

Hamidrash going, and the wisest heads were "on the rack" all through him. He decided, however, to let the problem over until the morrow, for his father—and then, won't he give something of a poser!

On the following day Mayer and Hessel sat before Rabbi Azriel saying their lesson. The critical passage was at the very beginning, and before many moments Rabbi Azriel was looking at his son with apparently deep mental distress.

"I knew it was a difficult Koshio," Mayer sounded his note of triumph, "because nobody in the Beth Hamidrash yesterday, not one, could answer it."

"Here is your answer!" Rabbi Azriel said, stretching his arm across the table and giving Mayer a resounding smack on the cheek: "I have warned you often and often, you Shegetz, not to be filling your head with questions of idle curiosity."

Mayer was quite stunned with the indignity; and that is saying nothing of his face being all on fire. He said not a word in protest, but he sat out his lesson sulkily, without once lifting his head.

The lesson over, Mayer was inclined to take quite a different view of the occurrence. He gloried now in his Patz. He was a martyr to his intellect. He had baffled the entire Hamidrash yesterday; to-day, he had put even his father to shame; and all he got for it in the end was a Patz! He was in love with that Patz.

"Mother," he said, clasping her by the knees, and looking up straight into her eyes, "my father smacked me, because he could not answer a Koshio I asked him."

"A fire! a brand! a crash! woe-woe!" the mother cried, laying down the sock she was knitting, and cuddling up to herself the little figure. "Show me where did he do it—where? The old silly, a health and a blessing unto his grey head, to go and murder my little Eifele!"

"Malkah," Mayer said, after awhile, turning into the next-door neighbours, "my father gave me a Patz to-day, because he could not answer my Koshio."

"Mistomo, have you deserved it?"

"Do you think I would tell it to you if I deserved it? I'd be ashamed, then. But I did not deserve it, and that's why I am not ashamed."

"It must have been a wrong Koshio to ask," Malkah suggested.

"No. How could it be when it was in the Lerne, and when they all tried to answer it yesterday in the Beth Hamidrash, but could not. It says in the Gemera—I mean mir sehn araus, that a man-likes his wife better when other people stare at her, and I wanted to know why. Does your Hirsch always like me to be looking at you? And does he think you nicer? You ought to know it."

"You shall know it yourself, my little son," Malkah replied, smoothing the pink and white face affectionately. "You shall my little heart. Mirtzeshem, when you and my Gitke are bride and groom one day, you shall know all about it."

And that is the saddest part of it all. Where is little Gitke now? There are seas and ages dividing her and Mayer. It is near time now she could be a grandmother; probably she is. Only Mayer has not changed; still a child at heart; still thinking of his Gitke who was never to be his; still asking always Why—why—Only his Whys are much bigger, now—oh, so big sometimes. There is never an answer, never once—but there is often a Patz.—Halitvak in the *Jewish Chronicle*.

### THE MECCA OF THE "SCHNORRER."

There is hardly a Jew in Europe that wishes to do something for which he has insufficient funds, who does not imagine that America is just waiting for him to come over and collect the necessary money. We are familiar with the widow who annually asks a contribution to pay for the promised dowry of her daughter; but most of us have caught on to this dodge, and by this time it must have become quite unprofitable. Her place has been taken by the man who has found an old manuscript in a library and now wants to go hunting for more, at the expense of a rich American, or by some translator of Spencer's essays, who thinks that America ought to be proud to support such a Jewish literary artist, or by an explorer or a converter, or something else equally highly regarded and neglected abroad.—*Jewish Comment*.



### THE EMPIRE.

This is the last week of the present company that are delighting audiences nightly with their clever performance. The Frank L. Gregory troupe will juggle with their hoops for the last time to-morrow (Saturday) night, and those who have not yet seen this very clever "turn" should utilise one of the few remaining opportunities for doing so before it is too late. The same hint should be taken by those who have not yet seen the marvellous contortions of Jean and Josie, or witnessed the clever Scotch "turn" of Miss Lizzie Glenroy, to say nothing of Phil Parson's performance; whilst last, but by no means least—very far from it—Mdlle. Ayoe, "the Danish Guilbert," as she is well termed, also makes her last appearance at the Empire to-morrow night. The artistes who will remain and form part of the new "bill" include Miss Beth Tate, who has already charmed Empire patrons with her highly popular "turn"; the Stavordale Quintette, whose performance is as clever and delightful as it is deservedly most popular; Will H. Kuming, with his entertaining imitation "turn," assisted by his piano; and the Sisters Bradford, "international dancers" of a high order of merit and renown. The attraction and sensation of the new Empire Company opening on Monday will be the seals and sea-lions of Captain Woodward, who will be making their second visit to our premier music-hall. Those who witnessed their remarkable talking and juggling act during their first visit will never forget their wonderful sagacity and the clever things they did on the Empire stage under the direction of Captain Woodward, who must have been born with a genius for animal training. Not the least noteworthy fact is the number of difficulties that had to be overcome before their performance in Johannesburg was made possible. The question arose as to how to accommodate them on the voyage to Capetown. They consume about 200 lbs. of fish per day, so that a sufficient stock to last out the voyage had to be carried. A large quantity of ice had also to be carried, and a special refrigerating chamber to contain this and the fish was added. On board they had to live in tanks filled with sea-water. The same conditions had to be maintained on the train as on the boat, and it was arranged with the railway authorities that they should have a large truck to themselves to contain their tanks. Those who saw the seals on their first visit will no doubt avail themselves of this opportunity to witness their performance again, whilst those who did not should certainly visit the Empire during Captain Woodward's season.

### THE QUINLAN OPERAS.

It is with feelings of keen regret that we dwell on the fact that to-morrow (Saturday) night will witness the last performance of the Quinlan Opera Company, who have during their stay among us so greatly helped to raise the artistic tone of the place and to inculcate a high standard of musical taste in the artistic perceptions of the local public. To-night "Aida" will be produced, and the last performance will be devoted to a presentation of Carmen, with Rosina Beynon in the title-role. On Tuesday night, the performance of "Faust" was noteworthy in that that was the only occasion during the company's African season for Agnes Nicholls to take the part of "Marguerite." Her voice was heard to great advantage in the role, in which she also excelled histrionically. In all, Agnes Nicholls gave an admirable interpretation of this famous part. Faust afforded an opportunity for the chorus to distinguish itself, and well did they do so. They well deserved the enthusiastic applause they received and, of course, the popular "Soldiers' Chorus" had to be repeated. Mr. Allen Hinkley's rich bass voice and sardonic acting were notable features of an excellent rendering of "Mephistopheles," whilst Mr. John Harrison's clear tenor voice did very well in the "Faust" music. Rosina Beynon deservedly came in for a goodly share of the evening's applause in the part of "Siebel," as did also Mr. W. J. Samuell in the role of "Valentine." Mr. Hubert Bath conducted very successfully, the orchestra were splendid as usual, and the scenery left nothing to be desired.

**QUINLAN SYMPHONY CONCERT.**

On Sunday night last, at the Wanderers, the farewell concert of this excellent orchestra, before what was a poor audience in numbers but rich in enthusiasm and appreciation, was given. No doubt the bad weather prevailing right up to the time the concert was advertised to begin had a great deal to do with the fact that the hall was but sparsely filled, for the orchestra has achieved noteworthy fame among us, and the programme gone through was an excellent one. Where every item was so well rendered it is difficult to make a distinction, but Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony," Mozart's "Don Giovanni" overture, and the Three Dances in German's "Henry the Eighth," respectively conducted by Messrs Tullio Voghera, Ernst Knoch and Hubert Bath, call for special mention. Other orchestral items were: Minuet (strings), Baccherini; selection, "Cavalleria Rusticana," Mascagni; overture, "Flying Dutchman," Wagner; Good Friday music, "Parsifal," Wagner; overture, "William Tell," Rossini. Miss Edna Thornton and Mr. John Harrison contributed the vocal items which, needless to say, were very well received.

**"THE MAN FROM MEXICO."**

Johannesburgers will no doubt give Mr. Chas. Howitt and his company a very hearty welcome at the Standard Theatre on Monday evening next, when they open what should be a very successful season with a very funny play, classified as "a farcial comedy," entitled "The Man from

Mexico." This "screaming" farce comes direct from London with a good reputation behind it, so that crowded "houses" ought to be the feature of the Standard from next week onwards. Readers should note that there are three different prices for the stalls, 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., and 5s., while the circle seats are 6s. and 4s. With Mr. Howitt in the title-role and as actor-manager there need be no fear of the artistic success of the play, so that readers should make a point of seeing "The Man from Mexico."

**THE GRAND.**

The holiday company and pictures at this best of local bioscope theatres deservedly drew crowded houses at each performance, and gave an entertainment that elicited loud and long applause from appreciative audiences. Seeley and West are two very clever artistes who give a musical "turn" interspersed with excellent "patter" that at once deservedly achieved popularity and earned enthusiastic applause. Another very good "turn" is Madame Lucelle, who is accompanied by a clever and knowing parrot, and both receive the well-deserved plaudits of the audiences. Madame is a clever juggler, and the bird gives some wonderful imitations of a cornet, a rag-time dance, etc. Miss Flo Wix contributes some "catchy" songs to the programme, and Mr. Percy Dalton shows some very good eccentric dancing. The pictures are all excellent, which we have come to expect as quite a usual thing with the Grand's bioscope.

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.**

- April 25.—Treasury Gold Mines, Ltd., general meeting, 3.45 p.m., Board-room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg.
- April 25.—Wolhuter Gold Mines, Ltd., general meeting, 3.15 p.m., Board-room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg.
- April 25.—Knight Central, Ltd., general meeting, 3.30 p.m., Board-room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg.
- April 25.—Witwatersrand Deep, Ltd., general meeting, 2.30 p.m., Board-room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg.
- April 25.—Witbank Colliery, Ltd., general meeting, 4.30 p.m., Board-room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg.
- April 25.—Vogelstruis Consolidated Deep, Ltd., general meeting, 2.15 p.m., Board-room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg.
- April 25.—Main Reef West, Ltd., general meeting, 4.15 p.m., Board-room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg.
- April 25.—Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estates, Ltd., general meeting, 4 p.m., Board-room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg.

**S. A. GOLD MINES, LTD.**

On Wednesday week, at the ninth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, Mr. Julius Jeppe, who presided, said the capital account remained the same as last year, namely, £179,324. The debenture issue figured at £149,000; £30,000 worth of debentures having been purchased at a profit during the year. Since the closing of the annual accounts they had purchased more debentures, also at a profit, and the directors proposed to continue this policy as opportunity occurred. The share premium account at £25,324 was exactly the same as last year. "Contingent liabilities" was £10,603 17s. 9d. more than in last year's accounts, the increase being due to their having subscribed for (but not yet paid over) a portion of the new working capital issue of the Van Ryn Deep, Ltd. The Chairman then dealt with the profit and loss account, and said they went forward to next year with a satisfactory credit to profit and loss account of £24,871 8s. 9d., after having written off all losses and made ample provision for depreciations, reducing the debit standing to the profit and loss account itself to £46,626 3s. The result of the year's work would be considered eminently satisfactory. After making ample provision for all possible depreciation and losses, they had reduced liabilities by £31,112, while decreasing the book value of assets by only £6,241. The motion was adopted. Sir Abe Bailey, Messrs. J. Jeppe, and J. H. Ryan were re-elected directors, and Messrs. C. L. Andersson and Co. and Mr. J. P. Ablett were reappointed auditors.

**EAST RAND DEEP, LTD.**

Mr. Julius Jeppe presided at the annual meeting of shareholders held on Thursday week, and in the course of his speech, in moving the adoption of the reports and accounts, said the property remained exactly the same as last year, namely, 347 claims on Leeuwpoot No. 154, in the Boksburg district, and the only changes in the balance sheet which he need refer to were a decrease of £1,343 4s. 4d. in investments and cash assets, partly accounted for by excess of expenditure over revenue, and for the rest by the writing off of £1,055 7s. 6d. from the value of their investments to bring them down to their market value at the end of December last, but he trusted that the bulk of this depreciation would be recovered. The total investments and cash assets amounted to £36,936 7s. 3d. The expenditure and revenue account showed on the debit side a slight decrease of £30 8s. 8d., compared with last year, the expenses of the London office having been less than the previous year, but the item of depreciation of stock amounting to £1,055 7s. 6d., already referred to, was one which did not appear in the last accounts. The debit balance for the year was £1,334 7s. 5d., principally owing to depreciation in the value of stock, the ordinary revenue being only about £279 less than ordinary expenditure, and the total balance at debit of revenue and expenditure account on December 31 last was £2,261 14s. 2d. The year under review had not offered any opportunity for dealing with property. The report and accounts were duly seconded and adopted, and retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

**BUCKS REEF G M., LTD.**

The secretary informs me of the following particulars of February's output: Tons crushed, 641; yield, £2,195 3s. 4d.; profit, £313 12s. 1d.

**NEUMANN GROUP.**

The secretary advises me of the following particulars of the results achieved by the crushing companies of this group during last month:—Witwatersrand Deep, Ltd.: Tons crushed, 38,300; yield, £54,800; profit, £17,503. The Wolhuter Gold Mines, Ltd.: Tons crushed, 30,050; yield, £40,641; profit, £15,006; gold reserve, 2,853.227 fine ounces. Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate, Limited: Tons crushed, 21,700; yield, £30,415; profit, £8,753; gold reserve, 352.710 fine ounces. Main Reef West, Ltd.: Tons crushed, 15,571; yield, £23,183; profit, £8,619. Knight Central, Ltd.: Tons crushed, 23,720; yield, £25,755; profit, £2,742. Treasury Gold Mines, Ltd. (joint working—Jumpers): Profit, £243. Total profit for group, £52,686.