

Johannesburg Day by Day.

"Ben Hamagid."

Invitations to meetings and functions should be addressed as early as possible to: Progress Buildings, corner Commissioner and Von Weilligh Streets, Johannesburg.

The Approaching Festivals.

The synagogues in Johannesburg are rapidly booking up their seating accommodation for the approaching New Year Festival, when the places of worship are usually crowded.

The problem is once again presenting itself of finding sufficient accommodation in the present synagogues for a large number of worshippers, who desire to participate in the festival services. So great is the rush at this period that smaller halls and cinemas have to be engaged to accommodate the worshippers.

This year services will be conducted, for the first time in the history of Johannesburg, in the large auditorium of the City Hall. The Chazan on this occasion will be the famous Cantor Sirota, who duly arrived this week in Johannesburg, accompanied by his wife and son, and by a few leading members of his imported choir.

Sirota's Visit.

Generally the idea of importing a Chazan for the purpose of commercial gain is not one that is welcomed by the orthodox section of the community in Johannesburg. Such an engagement should be made by an authorised congregation. The management of the present Sirota engagement and subsequent tour of the country, indicate that Sirota will not appear on the concert platform in South Africa, but will only conduct services. An arrangement of this sort is creditable to Sirota and to the managers of his visit.

In South Africa we are not used to seeing Cantors engaged in concert tours, although in the United States quite general. I believe, the custom is quite general. For instance, Cantor Rosenblatt—reported to be the greatest world Chazan—is engaged to an important American congregation merely for the purpose of conducting the Holy Festivals, but is free during the rest of the year to accept engagements on the concert platform throughout the American continent. Great interest has been aroused here by the visit of Sirota, and the bookings for the City Hall services are going with great vigour. There can be no doubt, of course, that this "counter attraction" will hurt the "takings" of the more important Johannesburg synagogues.

Cultural Work of the H.O.D.

The newly formed Sir Moses Montefiore Lodge of the H.O.D. is

composed of a number of professional men, who are eager to develop the cultural work of the Order.

As a beginning in this direction there will be held on Sunday evening next a debate on the subject "That the Divorce Laws be made Easier." The motion will be moved by Mr. M. Abrahams, and the opposition will be led by Adv. H. J. Schlosberg. The function will be held in the new H.O.D. Hall in De Villiers Street, and members and their lady friends are cordially invited to attend.

Arrangements are being made for the delivery of a series of lectures on cultural Jewish subjects to members of the Order.

Reform Judaism.

On Wednesday evening last Professor A. Z. Idelson, of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, addressed a small group of people interested in the possibility of establishing in South Africa, a Liberal Jewish Synagogue.

The speaker dwelt on the advantages of worshipping in prayers expressing new and more modern conceptions of God. He explained the remarkable work carried out by the Reform Synagogue in America and Germany, and the Liberal Synagogue in Great Britain, and said he felt that the time had arrived for the establishment of such a movement in South Africa. Professor Idelson gave the meeting the assurance that if an invitation was extended to Cincinnati or London, a visiting leader of the Liberal Reform movement would come to this country for the purpose of inaugurating the movement. A tentative committee was appointed as a result of this meeting, in order to interest a wider circle of Johannesburg Jewry in the Liberal synagogue movement.

United Talmud Torahs.

Two years ago, after considerable negotiation, the union took place of seven of the Talmud Torahs in Johannesburg. They consist of the Hebrew High School, and the Talmud Torah schools in Doornfontein, Fordsburg, Mayfair, La Rochelle, Bertrams and Ophirton. Altogether some fifteen hundred children are receiving instruction under the auspices of the United Talmud Torahs. The total expenditure approximates £800 per month, and it is regrettable that the income has not kept pace with the development of the institution.

In order to meet the expenses involved in this great undertaking, two thousand more subscribing members are needed, and the Council of the United Talmud Torah are making an appeal in this direction to all Johannesburg citizens, who are invited to communicate with the Secretary, Mr. M. H. Kam, 38, Asher's Buildings, Fox Street.

Unless more help is forthcoming there is a considerable danger that the whole work of the union of the Talmud Torah might break down. This would be a great pity in view of the general benefit derived from this system of co-operation.

A Royal Academy Student.

Young Jack Aronowitz, a pupil of Mr. Horace Barton of Johannesburg, has been successful in coming top in the pianoforte examination for the Scholarship awarded by the University of South Africa and tenable for three years at the Royal Academy of Music, London.

The value of the scholarship is £150 per annum, plus a special temporary annual allowance of £50. The success of Aronowitz has pleased a large number of his friends, who feel that he has a brilliant musical future before him.

Amateur Orchestra.

Some little time ago a number of the younger element in the recent new arrivals here from Lithuania, gathered under the flag of the "Maccabee" organisation, so well known for its sports success in Europe. This body of athletic young immigrants, who all speak a fluent Hebrew, and are imbued with the nationalistic spirit, also formed an orchestra from among themselves. They were lucky in securing the services as conductor of Mr. H. Ichiltschick, who has conducted similar orchestras in Europe.

Much enthusiasm is demonstrated by the amateur players, who will give

a concert at the Standard Theatre on the 6th October. The function will be held under the auspices of the "Maccabee" organisation and the Doornfontein Ladies' Benefit Society. In view of the popularity of these two organisations, the sale of tickets will be, no doubt, enormous, and the entertainment a great success.

Jewish Music.

There was a sparse audience at the Jewish Guild on Monday evening last, when Professor Idelsohn, the great Jewish music expert, delivered a lecture on the above subject. Professor Kirby, of the Witwatersrand University, was in the chair.

The speaker indicated his fine knowledge of this most interesting subject, and gave in tabloid form a history of the development of Jewish music from the time of the Second Temple to the modern era.

When a distinguished professor comes to Johannesburg and delivers only one public address on his own subject, it is deeply to be regretted that there is not a sufficient cultural tendency in so large a Jewish community, to attract a bigger audience to greet and welcome the lecturer.

Jewish Guild.

A dramatic performance will be presented by the Jewish Guild Dramatic Section on Sunday, September 22nd and 29th, at 8.15 p.m. The cast is an excellent one and has been working very hard in order to ensure the success of the show. The cast is as follows: Misses Irma Berman and Sadie Melamed; Messrs. Wilfred H. Patley and Stanley van Flymen. The production is in the hands of Anita Colman, who is well known in Johannesburg for her fine work in connection with amateur theatricals.

Fine settings and pretty costumes have been procured and it is anticipated that this show will be one of the Dramatic Section's greatest efforts.

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