

Johannesburg Hebrew College.

A Fine Concert at the City Hall.

The concert organised by the Friends of the Johannesburg Hebrew College drew a considerable audience to the City Hall on Sunday evening. The programme was of a particularly Jewish nature suitable to the institution in aid of the funds of which the function was being held.

The outstanding success of the evening was undoubtedly Cantor Steinberg, the gifted Chazan of the Berea Synagogue, who conducted a specially organised and enlarged group of lady and gentlemen singers. This splendid choir had the co-operation of the Jewish Symphony Orchestra (Hazomir) a group of some forty players. The audience was treated to some of the finest choral singing of Jewish music on a large scale ever heard in Johannesburg.

It was rather a pity that the auditorium was not filled with an overflowing audience to enjoy so rare a treat. Cantor Steinberg demonstrated his fine talent with the baton and a distinguished control of his choir and orchestra. It is rather to be regretted that Cantor Steinberg's obvious talent as an orchestral conductor is not given more opportunity of expression in this country.

In the purely orchestral selections, the symphony orchestra was conducted by Mr. H. Ichilchick, who, we believe, is responsible for the getting up of this excellent band of amateur musicians. Mr. Ichilchick is certainly a welcome addition to the musical life of the Rand and the Jewish community should be proud of this really good amateur orchestral combination. One would have liked, however, to have heard the orchestra in some more serious work than the rather light compositions of its conductor.

A distinct success was scored during the evening by Mr. Joel Meyerson, the South African singer, whose pure lyric tenor was heard to great advantage. He appeared to be in splendid voice and aroused great enthusiasm by his rendition of the "Kol Nidrei" scene from the opera of that name. It is rather a pity, however, that this artist should have deemed it necessary to render the song clothed in an elaborate silk Tallith and cantor's cap. Such accompaniments are not really necessary in the operatic edition of even a sacred song.

Mr. John Connell, the Town Organist, stamped himself as a favourite with the audience by his playing on the organ an original composition—a variation of the "Hatikvah." This is a most impressive production and Mr. Connell would be well advised to seek publication for his work. The fact that a non-Jew could have produced so sympathetic a piece of Jewish national music makes the composition rather unique.

The recitations of Miss Esther Lutrin, the gold medalist of Durban, stamped her as an artist of note. It was chiefly a Yiddish speaking audience to which Miss Lutrin recited, yet she held their attention throughout. Her rendition of a powerful scene from "The Melting Pot" by the late Israel Zangwill, made a good impression on the large assembly and Miss Lutrin was not allowed to leave until she gave an encore.

During the evening the Mayor of Johannesburg addressed the gathering and wished success to the work of the Hebrew College.

Mr. Morris Sewitz, the chairman, thanked the audience for their support of the concert. In the course of his remarks he said that the college was the only institution of its kind in South Africa where our youth was able to obtain a thorough knowledge of the Hebrew language and literature. The College not only asked for financial help, but also for moral help. The college aimed at instilling in our Jewish youth the true spirit of Judaism and acquaint them with the treasures of our ancient cultural heritage.

Congratulations must be extended to the Friends of the Johannesburg Hebrew College in the organising of its first function.

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THE LATE MR. I. M. PAPERT (CAPE TOWN).

An Appreciation.

With the passing away of Mr. I. M. Papert, South African Jewry has undoubtedly suffered a great loss. He was a man who played his part in communal life in this country and in Europe previous to his arrival here.

Besides being a general communal worker, he was a scholar of no mean reputation and a fine Maskil. The late Mr. Papert was born at Wilkomir, Kovno Gubernia, in 1851, and he came from a line of descendants of the Wilno Goan. At an early age he revealed exceptional scholarly ability, and knew the whole of the Pentateuch at the age of eight. When he reached the age of eleven he was well versed in many sections of the Talmud. He became the favourite pupil of Rabbi Moses Leib Liliensblum, one of the greatest Maskilim of his time, who was then the Rosh-Yeshibah. In 1874, when the renowned Rabbi Kalischer propagated the idea of a Jewish Palestine, Mr. Papert was one of his earliest supporters. In 1880 he emigrated to England, and became associated with the issuing of the Hebrew journal "Ha-Degel." He was active in the Chibath Zion movement, and was instrumental in founding a number of societies for the purpose.

The late Mr. Papert came to Johannesburg in 1896, and, although he devoted most of his time to commerce, he did not stop his journalistic work, becoming associated with the late Mr. N. D. Hoffman in founding the "Ha-Or" and the "Jewish Telegraph." After the Boer War he returned to London and took a keen interest in Jewish development in the East End. He was the founder of the Commercial Road Talmud Torah, and his name is inscribed on the foundation stone of that institution. In 1903 he returned to Cape Town, and again displayed a keen interest in communal affairs. Appreciation for his services was shown in 1911 and 1921 on the occasions of his sixtieth and seventieth birthdays. Mr. Papert also wrote a number of scholarly works.

The recent deaths of Mr. Rabinowitch, of Bulawayo, and Mr. Papert, of Cape Town, have removed from South African Jewry two great Talmudists and scholars. The community is indeed poorer when such men pass away. A.C.

"INSIDE THE LINES."

Betty Compson, never more moving and convincing, is an admirable star for "Inside the Lines," which is to be screened at the Astoria Kinema from Monday. She is splendidly supported by Ralph Forbes, a good-looking and smooth-playing performer. There is real depth and power in this picture, which is a thrilling drama of espionage without a single battle scene. Others in the cast are Montagu Love, Betty Carter, Reginald Sharland and Mischa Auer.

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