EDITORIAL

Two rabbis played a major role at a key transitional period in the history of the Leo Baeck College. Eight years after its beginning in 1956 under the auspices of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (RSGB) (now Movement for Reform Judaism) it was joined as a co-sponsor by the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues (ULPS) (now Liberal Judaism). Two years later Rabbi Dr Werner van der Zyl, the founder and Hon. Director of Studies retired, to be succeeded in the shared leadership by Rabbi Dr. John Rayner (1924-1995), representing the ULPS, as Hon. Director of Studies, and, in the specially created post of Hon. Registrar, by Rabbi Hugo Gryn (1930-1996), representing the RSGB. Together they oversaw the College's development until the appointment of Rabbi Dr. Albert Friedlander in 1970. In addition to their administrative tasks, both served as teachers, Rabbi Rayner in the field of rabbinics, and Rabbi Gryn in the area of practical rabbinics. Both had refugee backgrounds but made the U.K. their permanent home, serving as the senior rabbis at the two 'cathedral synagogues' of their respective movements, Rayner at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St. Johns Wood, and Gryn at the West London Synagogue. Very different in temperament and personality, both made an indelible impact on their congregants, their students and the College itself.

A recent memorial symposium at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, organised by Rabbi Alexandra Wright, provides the opportunity for an overview of the many areas of interest and achievement of Rabbi Rayner: as a preacher (Marc Saperstein), an important Jewish liturgist (Eric Friedland), an advocate of ethical Zionism (Avi Shlaim), a proponent of Christian-Jewish interfaith dialogue (Lord Harries), and as a friend and colleague (David Goldberg). As a systematic thinker and highly organised collector and classifier of his own writings, Rabbi Rayner leaves behind a large body of publications, and most areas are explored in the papers presented here. Sadly the paper that would have examined his contribution to Progressive Halakhah was not available for the symposium because of the illness of the author. In her introduction to the symposium Rabbi Wright fills in a little of this background.

In contrast Hugo Gryn was someone who lived more in the moment and in the personal encounter, dedicating himself tirelessly to the needs of his congregants, all who crossed his path and the many causes he supported. Born in Berehovo in Carpathian Ruthenia, he survived Auschwitz with his mother, though his father and brother were killed. He studied for the rabbinate at Hebrew Union College in the United States, served for many years in Bombay, before settling in the U.K. He was one of the first of that generation to speak publicly about his experience of the concentration camps, and became a

highly regarded and beloved figure as a broadcaster, particularly because of his regular appearance on the BBC's 'Moral Maze'. A collection of his radio broadcasts, 'Three Minutes of Hope', has been edited and published by his daughter Naomi Gryn (Reviewed in this issue by Laura Janner-Klausner). Marc Saperstein had access to Rabbi Gryn's sermon notes and texts spanning some thirty years, and has produced an overview of his themes, concerns and passions, which allows us to add our own tribute to his memory.

The second major section of this issue also owes its origins to another important contributor to the development of the Leo Baeck College. For many years the College's Director of Education and Professional Development, Dr Helena Miller has been a leading figure in the field of Jewish education, and was deeply engaged personally in the creation of JCoSS, the first cross-denominational Jewish secondary school in the U.K. She offered us this study of the origins and development of the project shortly before its opening. This provided an opportunity to open up an exploration of the development of Jewish day schools in Europe and Rabbi Dr Michael Shire, shortly before taking up his new post as Dean and Professor of Jewish Education at Hebrew College, Boston, invited a number of contributions which he introduces. The four responses represent a snapshot of the beginnings of a post-war development. Marcelo Dimentstein looks at the changing significance and roles of Jewish day schools in Europe, nicely summarised in a striking quotation: 'In the past Jewish schools transformed Jewish children into French children; today they are required to turn French children into Jewish children.' Two case studies, from Germany (Jonathan Grünfeld) and Sweden (Ricky David), explore the implications of that statement and other local issues. Eva Pruschy sets the importance of Jewish education into the context of the broader issues of anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli experience.

Book Reviews and Poetry complete this issue.

Jonathan Magonet