

THAT THE WORLD MAY NEVER FORGET

By **NEWMAN ROSENTHAL.**

"We moved as if in a trance. I doubt whether we were fully cognizant of all that was going on around us in those days. When we stepped out of the Court building it seemed strange that the sun was shining, the air was pure and people were going about their usual business. Inside was the image of a man-made hell."

**Gideon Hausner Produces a Painstaking But
Terrifying Document.**



(Left to Right): Judge B. Halevy; the President, Mr. Justice M. Landau; Judge Y. Raveh.

Thus writes Gideon Hausner in his book, "Justice in Jerusalem" his book, "Justice in Jerusalem" (Nelson, Aust. price \$7.00). In this deeply moving and im-

(Nelson, Aust. price \$7.00). In this deeply moving and important work the prosecutor of Adolph Eichmann sets forth a complete account of his own role in the case which he prepared and conducted. At the same time he provides an authentic review of the history of the Nazi persecutions as it emerged from his researches and the proceedings in the courtroom.

If the terror and pathos of many individual testimonies remain overwhelming, Mr. Hausner succeeds in giving his narrative a sense of tragic grandeur which derives from the vision of justice and retribution standing out as the clear objective during the arduous and stupefying months of Eichmann's trial.

The reader is left in no doubt of the pressure of public opinion both outside and inside Israel from the time of the carefully planned arrest by Israeli agents in the Argentine. The writing is so vivid that he becomes personally involved in the intensive preparations for the trial, Hausner's own deep soul-searching as he determines the charges to be brought against the accused, and the harrowing ordeal of examining the evidence of witnesses who were now trying to remember what for 20 years they had been trying to forget.

Here is a sobering, detailed picture of the trial and of the indelible impression of the monster whose organization of the "Final Solution" had brought him to the bullet-proof glass box in a Jerusalem court.

The declared purpose of the trial was to bring a criminal to justice. The trial was, however, also seen as a vehicle for

ever, also seen as a vehicle for informing public opinion.

By recalling the unparalleled gruesome mass murders engineered by Eichmann and his associates the world might be reminded of the fiendishly savage nature of Nazism in particular and political anti-Semitism in general, both of which had been countenanced by the German people and, to some extent by the world at large.

This reminder, it was hoped, would create a world climate of opinion that would make impossible such events ever happening again. For, had Germany won the war, the whole German nation might have gone cannibalistic for decades, if not for centuries, as a result of their mental and moral derangement. Hitler's Third Reich was devised to last a thousand years . . . and the Germans were not far from winning the war!

The whole world, particularly the Christian world, should have a calm, serene and undisturbed chance to learn fully the whole tragedy, the whole lesson, resulting from insane political nationalism as well as from anti-Semitism.

The wider aim of the trial was thus to inform, but to inform the hearts as well as the minds of a possibly forgetful world.

What then was the impact of the trial upon public opinion? Who, surely, knowing the hor-

rors perpetrated by the Nazis, could condone them? Who could ever wish them to be repeated?

Unfortunately, these were not the only issues raised by the trial. Was it legal that an Israeli court try Eichmann? What about Israel's violation of A-

rael court try Eichmann? What about Israel's violation of Argentine's sovereignty? Was it wise for Israel to focus attention on Eichmann's individual guilt? Would this not obscure the collective guilt of the German



people, and indeed of a whole world which had done nothing to prevent the Nazi atrocities? Did Israel, whose basic law forbids capital punishment, have the right to sentence Eichmann to death? Would Eichmann's death be seen as expiating the crimes for which a whole generation, both inside and outside Germany, bore responsibility?

Perhaps the validity of the ends would transcend whatever concern people might have about the means. On the other

hand, concentration on the means might so obscure the ends as to result in their not being communicated, much less comprehended.

(Readers interested in a scientific investigation into the impact of the trial on public opinion are referred to a recent book, "The Apathetic Majority" by Charles Glock. Gertrude

by Charles Glock, Gertrude Selznick and Joe L. Spaeth of the University of California. This is the second volume in a series on the study of Anti-Semitism in the United States, which is being carried out under a grant from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The questions these workers endeavour to answer still demand attention. Was the trial successful in creating sympathy for the Jewish people and greater understanding of the evils of anti-Semitism? Or, was the public unmoved or perhaps made hostile by ambiguities in the way the trial was handled?)

In his book, Hausner, whilst providing a special appendix entitled "Reactions to the Trial" in which he quotes extensively from those who supported Israel's position and those who criticized it, has no doubts of the "correctness" of Israel's conduct in the abduction, trial, conviction and execution.

Eichmann had to be brought to trial — and convicted. His story is a stark indictment of man's inhumanity to man and of the willingness of others to stand aside.