the relations between Britain and Israel, said the speaker. When Britain was going forward in the Middle East she sought the support of energetic minorities, such as the Jews, who she believed could bring a change in the Middle East. When Britain's interests were expanding so were Israel's, but when Britain was in retreat, as the Arabs were now happening, the paths of the two countries began to diverge. He felt that in this respect Zionist societies could play an important part in helping to educate public opinion on the Middle East.

TERCENTENARY CONCERT

The Leeds Tercentenary celebrations concluded last Sunday with a concert organised by the Ladies' Lodge of B'nai B'rith and given by the pupils of Miss Fanny Waterman. Among those who attended were Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds.

The performers were Barbara Alabaster, Catherine Hyams, Michael Roll, Robert Bolton, Kathleen Jones, Allan Schiller, Wendy Waterman, Nicola Gruenberg, Patricia Lyons, and Linda Sherwood.

Among recent activities of the Leeds Ladies' Charity Guild in aid of the Leeds Blue and White Bazaar were a coffee morning at which Dr. and Mrs. Miles were hosts (at which £38 was raised), and a Viennese ball, at which £110 was raised.

As a result of a social and dinner, at which Mr. and Mrs. M. Baker were the hosts, over £90 was raised for the comforts fund of the Leeds Home for Aged Jews.

At the annual meeting of the Avivith Group of Women Zionists, the following were elected: Mrs. E. Abrahams and Mrs. B. Burnett, Chairmen; Mrs. J. Teeman, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. A. Raphael, Treasurer; and Mrs. L. Irwin (97a Street).

Blackpool

The Blackpool Women's Zionist Society held their sixth annual Blue and White ball at the Casino Ballroom, Blackpool, Mrs. Lily Edland, President of the Society, announced that the ball was expected to raise £900.

Bournemouth

Gifts of silver bells for the Scrolls of the Law were recently made to the New Synagogue by Mrs. M. Maury, Mrs. Lawson and Mr. and Mrs. M. Maury.

Bournemouth Ajax held its annual buffet and ball at the Pavilion, Bournemouth, recently. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress, Rabbi and Mrs. Jonah Indeh, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Solomon (President of the Hebrew Congregation), Mr. and Mrs. Woodstra (President of the New Synagogue), and the Chairman of the branch, Mr. N. Levy, and Mrs. Levy.

Bradford

At the annual meeting of the Bradford Synagogue, Bowland Street, the following were elected: Mr. A. Birk and wife, followed by a reception arranged by the Ladies' Guild. The Rev. E. Drucker was the guest of honor. The members of the congregation, paid tributes to Mr. Birk.

The Newcastle Jewish Players presented a Remember Yama (by John van Drunen) at the Playhouse, Jesmond last week, in aid of Jewish Children's Day, Maccabi, and the Rosa Wollstein Group.

To mark his 75th birthday Mr. Nathan Ernszt organised his 75th birthday party at the Central Hebrew School, Maccabi, and Newcastle Maccabi.

Continued from previous column before he had caused the yard to be transferred, that the Commission had refused a licence in respect of it. He then asked for a copy of the decision made by the Board to reverse that decision, and was content to rely on his efforts, which were eventually successful in March 1939.

TRAINING COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL

The first prize distribution of the S. H. Steiner Junior Training College and the Central Hebrew School was held on Sunday at the Cassel-Fox School with the Communal Rabbi, Dr. A. Altman, as the guest of honour.

Dr. Altman, in an address, pointed out the great importance of religious training in the home. He said that in a demonstration of class work one of the girls read and translated a passage from the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch and another pupil, a boy, read and explained a passage from Rashbi.

The Director of Education, Dr. J. J. Sluzki, who presided, said that he was introduced eventually to extend the Hebrew High School, which would have four forms and provide facilities for preparation for the Hebrew University of the Central Examining Board of London; and it was hoped to recruit 100 pupils, and to have candidates for the Steiner College.

Harry Lazarus Lobell (former Lobin-sky), a kosher meat wholesaler, was sentenced to four years imprisonment by Mr. Justice Jones at Manchester Crown Court last week for the possession of a body harm. He was found not guilty of attempted murder.

Sheffield

"FOMENTING ARAB HATRED"

A belief that Russia is fomenting the hatred of the Arabs for the Jews in the Middle East was expressed by Mr. Lionel Bloch, Soviet Liaison Correspondent of the BIRMINGHAM POST, at a meeting of the Zionist Association on Sunday at which Dr. M. Friedlander presided.

Russia's appeal, said Mr. Bloch, was to the masses rather than the leaders in Arab countries, by stirring up discord among them, and by making them inextricably tied up with the Arab desire to exterminate Israel.

Following a Chanukah service conducted by the pupils of the Hebrew Education Board prizes were distributed by Mr. J. Kavanagh, Chairman, to Helen Braun and Melvyn Loffe, both of whom had gained distinctions in classical Hebrew in the General Certificate Examination.

Dr. and Mrs. S. Bender and Mr. and Mrs. H. Weltman jointly entertained the members of the Chester congregation recently in celebration of Chanukah. The candles were kindled by the Rev. B. Cohen, assisted by the children of the congregation. Mr. and Mrs. J. Viner presented each child with a Chanukah gift.

A social evening held last week in the Communal Hall, Henegge Road, by the Grimsby Women's Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, raised £52, which has been sent to the Grand President, Mr. J. Morrison, in response to his appeal for Israel.

Speaking at a prize distribution to the children of the religion classes, which followed a Chanukah service in the synagogue recently, the Rev. J. H. Rockman said that there were now 36 pupils divided into three classes, as well as a small advanced group. The Eli Kabir Memorial Prize was awarded to Ruth Margolis, the outstanding pupil of the year.

A dance organised by the Friends of the Anti-T.B. League of Israel in the Synagogue Hall, Osborne Street, raised £70.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Margate (Alderman Read, C.M.C., and Mrs. Read) attended the Barmitzva ceremony of Paul Harris at the synagogue recently. The Mayor and Mayoress were received by the President of the congregation and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. H. Black, and Mrs. E. Hirschfeld. President of the service the Mayor spoke of his keen interest in the Jewish community.

MANCHESTER HIPPODROME
ARDWICK GREEN
EMILE LITTLER'S PANTOMIME
PUSS IN BOOTS
A riot of merriment with TOMMY COOPER

Manchester Shechita Board
The Jewish public is hereby informed that the following are the **RESTAURATEURS AND HOTELIERS** licensed by the Board, and for whose kosher meat they accept responsibility.
FULDRA'S HOTEL, 84, Barry Old Road, Manchester, 7 (CHE. 4051).
GALLON RESTAURANT, 271, 271, Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester, 3 (CHE. 3379).
RUDY'S RESTAURANT, 368, Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester, 3 (CHE. 4073).

IN MANCHESTER NEXT TUESDAY
The Knights of Charity Third Annual Ball
EMBASSY ROOMS, SALE
Phil Mess and Orchestra
Dave Egerton Quartet
7.30—Midnight
(In Aid of the Deaf-Blind)
Invitations Miss D. Flocks, 18, Castlehill Road. (CHE. 3490).

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Apply Matron. Phone: Kings Langley 3333.

New Year's Eve and The Little Horses
It's a wonderful thing that, apart from giving so much to charity, the Little Horses can provide such excellent fare and festivities for 31 guineas and a continuous free bar too.
Tickets, strictly limited, from Gerald Classics, Ltd., 3, Norfolk Street, Manchester, 2. Phone: DE A 5024/5.
Reception 8 p.m. Dinner 9 p.m. Carriages 2 a.m. at Cheetham Chambers, Rooms Dancing to NAT BOOKBINDER & HIS CAPELERS.

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