Gerald Cassen
To Sing At Carnegie Hall

Mr. GERALD CASSEN, the noted South African tenor, who has been in America since the beginning of the year, has been chosen, from among a number of candidates, to sing excerpts from Mendelssohn’s "Elijah" at a special concert in the Carnegie Hall, New York, next month.

This concert will provide Mr. Cassen with his first really big opportunity since he left this country, and it is hoped that it will be the precursor to a number of important engagements.

Mr. Cassen has been extremely busy during the past few months giving concerts in New York city and the provinces.

Our correspondent in New York also reports that the two young Israeli pianists, Ella Goldstein and Siggi Weisssenberg, both of whom have visited South Africa, are appearing in America and are enjoying considerable success. Weissenberg, in particular, has won widespread approbation from public and critics alike.

Protestant Ministers
Awarded Hebrew Scholarships

FIVE Protestant ministers have been awarded fellowships for graduate studies at the Hebrew Union College—Rabbinical Seminary of the Reform Synagogue.

The Graduate Christian Fellowship Programme is designed to help Christian clergymen prepare themselves to teach Bible and Semitic languages in their theological seminaries and colleges and to generate a clearer and deeper understanding of Judaism.

22 Nobel Prize-winners
Write For Hebrew Encyclopaedia

This first of a comprehensive sixteen-volume encyclopaedia in the Hebrew language to be published in Jerusalem, is just about ready.

There is a dramatic story connected with this project. The Israelis speak of this project as being realised among conditions unknown in history. The conditions are, he said, compared to Jerusalem, the hunger, the isolation from the outside world, the death at the hands of Arabs of four of the chief editors, the mobilisation by the Israeli army of many of the writers.

The siege of Jerusalem delayed the publication of the first volume. As an added precaution they are printing the Encyclopaedia both in Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv.

It is an ambitious undertaking—not just another Encyclopaedia, only in Hebrew. It is going to excel the Britannicus, which is setting a tone and in which the article on atomic energy is a reprint, without changes, from the 1927 edition, despite the revolutionary changes which have taken place in that science in the past few years.

Six hundred scholars from all over the world, including 22 Nobel Prize-winners, have already agreed —and given the Encyclopaedia a Jewish slant. The Hebrew title of each Encyclopedia published in a language that has been dead for 2,000 years now.

But the Encyclopaedia is going to have a Jewish slant. The Roman emperors, Titus and Hadrian, pictured as benefactors of humanity in non-Jewish books, are replaced by (wicked men) in Jewish tradition. One presupposes they will treat Ernest Bevin in the Jewish way too.

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THE HOUSE OF HEARING

Romance of a Name
By N. Pearlroth

Sent in by Mr. N. Ordman, Rutszena Farm, P.O. Odzi, Southern Rhodesia

THIS name is derived from an ancient German term meaning "Arbeiter" or "Referee".

It is barely possible that the name was first attributed to an ancestor who held a judicial office. It is much more likely, however, that it refers to an ancestor who held the office of Elector in one of the ancient elections in a Jewish community.

Such elections were always held on Chol Hamoed, the world-day interval between the two parts of Pesach. Three ballot boxes were set up, from which the citizens could vote for their respective candidates, and the names of those who were chosen were then inscribed on the box and the casket.

Nevertheless, it was a jolly talk, with Jack Alexander (who is also in London) in the chair, and the audience seemed to enjoy it. And it is no seldom that anyone in England either speaks aloud or wants to hear about the Jewish community of South Africa. It was glad that someone was talking, even if he was dealing with only the lesser aspects of our life.

I must not forget to repeat one of Mr. Dainan's best stories, even at the risk of repeating what you have already heard. He was remarking that South Africans talk their Judaism and Zionism on many occasions with lightness and humour: and he quoted this instance. When a campaign speaker arrived in Bloemfontein one day, he was solemnly asked whether he would like to meet "the leader of the Jewish Underground Movement". Much mystified and intrigued, he agreed —and was taken to the chairman of the Cheva Kadisha (the Burial Society).

It may also interest collectors for funds to know that Mr. Dainan has worked out a code of symbols to help him in his approach to prospective donors (or contributors?). Here are some of them:

V.C.—Very Comfortable.
R.D.—Rich and Decent.
R.N.—Refuse Nothing.
E.K.G.—Er Ken Geben.
N.V.—Not Very Rich.
N.C.—Not Comfortably Off.
D.B.E.—Deerberg dorson mit a trash.

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