

**IS PSYCHO-ANALYSIS A JEWISH MOVEMENT?**

**BIRTHDAY OF FREUD, THE FOUNDER.**

Prof. Sigmund Freud, the famous founder of psycho-analysis, attained recently his 70th birthday. He received on the occasion numerous congratulations from friends and disciples from all parts of the world. Among the telegrams he received is one from Prof. Einstein and Dr. Weizmann on behalf of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University addressed to "their colleague, the pioneer of a new science and the discoverer of new regions of human understanding." The Zionist Executive also sent him a telegram of congratulations, expressing "best wishes for the continuation of your successful work for the benefit of humanity and the honour of the Jewish name." The Vienna University, where he has been Professor of Neurology since 1902, has, however, completely ignored the event. Prof. Freud was born in 1856 in Freiberg, Moravia. In 1860 his parents brought him to Vienna. In 1885 he began to practise in Vienna as a nerve specialist, and about twenty-five years ago started the psycho-analysis movement, which has developed into a network of psycho-analysis organisations in all countries holding psycho-analysis congresses and publishing its own organ, "Internationale Zeitschrift fur Psycho-analyse." Prof. Freud has always been a devoted Jew. In Vienna he is closely identified with Jewish life, and is particularly active as a member of the B'nei B'rith there. Because of his Jewishness it was not until 1919 that he received the title of University Professor. He would have had that distinction long before had he consented to become baptised. But he refused to change his faith, remaining true to his people and bringing up his children as Jews.

The occasion of Freud's seventieth birthday is the opportunity to propound the question as to whether there is any particular Jewish significance in his theory—says the "Jewish Graphic." Prof. William McDougall accepts Jung's argument that the famous theory of Freud is a theory of the development and working of the mind which was evolved by a Jew who has studied chiefly Jewish patients, and, I think, it may be taken as a fact that Jewish patients and Jewish practitioners play a predominant part in psycho-analysis. It is surely no mere accident that all of Freud's most brilliant disciples who have made original contributions to psycho-analysis are Jews with the exception of Jung, and even the English exponent, Ernest Jones, has married a Jewess, the sister of the well-known psycho-analyst Hanns Sachs. An American critic, A. A. Roback, ventures the footnote that the Yiddish word "Pshetlach" would serve as a good equivalent for the divagations and wholly uncritical quibblings to be encountered in much of the Freudian literature. Freud himself has been quite aware that his Jewishness has been the origin of much of the opposition to his doctrines. (Has he a Jewish "complex"?) "My personality as a Jew who never concealed my Jewish origin is largely to blame for the antipathy which the psycho-analytical theory has universally provoked. . . . and perhaps it is not fortuitous that a Jew was its first advocate. In order to discover and disseminate new theories one must be able to bear up with isolation and opposition. Such a lot the Jews are more familiar with than others." It certainly seems that Freud has a persecution complex.

**WITWATERSRAND HEBREW BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.**

**A Successful Meeting.**

Last Sunday morning the thirty-third annual meeting of the Witwatersrand Hebrew Benevolent Association was held at the Hebrew High School when there were some fifty gentlemen present including the more prominent members of the organisation.

The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Ratzker who moved the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet for the year ending June 30th, 1926, and he congratulated the members upon the work performed by the Association during the last twelve months.

In our last issue we published some excerpts from the last report of the formation which provided interesting reading and we learn that since the inception of the Association in 1891 the number of loans advanced has been 5 954 for a total amount of £170,274, and the repayments, £159,703.

Judging by the unanimity which pervaded the meeting on Sunday everybody is more or less satisfied with the conduct of the affairs of the Society. Mr. J. Ratzker was re-elected President, Mr. I. Woolf, Hon. Treasurer and Mr. P. Cassel, Hon. Secretary, while the following committee was re-elected "en bloc," Messrs. M. Reuvid, N. Kowarsky, M. Silberman, N. Twersky, J. Rabinowitz, I. Adelson, A. H. Jacobson, H. Williams and C. W. Behrman.

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**A SUCCESSFUL CONCERT.**

On Wednesday last an excellent concert in aid of the funds of the Frauenbund-Johannesburg was held at the German School when Miss Jenny Sonnenberg and Miss Elsie Hall delighted the audience with their vocal and piano renderings respectively.

Mrs. Max Pollak was responsible for the excellent arrangements and it was noteworthy that there were present the more prominent members of the German community headed by the Consul-General who had come over from Pretoria specially for the occasion.

An excellent programme comprising selections from Bach, Handel, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Schumann, Mahler and Wagner was rendered and both artists were acclaimed for the brilliance of their ability.

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