

GILBERT, FELIX, Ed. *Hitler Directs His War. The Secret Records of his Daily Military Conferences, Selected and Annotated . . . from the Manuscript in the University of Pennsylvania Library.* New York. Oxford University Press. 1950. Pp. xxxiii, 187.

By good fortune the American army after occupying Berchtesgaden learned of the existence of full stenographic transcripts of military conferences held at Hitler's headquarters. Their discoverer, George Allen, briefly describes here how he had learned of the whereabouts of Hitler's personal copy and how, almost at the last moment, he succeeded in saving a small portion from a mass of charred papers. In all, fragmentary records of fifty-one conferences extending over some twenty-eight months from December 1, 1942 to March 23, 1945 were salvaged. Although this equivalent of some 800 typed pages was but a tiny residuum from a record which must originally have exceeded 200,000 pages, we are grateful for the new insights offered by these intimate discussions as to the workings of Hitler's mind as well as that of his chief military and civilian advisers. Making use of the official translation prepared for the Army, Felix Gilbert, professor of history at Bryn Mawr College, reproduces here many interesting excerpts in revised translation, accompanied by concise introductory and explanatory notes. In his general introduction, the author discusses at some length the legend spread by the professional officers "that all the defeats have to be ascribed to Hitler and all the success to the professionals" (p. xx). The present excerpts bear out on the whole Hitler's chief responsibility for the decisions made at these conferences. But they do not show him acting by mere intuition. Readers of this journal will look in vain, however, for any significant information concerning Nazi concentration camps and extermination squads. The few references to Jews in these discussions merely illustrate the well-known obsessive generalizations of the German dictator. On learning, for example, of Mussolini's fall and arrest, Hitler comforted his generals by saying that "with the exception of Jews and riff-raff who are causing a commotion in Rome, there is no one behind the new regime" (p. 55). As if in July 1943, the Jewish community of Rome were still in a position to exert any kind of political influence!

S. W. B.

KAUFMANN, WALTER A. *Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist.* Princeton. Princeton University Press. 1950. Pp. xi, 409.

This is not just another book on Nietzsche. Since in recent years the Nazis tried to appropriate this son of a Lutheran minister turned exponent of Antichrist as a preacher of racist supermen, a fresh and independent re-examination

of the philosopher's teachings is both a scholarly contribution and a public service. Dr. Kaufmann is right in asserting: "One knows of his [Nietzsche's] anticipation of psychoanalysis, of his decisive influence on Spengler and existentialism, and of the problem posed by his relation to the Nazis; but the details remain something of a mystery, and Nietzsche's thought has been obscured rather than revealed by its impact." By reviewing, therefore, Nietzsche's background, the development of his general thought and particularly his philosophy of power, and summarizing Nietzsche's genuine historical message as contrasted with the Nietzsche legend, Dr. Kaufmann has helped resolve some of that mystery. With respect to the Jewish question, it is shown here, Nietzsche not only was, as is generally known, a great admirer of the Old Testament, but also an opponent of extreme nationalism, advocate of intermarriage and champion of a "mixed race, that of the European man." In fact, Nietzsche abhorred antisemitism and declared that "the whole problem of the Jews exists only within the national states, insofar as it is here that their vigor and higher intelligence, and that capital of spirit and will which they have accumulated through a long schooling in suffering, from generation to generation, must show its weight in a manner which inspires hatred and envy" (p. 253). It was one of his great tragedies that his best friend, Richard Wagner and his beloved sister, Elisabeth, married to a notorious antisemite, Bernhard Förster, turned extreme Jew-baiters. It was largely owing to Mrs. Förster-Nietzsche's propagandistic efforts that the myth of Nietzsche racialism and antisemitism gained such widespread currency and could, in later years, be so thoroughly exploited by the Nazis.

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REIFER, MANFRED. *Dr. Mayer Ebner, Ein juedisches Leben.* Tel Aviv. Edition Olympia - Martin Feuchtwanger. 1949. Pp. 254.

Mayer Ebner, an outstanding leader of Bukovinian Jewry during the inter-war period, reflected in his career much of the evolution of East-European Jewry during the last half century. Already in 1901, he advocated a Jewish *Realpolitik* in the countries of the dispersion. His essay on this theme, published in the central Zionist organ, *Die Welt* (summarized here, p. 37 ff.), greatly contributed to turning the European Zionist movement from its earlier exclusive concentration on Palestine to vigorous political action in the dispersion as well. From that time on, Ebner became an outstanding champion of Jewish rights, first in the Austro-Hungarian empire and later as parliamentarian in Greater Rumania which emerged after the First World War. His native Bukovina, a small land embracing five warring nationalities, offered a miniature laboratory for the great national conflicts raging in Europe during the first half of this century.