

We shall rest, and faith, we shall need it—sit down for a rubber or two,
Till the Hostess of all Bridge Parties shall give us, a deal anew.

Then we who play well shall be happy—we shall deal from a golden pack,

And hold a hundred aces, and no card less than a Jack;

And all of our contracts shall prosper, and all our finesses succeed,

And we'll hoard our trumps like a miser, and never return a lead.

And only our partners shall profit, and only opponents go broke—

And no one shall frown on "post mortems," and no one shall notice revoke.

But each, in her feminine fashion, unheeding the other's complaint,

Shall play the Game as she sees it, by the Laws of Bridge as it ain't!

There were not many members of our community at the popular

Carlton Ball

given on Wednesday evening last. Amongst those present, however, were: Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Hyman, Mr. and Mrs. Mendelssohn, Mr. and Mrs. J. Andrew Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Emden-Simpson, Misses Rosenthal, Mr. and Mrs. Starfield, Mr. G. Hartog, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Tuchten, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Meyer, with Mrs. Dave Levy and Mr. and Mrs. Bernberg. Some very charming dresses were worn, Mrs. Edgar Hyman's being a beautiful gown of painted grey chiffon over flowered brocade. Mrs. Emden-Simpson had on a beautiful pearl-embroidered white gown, with a sapphire-blue osprey smartly placed in her hair, while Miss Simpson was in palest-pink silk. Mrs. Mendelssohn had on a lovely frock of embossed turquoise velvet, with lovely lace, while Mrs. Starfield was attired in a black lace gown over gold satin. Mrs. Dave Levy wore a rich gown of deep red brocade over palest pink. Mrs. Leon Meyer had on a beautiful black gown. The arrangements for the dance were as excellent as usual, the Carlton Band providing tuneful music in excellent time, while supper was served in the dining and adjoining rooms.

And now that I have had my weekly say, I will conclude.

With love, yours, etc.,

LENA.

JEWS AND ART.

We believe that a very good case can be made out for special encouragement to Jewish artists. Jews are constantly reproached for a hard and narrow commercialism. Is there not good reason, then, for encouraging Jewish capacity in other directions than commerce? The community recently subscribed a large sum to a society which exists to assist Jewish professional men to make the most of their abilities. A dinner took place on the occasion at which some eloquent speeches were delivered. What is the use of helping Jewish artists and musicians to perfect their talents, if, when they step out into the world, we decline to avail ourselves of those talents because they are possessed by Jews? Such a course is really cruel as well as illogical. By giving a little practical encouragement to Jewish artistic talent we do not disservice to art, which has reason to rejoice wherever and whenever its devotees are assisted to enter into their birthright, and to enrich the world with their productions.—*London Jewish Chronicle*.

ADVERSITY.

Adversity is a blessing in disguise, though it is hard for the average person to regard it in this light. When misfortune comes the majority of us become discouraged and deem it as an evil visitation. There is nothing that puts our character to a stronger test than adversity, which brings out all that is good and noble in us. It is adversity that is the dark cloud in life with a silver lining, making us strong in our weakness, and pure and grateful in the knowledge of our littleness.—*Jewish Review and Observer*.



THE JOHN LAWSON SEASON.

If ability to fill a theatre, and having obtained your audience to interest them so that when the curtain falls upon the final act loud and vociferous cheers demanding recall after recall be the proof of success, then it must be admitted that Mr. John Lawson succeeded beyond the most sanguine anticipations on Monday evening last when he and his talented company opened their fortnight's season at the Standard Theatre. As we pointed out in our preliminary notice of Mr. Lawson's advent, the presentation of the sketches which he gives is a matter of more than ordinary interest to the community to which this journal caters, and though it must be admitted that the lessons taught by such a production as "Sally in our Alley" have little or



JOHN LAWSON IN "HUMANITY."

An interesting history attaches to this photograph. It was a snapshot taken by Mrs. B. I. Barnato during a performance of "Humanity" given at Brighton before the Sassoon family.

no application in this country, the applause which greeted the fall of the curtain showed that the little sermonettes preached by Mr. Lawson in his character of Bernard Gaster were appreciated by the audience, who realised the lessons which they were intended to convey. It must be remembered that Mr. Lawson produced "Humanity" and his other sketches at a time when the Jew was portrayed on the stage as typifying everything that was base and mean in mankind and in adopting an attitude which was so opposed to the popular conception of our people he ran a risk which many a less courageous but more discreet man would have feared to undertake. The fact that his success was instantaneous is a greater tribute to the love of justice and fairness upon the part of the English patrons of

theatres and music-halls than any detractor from his temerity, and it is pleasing to note that the support accorded to him in England is likely to be endorsed in a remarkable degree in this country. It is true that Monday night's audience was mainly composed of the members of the Jewish community, and that the two sketches deliberately play up to their sympathies, but there was a large number of Gentile ladies and gentlemen present who also added their meed of praise to the deafening applause with which Mr. Lawson's efforts were greeted, and, while it must be admitted that some of the sermonic monologues have been dragged into the sketches in a somewhat crude manner, the lessons which they teach are so obviously true and desirable as to make some excuse for the clumsy way in which they have been adopted by the playwrights, more particularly as this clumsiness is lost sight of in the excellence of Mr. Lawson's style and presentation.

"SALLY IN OUR ALLEY."

So much then for a general review of Mr. Lawson's endeavours. The very daring of the theme and setting of this sketch raises it from the ordinary, and though there may be, and probably will be, not wanting those who declare that the treatment of the *motif* in "Sally in our Alley" is unnecessarily bold, we must take into consideration the circumstances which account for the applause with which it was originally received and the success it undoubtedly achieved. Written but a short time after the late—the pity is that we should need to write "the late"—Mr. Stead's crusade in the "Pall Mall Gazette" against the system which then pertained, and which now in a somewhat lesser degree still pertains, of procuring young girls for immoral purposes in London, and for which he martyr-like served his period of imprisonment, the playlet attracted world-wide attention at the time and secured a permanent success. The Jewish nature is essentially sympathetic, and there are not wanting instances in Johannesburg where we are more kindly disposed towards the erring women who reform than are the people amongst whom we dwell, so that Mr. Lawson's plea for a kindlier consideration than is generally extended to those women who for a time step aside from the narrow path, was listened to with deep emotion and generally—for the time being at all events—received endorsement. As Mr. Bernard Gaster, Mr. Lawson showed himself possessed of great histrionic ability, and acted his part with such a sense of the justice of his attitude as to convey conviction to his listeners. He was admirably supported by Miss Lucille Sidney as Hazel Grove, and Mr. Charles Stafford, as Theodore Gray, while Mr. J. S. Boon gave an amusing study, for which there may be found local prototypes, of Sir Edward Plumpton. Not a little importance was added to the presentation by the disclosure of some magnificent art treasures, including "Contentment," by Della Noce; "Cupid's Revenge," by Frank Hyde; "Blossoms," by Della Noce; "After the Bath," by Kemp, etc. The view from the auditorium was such as to make a closer inspection of these pictures desirable, and it may be that Mr. Lawson will afford other opportunities to the art-loving public of Johannesburg by displaying the pictures during the daytime either in the vestibule of the theatre or in some other easily-accessible place. In both "Sally in our Alley" and in "Humanity" the playing of the orchestra, under the direction of Herr Max Weinbrenn, added greatly to the pleasure experienced by the audience and so enthusiastically evinced by them.

"HUMANITY."

This is the piece with which Mr. Lawson came originally before the English public, and so popular has it become that "You do love my wife, don't you?" has become almost a password in certain circles. As Silvani, the Jew who trusts too much to the honour of his Christian friend, and leaves his wife too much to his intimacy and friendship, Mr. Lawson appeared in a role which was obviously created for him, and in which he shone to great advantage. His discovery of a letter which had been placed in a basket of roses presented to his wife by his presumed masculine friend, brought home to him the idiocy of his erstwhile confiding attitude, and his revenge coolly planned had something Monto-Christo-like in its completeness. The vivid realism of the firing of the artistically-furnished vestibule, the revolver shots, the holocaust of smashed crockery pro-

vided a scene of such wild excitement as to stir the audience to an enthusiasm seldom seen in Johannesburg, and while one can only wonder at the extravagance of the expense, one must admit that, in this instance, it is realism carried out to its natural conclusion. The rushing up and down of the staircase by Silvani and his wife's would-be betrayer must have entailed considerable physical effort on the part of both, and it was obvious as Mr. Lawson and his erstwhile antagonist bowed their acknowledgments, the one to the plaudits and the other to the hisses and groans of the audience, they were both suffering from a natural exhaustion. Anyhow the play created a great impression, and the song "Only a Jew," around which it is written, was not the least interesting item of its presentation. Others who ably assisted Mr. Lawson in "Humanity," and thus added to its interest, were Messrs. Chas. Stafford, Henry Ludlow, Frank Sedden and Maisie Hanbury.

THE REST OF THE PROGRAMME.

Amongst the vaudeville items, we should place as an easy first Miss Nellie Ganthony, who is evidently an artiste of great ability. It is deeply to be regretted that a lady with a London and provincial reputation such as is possessed by few artistes who have visited Johannesburg, should have received such scant courtesy at the hands of an audience, and she must only attribute the want of consideration shown as due to ignorance upon the part of a few occupants of the gallery too coarse and too common to understand the *finesse* of her art. We trust that upon future occasions Miss Ganthony will be accorded that attention and interest that her abilities merit. Franco's Midgets, who opened the programme, are entitled the smallest conjurors in the world, and they succeeded in amusing the audience for some twenty minutes with great ability, while the Barnes Comedy Duo are rag-time and buck-dancing specialists, who thoroughly understand their business. In Strauss we see another of the now famous types of female impersonators, and his turn also was apparently appreciated. Altogether the variety artistes are of a better type than the usual padding generally provided with an artiste of the merit and reputation of Mr. John Lawson, so that the programme submitted at the Standard is likely to draw good houses during the entire season.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS.

Every sketch of Mr. John Lawson's repertoire teaches a lesson that is forced home by the powerful acting of that artiste, assisted by his capable company. The "Open Door" deals with the intermarriage question, and many a woman, who in order to satisfy her own greed for admiration, finds her feet taking her in the direction of the abyss, will be pulled up at the sight of this powerful piece. Another strong and moving playlet, "The Norman's Wife," is calculated to arrest many an erring step of men and cause them to ponder before they sink into infamy and indulgence. In "The Monkey's Paw,"—a very popular piece in the well-known actor's repertoire—Mr. Lawson gives a perfect and natural presentation of the part of "The Father," which has never failed to elicit enthusiastic applause from countless audiences.

THE EMPIRE.

There is no need for exaggeration in commenting on the present company at this our premier music hall. It is a very good all-round entertainment that the *ensemble* of artistes give to the numerous Empire patrons, and a most enjoyable evening can be spent under the roof of the "Hyman Palace." Mdlle. Harnika, "billed" as a transformation dancer, performs some clever dancing feats (pun unintentional). Frank H. Fox sings some good songs. Will H. Kuming is very entertaining in his "turn," which elicits peals of laughter from the delighted audiences. Miss Mabel Greene is a clever musical comedy artiste, gifted with a very good voice, both voice and cleverness providing a "turn" that is greatly enjoyed. Tom Jersey, conjurer and shadowgraphist, does some very clever tricks and "shadow" work with his fingers, which are deservedly great appreciated. Miss Beth Tate concludes the first half of the programme with a very popular turn, highly reminiscent of Marie Llayd's songs, which is a great but well-deserved compliment for Miss Tate.

THE SECOND HALF

opens with a beautiful performance by the Sisters Bradford, wherein amidst Oriental scenery, these two clever artistes give a pantomimic dancing sketch, entitled "An Indian's Love Dream," which they perform in a manner highly deserving of the applause they receive. Then comes Captain Woodward's seals and sea-lions, who go through a most marvellous animal performance, wherein they do juggling feats that the average human being could not perform. No one can afford to miss seeing these wonderfully-trained and sagacious seals. The Miles Stavordale Quintette are as popular as ever, which is saying a great deal, with their imitations of the human voice in instruments, and the audience never have enough of their "turn." The evening's entertainment is concluded by the bioscope, which rounds off a very successful programme.

THE GRAND.

The programme presented to the numerous patrons of this best of local bioscope theatres is one that thoroughly deserves the enthusiastic encomiums of the crowded "houses" that are the usual feature of every performance. King and Benson are giving a return visit to the Grand, and the reception given these two popular artistes was one that any "star" might well be proud of. They are as good as ever, which is saying a very great deal. The hoop-juggling performed by the Auers should certainly be seen by all readers, and it thoroughly deserves the enthusiastic applause the audiences accord it. Harold Heath is a dancer of extraordinary ability, and gives a terpsichorean exhibition that is a pleasure to witness. The pictures are all in accordance with the excellent reputation for films the Grand's bioscope has attained amongst the local public.

THE TITANIC FUND.

Thanks to the kindly suggestion of Mr. Hutchison, now so well-known to Johannesburgers as Monty Brewster, there will be a special performance on Monday evening next, at His Majesty's Theatre in aid of the Titanic Disaster Fund. A special programme has been arranged, consisting of a double bill, "Inconstant George" and "The Drums of Oude," and the entire proceeds without any deduction whatsoever will be handed over to the Mayoral Fund. In connection with the occasion some sixty of the leading ladies of Johannesburg held a meeting at the Carlton Hotel on Tuesday, and sub-committees were formed for the sale of flowers, sweets, chocolates, etc., in the theatre. The booking plan was opened on Wednesday at Messrs. Harris and Co., and there has been an excellent demand for seats, so that there is every probability of a goodly sum being added to the fund. Knowing our readers' kindly support of charitable objects, we feel sure that we need hardly recommend the occasion to their sympathy, as the members of our community will be amongst the first to lend a kindly hand towards mitigating the unfortunate conditions attaching to the recent terrible disaster.

A NEW SONG.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a new song entitled "Sons of the South, Arise!", composed by Mr. James Hyde, a well-known musician of this town, and words by "E.J.B." As the title indicates, the verses are of a patriotic nature, and the air is composed in keeping therewith. The song is written in D major, with an easy compass, suitable for any tenor voice. Moreover, as neither melody nor accompaniment offer any technical difficulties, this latest local composition ought to become very popular, and is deserving of a rapid sale. The piece has been published by our local premier music-vendors, Messrs. Mackay Bros., of Rissik-street, and we congratulate the composer on his latest work, and the publishers on the encouragement they are ever ready to give to local talent.

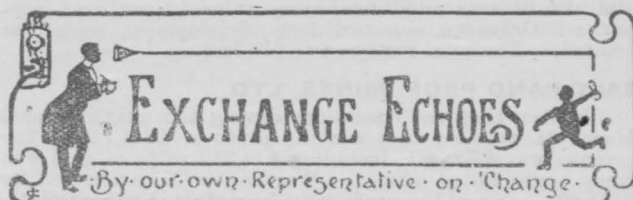
JOHANNESBURG LADIES' CHOIR.

On Wednesday night, at the Caledonian Hall, the Johannesburg Ladies' Choir gave a grand concert, conducted by Madam Hooper-Rees, and under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress, Sir Thomas Price, the Cambrian Society and the Caledonian Society. There was a good house, and the audience was very appreciative. The

programme opened with the chorus, "Gipsy Life," by Roeckel, which was rendered in finished style by the choir, and it was at once apparent that the conductor had bestowed great care and taken great pains in the training of the members. The chorus was rendered with a swing and brightness which evoked well-deserved applause. Miss Ferguson then played a piano solo, "Bustle of Spring," by Sinding, for which she received a hearty encore. The next number was a song by James, called "The Song the Angels Sing," by Miss Van Zyl Davies; the lady has a sweet voice and sung with much feeling, and she also received an encore. After the choir had sung "The Ash Grove," Mr. John Van Zyl treated the audience to Purcell's "Arise ye Subterranean Winds," which was one of the gems of the evening, for which he was vociferously encored. Then followed the well-known duet "Hear Me, Norma," from Bellini's well-known opera, which was worthily rendered by Madam Rees. The first portion closed with a "Cavatina" by Rossini, sung by Madam Weinbrenn and the choir.

THE SECOND PORTION

of the programme again consisted of two choruses, i.e., "Abide With Me," by Liddel, and "Good Night Beloved," by Pinsuti. Master Wolfensohn played a violin solo, "Sixth Air Variation," by De Beriot. This young player appears to have a good musical understanding, and there is no doubt that under his present tutor (Mr. Max Weinbrenn), and with careful study, he has certainly a future before him. The rest of the programme was made up by "Sweet be thy Dreams," by James, which was sung by Madam Watkins Allen and choir, followed by a dramatic recitation, "The Red Wing," by Miss Rose Ashworth with choir accompaniment, and again a song "The Lute Player," sung by Mr. John Van Zyl, which found as much favour as his previous number. The accompaniste was Miss Ferguson, who played discreetly and in harmony with the singers. Altogether the concert must be considered a great success, and we trust that this first effort will be followed by several more in the near future.



The market opened very quiet at the commencement of the week, and things were no briskeer as the days wore on. At the opening on Wednesday, the only dealings which took place were in Main Reefs, which were sold at 20s. 3d.

The business put through on High 'Change was very small, the stocks changing hands being Bantjes Cons. at 24s. 6d., Bushveld Tins, 1s. 3d.; Benoni Cons., 7s.; City and Suburbans, 52s.; East Rand Coals, 2s. 5d.; Government Areas, 25s. 9d.; Knight Centrals, 15s.; Lace Props., 3s. 3d.; Main Reef Wests, 28s. 6d.; Midas Deeps, 9d.; Randfontein Estates 30s. 9d.; Rooiberg Minerals, 31s. 6d.; Solomon Temple Tins, 2s. 9d.; Springs Mines, 14s.

The market was quiet but firm during the day, and closed so, the final sales being in Cons. Langlaagtes at 22s. 9d.; Cloverfields, 5s. 2d.; Springs Mines, 15s.; Romola Nigels, 3s.

I cannot see any prospects of a betterment in the state of affairs, for the near future at all events.

SLANDER.

In the decalogue the Ninth Commandment "thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" is of equal force and importance with all the others. And it does not merely apply to proceedings in courts of law. He who propagates slander, malice and hatred is often in the effects and consequences of his act the aider and abettor of the men of greater physical courage who resort to deeds of lawless violence. In the final analysis they are all equally dangerous and equally culpable. The bomb-thrower as a rule only injures a few, the yellow journals pervert the minds of tens of thousands. The real newspapers of the land should lead in a crusade to end their nefarious influence.—*Jewish Exponent*.