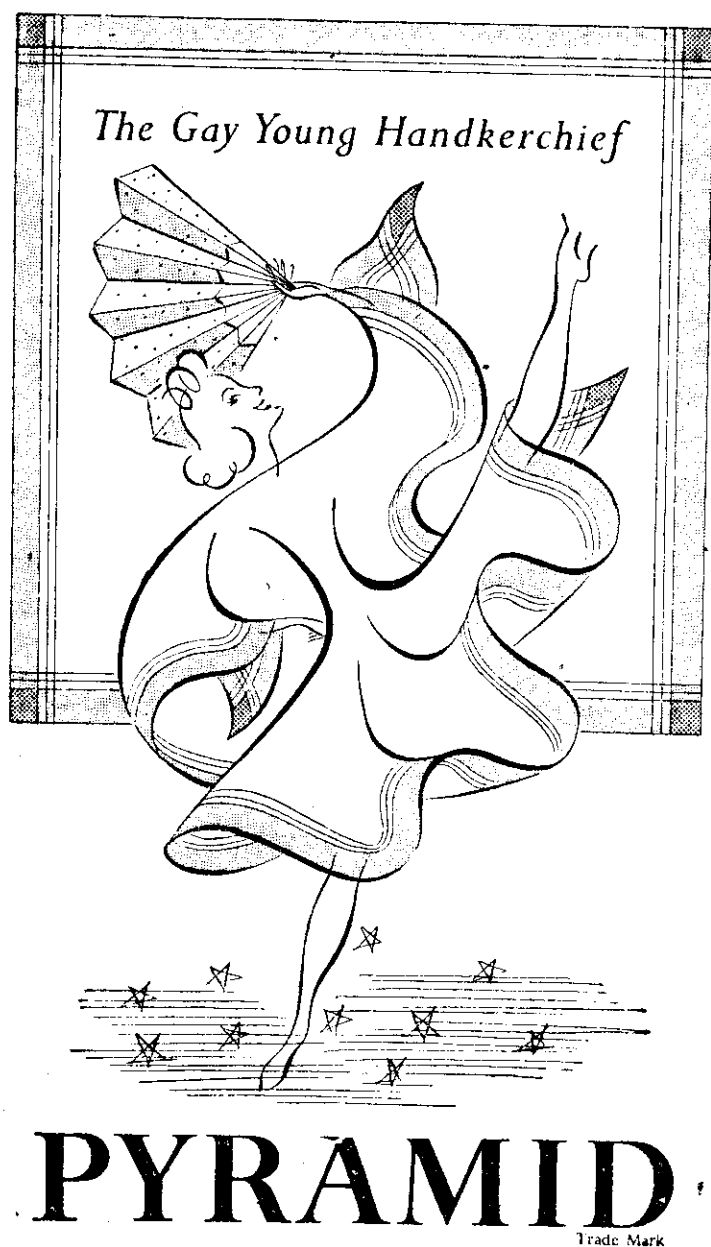




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RUSSIA AND THE JEWS

(continued from previous page)

entering as I did before any newspaper correspondents were allowed in. The world does not know just how terribly this prophecy of Hitler has come true over there. There is such a growth of a new anti-semitism in eastern Europe that it bids fair to outdo even the excesses of the Nazi regime. I was told by serious and objective Gentiles, as well as by the leaders of the Jewish community, that if the Russians were to leave Hungary there would be, as they said, "The biggest pogrom in history."

Now what can be the reasons for this awful state of affairs? Every reason that I can adduce rests upon the three factors I have already said are the basis of anti-semitism anywhere. And as I describe the situation to you, think, please, of how the whole situation is a terrible warning to us in New Zealand.

New Envy and Jealousies

In the first place those Jews who have survived the terrors of the anti-Jewish laws of 1938-40, of the round-up for military service in Russia in 1942, of the deportations to the gas chambers of Auschwitz that followed, of the Budapest ghetto of 1944, and of the siege of the city by the Russians for three months in 1945—those Jews, I say, owe the very fact of their being alive to the coming of the Russians. The Jew has been thrown into the arms of the Russian, even before he has had the chance to look at the Soviet system of life. In consequence the Russian occupying power makes use of many Jews for key posts in the new régime. But in the eyes of the non-Jew, he is a renegade, a Russian Quisling. How short is the memory of man. It is just two years since the boot was on the other foot, and yet, there we are.

The second reason for the new anti-semitism that I could see rests on a most unfortunate fact, for which the Jew is no more responsible than he is for the first reason. The Jewish people of the free west have showed a noteworthy solidarity in the face of the misery of eastern Europe. They have raised large sums of money for the relief of their brethren, and, because of the fact that the Jewish people of Hungary by the very nature of things could not possibly have been mixed up with the pro-Nazi régime that the Russians have overthrown, were given permission to send in that relief money to Hungary to help those who were so evidently not Nazis, and therefore worth helping. But it was almost impossible to get in Christian funds. That I know, because I was responsible for large sums raised by the Church to spend in Hungary. Even UNRRA was not allowed to enter the country till I was there, a whole year after the war. But all that time the Jews were getting relief, they were being fed when others were starving, they were being clothed when others were naked. They deserved it. They had suffered more than any other group of the community. But the shivering, hungry, non-Jew is not in a fit state to enter a reasoned discussion of the pros and cons of the business. Envy and jealousy of the Jew now poison all his thoughts on the matter.

Many a non-Jew had a very bad conscience about the treatment of the Jew

in the Nazi period. He had not furthered the persecution, but he had been part of the system that allowed it. And now he was waiting in contrition to welcome home the occupants of Dachau, of Belzen, and of the other hell-camps of Germany.

The allied forces had rescued those poor folk, had fed them, clothed them, tended them in every possible way, till they regained their health and strength. Then they were sent home. The starving non-Jews waited for the poor, wretched, returning émigrés, waited to beg their forgiveness. And then the returned wanderers arrived, well clothed, well fed, rehabilitated. The contrition in the heart of the hungry Gentile turned to hate.

Moreover, the peace-treaties have laid it down that all properties confiscated from Jews in the Nazi period must be returned to their lawful owners if those owners have survived the war. Yes, but for 10 years now John Smith has been running the business in question, and making a good living off it. And now the ghost of his own evil conscience comes back from the land of the dead—and he hates the man that has come to claim what is his by right, hates him with a fanatical, hysterical hate.

And so they are fleeing from that hatred, they are getting out of the hell of Eastern Europe by every means they can. They are crowding ships above deck and in the holds; they are prepared to be dropped by parachute from the clouds if only they can reach the land of Palestine. They will do anything to escape from the wrath to come. None of us approves of the terrorism in Palestine, but we can at least sympathise with a fear-ridden people and understand the reasons that have induced only a small number of them after all to make use of methods used against them by their persecutors, both in pre-war days, and at the present moment.

I have only lived eight months in New Zealand. But already I am struck by something in connection with the subject in hand. I find men and women in this, the Antipodes of Nazi Europe, who have never met a Jew, but who know all the Nazi half truths about the Jew off by heart, and I realise that while the armies of Hitler have indeed been overthrown, the spirit of Hitlerism has conquered in the hearts of men in many lands.

Summer School of Music

THE Third Cambridge Music School under the auspices of the Adult Education Centre will be held at St. Peter's School, Cambridge, from January 19 to January 30, 1948. These schools are arranged for music lovers of a diversity of experience to meet together under ideal conditions for practice, performance and discussion of music over a period of 10 days. This year's programme will provide for instrumentalists, singers, and listeners. Study courses will include orchestral and choral work, supervised chamber music practice and performance, coaching in composition, wood-wind playing and pianoforte style, and a course also for those who do not play or sing.

Already the benefits of the first two schools have become apparent, particularly in the enthusiastic development of musical activities in the country districts.